PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND,
FIFTY-SIXTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2007–2008

COMPRISING PERIOD
7 January 2008—25 January 2008

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Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 7 January 2008

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

'Call In' Directions

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright): I am today publishing a consultation "Review of 'Call In' Directions" which sets out proposals aimed at reducing the number of planning applications automatically referred to Government for consideration of whether they should be 'called in' for ministerial decision. In 2006-07, less than 5 per cent. of applications referred were ultimately called in, and we consider that there are some unnecessary burdens placed on local planning authorities and Government offices under the current regime.

It will, of course, still be open to individuals or organisations to request that any application be considered for 'call in' by approaching the regional Government office in the first instance.

The consultation documentation and further details about how to respond are available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/publications/consultations/

Copies of the consultation document have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Cultural Property (Armed Conflicts) Bill

The Minister of State, Department for Culture, Media and Sport (Margaret Hodge): Today I am publishing and laying before Parliament a draft of the Cultural Property (Armed Conflicts) Bill for pre-legislative scrutiny. The Bill will help to ensure the security of the nation's most important cultural property in the event of armed conflict and will send a signal to the international community that the UK takes seriously its obligations under international humanitarian law to respect and safeguard the cultural property of other nations.

The Bill is required to enable the UK to ratify the 1954 Hague convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (The Hague Convention) and accede to its two protocols (1954 and 1999). The convention, adopted following the massive destruction that took place during the second world war, provides a system to protect cultural property from the effects of international and domestic armed conflict. Parties to the convention are required to respect cultural property situated within the territory of other parties by not attacking it, and to respect cultural property within their own territory by not using it for purposes which are likely to expose it to destruction or damage in the event of armed conflict.

The Government welcome any comments on the draft Bill. Copies of the Bill will be available to Members from the Vote Office.

DEFENCE

Iraq (Reserve Forces)

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): With the expiry of the call-out order made last January, I am reporting that a new order has been made under section 54 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 so that reservists may continue to be called out into service to support operations in Iraq. The new order is valid for 12 months.

Some 270 reservists are currently mobilised and deployed to support operations in Iraq. We are very appreciative of the continuing support and commitment shown by both reservists and their employers.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Crown Agents Holding and Realisations Board

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): The Crown Agents Holding and Realisations Board (CAHRB) was established by the Crown Agents Act 1979 to separate the assets and liabilities of the realisation account dealing with the 1974 losses of the unincorporated Crown Agents from the business of the newly incorporated Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administrations (which since 1996 has been successfully operating under the Crown Agents Foundation).

I thank the chairman of CAHRB, David Probert, CBE and Peter Berry the former chief executive and chairman of Crown Agents for carrying on the work of CAHRB in recent years.

CAHRB's 2006 accounts were reported to the House of Commons by the National Audit Office on 13 June 2007. The summary of the realisation account in these accounts shows that CAHRB has recovered and repaid £38 million of the £175 million which was provided by the Government against the losses incurred in 1974 by the unincorporated Crown Agents.

There are now no further significant realisations likely to be made. I have therefore concluded, with the agreement of CAHRB, that the responsibilities of the board for realising assets and discharging liabilities have been substantially completed and that there is no longer a need to have a statutory body for this work. I therefore propose to make an order under the Crown Agents Act 1979 to wind up CAHRB as at 31 March 2008; the few remaining assets and liabilities will transfer to DFID. Once accounts for the final accounting year have been compiled and audited the board will be dissolved.

JUSTICE

Court Fees (Public Law Family Proceedings)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): On 19 December 2007, the Ministry of Justice published a Consultation Paper, which sets out proposals to increase court fees paid by public authorities in child care and adoption proceedings to reflect the full cost of the process.

The Consultation Paper sets out the need to transfer responsibility for meeting the full cost of these court proceedings from Her Majesty's Courts Service to the authorities that initiate the cases. This reflects the Government's general fee-charging policy, which is intended to provide greater visibility, of and accountability for, the cost of providing services.

Specifically, the proposals in the consultation would:

Increase fees for child care proceedings to reflect the average cost of over £4,000, and introduce a simple incremental payment system so less complex cases requiring fewer hearings would pay less;

Increase adoption fees paid by public authorities to reflect the full cost of around £400.

These proposals will only affect fees paid by public bodies and not individuals. Applications by parents in care and adoption proceedings will remain unchanged.

Copies of the Consultation Paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and can be obtained free on the Ministry's website at the following web address: www.justice.gov.uk/publications/consultations.htm

The closing date for consultation is 11 March 2008.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 8 January 2008

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Compulsory Purchase (Inquiries Procedure) Rules 2007

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright): The Government have today laid in Parliament the Compulsory Purchase (Inquiries Procedure) Rules 2007. These rules replace the existing two sets of rules for inquiries into ministerial and non-ministerial compulsory purchase orders, which date from 1994 and 1990 respectively.

The main reason for the new rules is to take account of changes to the procedure and new terminology introduced by part 8 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. These include introducing a longer deadline at key points in the inquiries to ensure that appropriate time is given to those wishing to put forward objections to the compulsory purchase order.

The rules were also drafted to build on the Government's commitment, given in 2002, to combine both sets of rules and also to reflect current practice as adopted in procedure rules prepared more recently for other types of inquiries, such as those for planning inquiries.

The Council on Tribunals, which was consulted on the draft rules as part of a public consultation exercise and specifically on the final draft, is content.

DEFENCE

Bosnia and Northern Ireland (Commemoration Services)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): I am pleased to provide further details of events being organised by the Ministry of Defence later this year which will commemorate the contribution made by members of the armed forces in operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Northern Ireland over many years.

On Thursday 22 May 2008 a commemorative service is to be held at the new armed forces memorial located in the national memorial arboretum in Staffordshire. This service will honour the personnel who lost their lives or were injured and the many thousands who served throughout the 15-year deployment in Bosnia. It will also allow time for reflection on the United Kingdom's contribution to a more stable and secure environment within Bosnia-Herzegovina which was made possible by the outstanding efforts and dedication of our armed forces.

The second event that I would like to announce is a service to mark the end of Operation Banner in Northern Ireland. This event will take place on Wednesday 10 September 2008 at St. Paul's Cathedral, London and will honour those personnel who lost their lives or were injured in Northern Ireland and the over 300,000 personnel who served in the province since 1969. The resilience they displayed over such a long period of time under extremely difficult circumstances greatly contributed to the peace that now exists.

We hope that both of these events will be attended by many veterans and families with a close association with them. Further details, including how to apply for tickets, will be announced via the media in the next few months.

Princess Royal Barracks (Deepcut)

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): This statement is to inform the House of our intention to release the Princess Royal Barracks (PRB), Deepcut for disposal as part of ongoing work to optimise the defence training estate. The adjacent training areas and service family accommodation will be retained for use by Ministry of Defence.

The PRB Deepcut site is the principal location for Army logistics training in the Defence College of Logistics and Personnel Administration (DCLPA), and is the home of director, the Royal Logistics Corps (DRLC).

In October, the Under-Secretary of State for Defence, my hon. Friend the Member for Halton (Derek Twigg), updated the House on the way forward for the defence training review (DTR). The statement announced that we were continuing to consider a range of options for package 2, which aims to provide training for logistics and personnel administration, police and guarding, security, languages, intelligence and photography. The conclusion of the part of that work related to the wider rationalisation of the estate, taking into account our focus on improving accommodation and training facilities, is that it would be in the best interests for defence to release the site for alternative civilian use and to re-provide the training facilities elsewhere. It has been judged that the site could be suitable for residential development and make a significant contribution to the Government's housing strategy. It is, therefore, our intention to submit the Deepcut site for inclusion in Surrey Heath borough council's core strategy.

The closure of Deepcut in the future will not lessen our commitment to maintaining the improvements already achieved to improve the care and welfare of trainees; and to continue to address the areas where performance can be improved. We will not forget the four young soldiers—Sean Benton, Cheryl James, Geoff Gray and James Collinson—who died at Deepcut. In seeking to improve the environment in which our people are trained we are continuing to meet the recommendations made by those such as the adult learning inspectorate and Nicholas Blake QC.

A key factor in informing our decisions will also be the impact on and our ability to manage sensitively the implications for our people. We continue to consult fully with trades unions and staff. While we have narrowed

the range of options where future relocation may take place, this work will not be concluded until February. No moves are anticipated before 2013.

A further update will be provided later this year.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Gibraltar (Mixed Competence Conventions)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): I wish to make a statement to the House on the issue of mixed competence conventions. As my right hon. Friend the Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon) the then Minister for Europe, reported to this House in April 2007, the outstanding issue blocking the ratification of a number of mixed competence conventions by the EU was the arrangements for communicating with competent authorities in Gibraltar which Spain had questioned.

I am delighted that, with the agreement of the Government of Gibraltar and in the spirit of ongoing co-operation, we have now concluded a set of arrangements with Spain which will allow the EU to move ahead and ratify all such instruments. Among the conventions covered are the 1996 Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and the 2001 Cape Town Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment and its protocol on aircraft.

In future under the 'Agreed arrangements relating to Gibraltar authorities in the context of mixed agreements' a system of 'post-boxing' will apply for communications between Spanish and Gibraltar authorities but not for communications between the authorities of other states and Gibraltar. The same arrangements will also apply for communications between Gibraltar and Spain in the context of the 'Agreed arrangements relating to Gibraltar authorities in the context of certain international treaties'.

I am placing copies of the two exchanges of letters in the Library of the House.

JUSTICE

National Offender Management Service Information Technology

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): I wish to provide the House with an update on the findings of the strategic review process of the NOMIS programme that I commissioned in August.

The House will be aware that the NOMIS programme was suspended when it was identified that there was not sufficient funding for the programme to continue as specified. An immediate moratorium on further development work was imposed while the strategic review identified recommendations for the future direction of the programme and the Ministry of Justice internal auditors carried out a review of the programme. Their findings were taken into account as part of the review and will be integrated into the revised structure of the programme.

Following the comprehensive review, which included close consultation with representatives from the Prison Service and probation areas, I have now agreed the strategic direction of the programme.

My objectives for the programme remain to:

Enable improved business continuity by replacing ailing legacy case management and offender assessment applications in public prisons and probation.

Enable more efficient and effective operational management of offenders.

Support offender management processes and thereby reduce reoffending and enhance public protection.

Provide supplier neutral information to support Commissioners.

Provide improved management information to enable improved performance.

The recommendations of the review are that:

HM Prison Service is to receive a version of C-NOMIS, which will replace the existing case management system (LIDS). Three public sector prisons already use the live system. From recent analysis it is clear that the system will drive significant efficiencies when rolled out across the service.

Arrangements will be made to allow sharing of information between prisons and probation areas through a new mechanism 'data share' which will give read only access to core case information to support offender management.

Improvements will be made to OASys and the system will be re-developed as a single national system across probation and prisons.

Delius, a case management system already in use by some probation areas, is to be implemented where existing NPS case management systems are in urgent need of replacement.

C-NOMIS will not therefore be deployed to the National Probation Service.

We will consider options to address a range of issues associated with CRAMS (the case management system currently in use in most probation areas) including obsolete software and hardware, and compliance with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.

We will take account of the current strategic reviews of offender management and offender assessment.

I have agreed these carefully costed measures on the recommendation of the governance boards of the National Offender Management Service and Ministry of Justice. We will continue to scrutinise the value for money provided by each business case as they develop.

This has been a successful review, delivering a reformed programme that is now set to provide real operational improvements for practitioners in managing offenders alongside other reforms across the Criminal Justice System.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 9 January 2008

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Primary Curriculum Review

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): The children's plan announced that Sir Jim Rose had been appointed to lead an independent review of the primary curriculum. I have today written to Sir Jim Rose setting out the remit for the review. Sir Jim Rose will begin his review immediately and provide a report and recommendations by March 2009 so that agreed changes to the curriculum can be implemented by September 2010.

The primary curriculum must ensure that pupils build on prior learning in the early years foundation stage (EYFS) to develop the essential literacy, numeracy and personal skills they need in order to learn and develop, and to ensure they are able to make a smooth and seamless transition into later learning. It must provide all pupils with a broad and balanced entitlement to learning which encourages creativity and inspires in them a commitment to learning that will last a lifetime.

This will be a fundamental review of the primary curriculum. In addition to reviewing the existing subjects and programmes of study Sir Jim Rose's review will also consider and make recommendations on how to:

best introduce languages as a compulsory subject in key stage 2 as recommended by Lord Dearing's languages review;

best introduce pupils to a broad range of subjects during primary education without overcrowding the curriculum or overburdening schools;

provide greater continuity between the early years foundation stage and key stage 1, and between key stage 2 and key stage 3;

introduce greater flexibility to help schools narrow the attainment gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers;

improve outcomes for summer-born children and consider whether it would be appropriate to allow greater flexibility in start dates;

develop a framework of the personal development skills which all pupils should expect to develop through their schooling.

I am placing in the Library a copy of my letter to Sir Jim Rose detailing the remit for the review of the primary curriculum.

HEALTH

"Clean, Safe Care"

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): A comprehensive strategy to tackle healthcare associated infections (HCAIs) and improve cleanliness in the NHS has been published today by the Department and placed in the Library. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and the document can be accessed online at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081650

The strategy "Clean, Safe Care" draws together recent initiatives to tackle HCAIs and improve cleanliness and details new areas where the National Health Service should invest the Government funding of £270 million per year by 2010-11. This investment was announced in October 2007 as part of the comprehensive spending review settlement to support infection control and cleanliness in the NHS.

Patients have a right to clean and safe treatment wherever and whenever they are treated by the NHS. As set out in the NHS operating framework for 2008-09, improving cleanliness and reducing healthcare associated infections is one of the NHS's top priorities. It must be an essential element of every procedure in the NHS so that patients have the confidence they need in the care they receive.

This strategy sets out where there are national expectations and requirements—such as the new national target for clostridium difficile or the requirement for every hospital to have undergone a deep clean by March 2008. It also guides NHS organisations and staff as to the actions and investment that will be most effective in continuing to tackle infection and improve cleanliness in their local area.

As well as recently announced initiatives, the strategy outlines some further areas that NHS organisations need to consider when developing their local plans. These include investing in specialist staff such as infection control nurses, pharmacists and isolation nurses, and promoting innovations through a range of programmes designed to accelerate the development and uptake of new technologies. The strategy also outlines stringent new requirements on NHS foundation trust applicants meaning that only top performers on HCAIs will now be considered, and explains how the new national contract, published in December 2007, will allow primary care trusts to fine NHS trusts that are not hitting local targets on clostridium difficile improvement. The Department is also ensuring that NHS trusts have the resources for further investment by including an element to tackle infection in the national tariff uplift.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. Peter Hain): I am pleased to announce the appointment of Stephen Geraghty—the current chief executive of the Child Support Agency—as the commissioner designate of the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission as from 1 January 2008. I believe his appointment—alongside that of Janet Paraskeva as the chair designate—will give the Commission an experienced and committed leadership well equipped for the vital task of tackling child poverty.

Subject to the passage of the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill, the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission will have responsibility for the future child maintenance system. The Commission's key objective will be to get more money to more families, helping to lift more children out of poverty.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 10 January 2008

TREASURY

HMRC Review (Powers, Deterrents and Safeguards)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Jane Kennedy): HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is today announcing that it will begin the process of working with interested parties on the development of a taxpayers charter, which will set out both taxpayer rights and responsibilities in a single accessible document. This announcement is made alongside the publication of "Modernising Powers, Deterrents and Safeguards: Safeguards for Taxpayers: Summary of Responses" and reflects the Government's commitment to ensuring that the tax system is useable and accessible for all taxpayers.

The ongoing HMRC Review of Powers, Deterrents and Safeguards is working to align and modernise the powers and taxpayer safeguards that HMRC inherited. It will provide greater consistency across all taxes and a modern framework of law and practice that will make HMRC more efficient and effective. HMRC has today published three further Modernising Powers, Deterrents and Safeguards consultation documents:

Penalties Reform: The Next Stage;

A New Approach to Compliance Checks: Responses to Consultation and Proposals; and;

Repayments and Debt: Responses to Consultation and Proposals.

These documents have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and are available on the HMRC website.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Homes and Communities Agency

The Minister for Housing (Yvette Cooper): I undertook during oral evidence for the Committee stage of the Housing and Regeneration Bill on 13 December 2007 to confirm the delivery responsibilities of the Homes and Communities Agency.

The Homes and Communities Agency will for the first time, bring together land and money to deliver decent, affordable housing and regenerate our communities by creating places where people choose to live. It will play a key role advising Ministers on turning our ambition to deliver 3 million new homes by 2020 into a reality.

Establishing the agency will enable a range of existing regeneration and housing delivery programmes to be brought together under the auspices of a single delivery focused agency. This will give local authorities a clear strategic partner to work with on housing and regeneration work in their area, and will enable better and more effective use of a range of assets, resources and funding streams to respond to the particular housing and regeneration problems in different communities.

Taking account of the role of the agency and consultation responses to "Delivering Housing and Regeneration: Communities England and the Future of Social Housing Regulation", we have concluded that the agency, reporting to Ministers, will therefore take on the following roles:

Regeneration programmes from English Partnerships, including remediation of brownfield land, facilitating the provision of homes for key workers, the National Coalfields programme and developing its strategic sites programme to facilitate the delivery of increasing numbers of new homes;

Provision of new affordable housing, currently provided through social housing grant from the Housing Corporation;

Delivery responsibilities for the decent homes programmes for the social housing sector from the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) including Arms Length Management Organisations (ALMOs), Large Scale Voluntary Transfers (LSVT), Housing Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and PFI for new supply. This will enable the agency to work closely with local authorities to join up delivery of decent homes with the wider regeneration of communities. Ministers will continue to make final decisions on stock transfers and the establishment of ALMOs;

Transferring programme management responsibility from CLG on housing market renewal facilitating the joining up with other agency programmes, allowing it to work with local authorities to develop multifaceted regeneration programmes that deliver community as well as housing market renewal;

The agency will take on the housing and regeneration delivery functions of CLG in support of the main existing growth areas, including Milton Keynes-South Midlands, London-Stanstead-Cambridge-Peterborough, and Ashford.

Fulfilling its objective of becoming the "Best Delivery Partner" for local authorities, it will also work with local authorities to develop support for new and emerging growth points and will become Government's main source of advice on the delivery of housing growth. Responsibility for selecting and assessing growth areas will remain with CLG and with Ministers;

Similarly the agency will take on housing and regeneration delivery functions from CLG in the Thames Gateway, including driving forward the implementation of the Thames Gateway delivery plan published in November. The Gateway is the single largest regeneration project in Europe and will provide 160,000 new homes and 225,000 jobs by 2016—making a key contribution to the delivery of the agency's objectives. The agency will make use of its unrivalled expertise in housing and regeneration and to work with local councils on delivery across the Gateway. Its role will include the management of CLG's £500million Thames Gateway programme for 2009-11.

Additionally, the Academy for Sustainable Communities will transfer to the agency, as will delivery responsibilities for the following programmes, currently undertaken by CLG:

Mixed Communities

Capital Investment on Homelessness Hostels and Specialist Supported Housing

National Land-Use Database of Previously Developed Land.

This will help provide an holistic approach to housing and regeneration and enable the department to focus on the provision of strategic policy advice and managing cross-Whitehall relationships.

A full summary of responses to the consultation "Delivering Housing and Regeneration: Communities England and the Future of Social Housing Regulation", and the Government's response, can be found on the CLG website. Copies are also being placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

DEFENCE

Air Surveillance and Control System Basing Study

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): I am taking this opportunity to provide the House with interim details of the Air Surveillance and Control System (ASACS) Basing Study that commenced in September 2006.

As a result of the Air Combat Service Support Units (ACSSU) and Minor Unit Basing Study, the decision was made to draw down RAF Boulmer by 2012 and relocate some of the ASACS units to RAF Scampton. Following the Communication Hub relocation in 2006 to RAF Leeming instead of RAF Scampton the decision regarding the future basing of ASACS units needed to be reconsidered. This included the proposed future location of all ASACS elements currently based at RAF Boulmer, RAF Kirton-in-Lindsey and RAF Scampton.

During the course of the ASACS Basing Study it became clear that the retention of RAF Boulmer as a core site for the ASACS Hub was the best option in financial and operational terms. Therefore, I have decided that, subject to TU consultation, RAF Boulmer should not draw down in 2012 and should instead remain the ASACS Hub. Service and civilian personnel at RAF Boulmer will be briefed on the progress of the study.

This decision only refers to RAF Boulmer's future within the ASACS Basing Study. The final outcome of the study, which will include the basing of the remaining ASACS satellite units at RAF Scampton and RAF Kirton-in-Lindsey, is expected shortly.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

"Consultation on Managing Radioactive Waste Safely"

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I am today publishing the "Summary and Analysis of Responses to the Consultation on Managing Radioactive Waste Safely; A Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal". The consultation commenced on 25 June 2007 and closed on 2 November 2007.

The Government view is that the consultation responses indicate support for managing higher activity radioactive waste in the long term through geological disposal, as recommended as the best available option by the independent Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) in July 2006. As set out in their response to CoRWM's recommendations in October 2006, the Government continue to see geological disposal as the way forward for the long-term management of higher activity radioactive waste.

Furthermore, the responses indicated support for the approach proposed in the consultation document for securing implementation of such disposal, including how a voluntarism or partnership approach and site screening and assessment criteria might be used to identify a facility site.

The Government also acknowledge, in line with CoRWM's recommendations, that the geological disposal implementation programme needs to be coupled with safe and secure interim storage and that there will be a programme of ongoing research and development for this waste management programme, for which the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) will have primary responsibility.

The consultation responses also provided a number of comments on more detailed aspects of carrying forward the geological disposal implementation programme. All consultation comments will be considered in developing the details of the next stages of implementation. These will be set out in a White Paper to be published later this year.

Copies of the summary and analysis of responses will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses, and are available on Defra's website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/radwaste-framework/index.htm

HOME DEPARTMENT

The Forensic Science Regulator and the Forensic Science Advisory Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): On 12 July last year I announced the arrangements we had put in hand to establish the post of Forensic Science Regulator to advise the Government and the Criminal Justice System on quality standards in the provision of forensic science; and to set up a Forensic Science Advisory Council to support and advise the regulator.

I am pleased to announce that the regulator has been appointed following an open competition. He is Mr Andrew Rennison, who is currently Director of Intelligence at the Gambling Commission. Mr Rennison will take up the post on 11 February. In the meantime, the role will continue to be filled by a senior official in the Home Office.

I am also pleased to report that the Forensic Science Advisory Council has been established and is operating in support of the interim regulator. The membership of the council is as follows:

Adrian Cory, Interim Regulator (Chair) [1]

Dr Michael Goldstein, Chairman of the Council for the Registration of Forensic Practitioners

Dr Jane Beaumont, Director of Accreditation, UKAS

Stan Brown, CEO Forensic Science Northern Ireland

Roger Coe-Salazar, CPS Chief Crown Prosecutor, Kent

ACC Paul Crowther, British Transport Police

Ms Julie Goulding, lay member

His Honour Judge Andrew Goymer

Mohammed Khamisa QC

Professor Julie Mennell, Chair, UK Forensic Science Education Group

Tom Nelson, Director of Forensic Services, Scottish Police Services Authority

Dr Basil Purdue, President-elect, British Association in Forensic Medicine

Brian Rankin, President, Forensic Science Society

Dr Sheila Willis, Chair, Forensic Science Providers' Group

[1] Andrew Rennison from 11 February 2008

CABINET OFFICE

Families at Risk Review

The Minister for the Cabinet Office (Edward Miliband): Today we are publishing "Think Family: Improving the Life Chances of Families at Risk". This forms the next stage of the "Families at Risk Review" led by the Social Exclusion Task Force and follows on from the publication of "Reaching Out: Think Family" in June 2007.

"Think Family" argues that excellent children's services, and excellent adults' services, are not enough in isolation. To transform life chances and break the cycle of disadvantage, services must go further. Today's report builds on the review's earlier analytical work by setting out a vision of an integrated system that 'thinks family' at every level. The goal is to extend the logic of integration behind "Every Child Matters" beyond children's services to include adults' services and promote collaboration and co-ordination around the needs of the family.

There are four key principles that underpin a system that 'thinks family'. First, there is no 'wrong door' to effective support and contact with any service opens a door into a system of joined up support. Secondly, services take a 'whole family' approach, responding to clients as family members and supporting parental responsibilities. Thirdly, professionals start with a family's strengths and build on a family's capacity to take responsibility for their own lives. Fourthly, the system provides support tailored to need.

The system design is based upon findings from extensive research and consultation with practitioners, local policy makers and families themselves. To take this vision forward DCSF has launched an invitation to local authorities to apply to become one of the £13 million Family Pathfinders set out in "Think Family" and the "Children's Plan". The Family Pathfinders will improve service delivery to families at risk through change at all levels of the system; from strategy and governance through to the delivery of front line services. The pathfinders will build on the learning from innovative family-based services such as the Family Intervention Projects. Working alongside the network of local authorities involved in the "Narrowing the Gap" project, these pathfinders will help to generate learning about how local areas can transform outcomes by 'thinking family'. An additional £3 million will be made available over the next three years for extended Family Pathfinders which will also look in depth at how better forms of support can be built around families in which children are taking on caring responsibilities.

The Family Pathfinders will sit at the heart of a wider process of learning shared between central and local government, practitioners and families themselves to help drive change in every local area.

Copies of the report have been placed in the Library for the reference of Members and are available in the Vote Office.

The report is also available on the Cabinet Office website at: www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/social_exclusion_task_force

TRANSPORT

Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): I have today published the Government's recommendation to the Office of the Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA) on how the carbon and sustainability reporting mechanism should operate under the RTFO scheme, which will be introduced in April 2008 pursuant to the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations Order 2007. This follows a public consultation published on 21 June 2007: "Carbon and Sustainability Reporting Within the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation, Requirements and Guidance, Draft Government Recommendation to RTFO Administrator". I have also published today a summary of responses to the consultation. Copies of these documents have been placed in the Library of both Houses.

The Government are committed to ensuring that the biofuels that are supplied under the RTFO are sustainable and deliver genuine greenhouse gas savings. This reporting mechanism will provide a strong incentive to road transport fuel suppliers to source sustainable biofuels, and is an essential first step towards the development and introduction of mandatory carbon and sustainability standards.

I can confirm that, in the light of the comments received during the consultation exercise, the Government are setting the following targets for key aspects of the biofuel reporting scheme to illustrate the level of performance expected from all road transport fuel suppliers:

Annual target	*2008-9*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Percentage of feedstock meeting a qualifying environmental standard	30%	50%	80%
Annual average greenhouse gas saving of biofuel supplied	40%	45%	50%
Data reporting on sustainability characteristics	50%	70%	90%

The Government announced on 21 June 2007 their aim of rewarding biofuels according to their carbon savings from 2010-11 onwards, subject to a number of very important provisos. I can confirm today that the Government will aim to design such a scheme so that it delivers a level of carbon savings consistent with the greenhouse gas saving target for 2010-11. We will consult in due course on this matter.

The Government will keep all of these targets under review in the light of suppliers' performance in meeting them and other developments.

The Government's recommendation to the RFA includes a number of detailed changes that have been made in the light of the responses to the consultation. The key changes are set out in the summary of responses document.

Further developments in this area will be affected by the forthcoming EU Directives on Renewable Energy and Fuel Quality. The UK will continue to work closely with the European Commission and other member states to ensure that a robust sustainability framework for biofuels underpins both EU and UK biofuel targets.

It is expected that the RFA will consider the Government's recommendation and publish the final reporting requirements shortly.

Further information is available from the Departmental website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/roads/RTFO

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 14 January 2008

TREASURY

National Insurance Contributions Bill

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Jane Kennedy): To assist further consideration of the National Insurance Contributions Bill, which was introduced to the House of Commons on 12 November, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs is today publishing draft regulations amending the Social Security (Contributions) Regulations 2001 insofar as they apply to Great Britain in respect of:

The prescribed equivalents of the Upper Accrual Point (UAP)

The new End of Year reporting requirements for employers

Copies of the draft regulations have been placed in the Library of the House and the Vote Office, and will also be available on the HMRC website.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Disabled Facilities Grant

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright): The Government are today announcing the allocation of an additional £11.5 million to the Disabled Facilities Grant programme for 2007-08. The programme has proved to be highly successful with funding to local authorities more than doubling from £57 million in 1997 to £138 million now. These additional funds for the current year will help assist local authorities in meeting existing demand for the provision of adaptations. A table detailing the additional funds provided to individual authorities has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Local authorities must provide some of the finance for Disabled Facilities Grant from their own resources which brings total public sector spending on this programme to in excess of £200 million per annum.

The Disabled Facilities Grant programme helps approximately 35,000 disabled and older people each year to live as comfortably and independently as possible in their homes through the provision of adaptations. The Disabled Facilities Grant programme provides mandatory grants for housing adaptations available to both disabled and older people including improving access to a home and to the basic facilities within a home such as the provision of ramps, door widening and stair lifts.

I will be making a further statement on the future funding of Disabled Facilities Grant and announcing a package of changes to improve delivery of the programme shortly as part of the cross-departmental review of Disabled Facilities Grant.

DEFENCE

Combat Aircraft Capability Enhancements

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): The Harrier GR9 and the Tornado GR4 are both currently providing invaluable support to our forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. We have signed two contracts on 21 December 2007, appointing BAES as the Prime Contractor, which will deliver further significant capability upgrades to both the Harrier GR9 and the Tornado GR4. Under the programmes, both aircraft will receive improved secure communications and tactical data links, and the Paveway IV precision-guided bomb will be integrated on to Tornado. These upgrades will enhance the ability of these aircraft to support future operations by improving survivability, increasing situational awareness and lowering the risk of fratricide and collateral damage. The combined value of the programmes, through life, is £548 million.

The Ministry of Defence and BAES are committed to working together on these programmes to provide outstanding military capability that will deliver real benefits to operational capability.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

FCO Services (Trading Fund Status)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Meg Munn): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, with the agreement of HM Treasury, has determined that it would be in the best interests of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the taxpayer if FCO Services, currently an executive agency, were to become a Government trading fund on 1 April 2008. Accordingly, I have laid before the House a draft statutory instrument for affirmative resolution.

In reaching his decision, my right hon. Friend has conducted a public consultation exercise and prepared an impact assessment. I have placed a copy of the analysis of responses to the consultation exercise, and a copy of the impact assessment in the Library of the House.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 15 January 2008

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

School Teachers' Review Body

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): Part 1 of the 17th report of the School Teachers' Review Body (STRB) is being published today, covering a range of matters referred to them in March 2007. I am grateful for the thorough attention the STRB has given to these matters. Copies of the report and of my detailed response to it are available in the Vote Office, the Printed Paper Office, both Libraries of the House and at www.teachernet.gov.uk/pay.

The STRB has made recommendations for values of pay scales, spines and allowances, including leadership group pay covering three years from September 2008 to August 2010. They have recommended a 2.45 per cent. increase from September 2008 and have made recommendations that would give teachers further increases of 2.3 per cent. from September 2009 and 2010.

I very much welcome the framework of predictability that these three-year recommendations will give, which will assist long-term strategic decision-making by local authorities and schools. The multi-year figures and processes proposed by the STRB provide an approach which is in accordance with the Government's stated policy on public sector pay, which is for awards that are consistent with the achievement of the CPI inflation target of 2 per cent., are affordable, represent value for money for taxpayers and reflect the labour market position of workforces.

As regards schools in England, the 2.1 per cent. minimum funding guarantee which was announced in the school funding settlement on 12 November 2007 is based on a cautious and realistic assessment of the wide range of cost pressures schools will face both from pay and non-pay. I am therefore confident that these figures will be manageable over the next three year period.

I propose therefore to accept the STRB's recommendation of a 2.45 per cent. award payable from September 2008, and to accept the figures of 2.3 per cent. from September 2009 and September 2010 which they have indicated in their report. Consistent with their report, I propose to set the STRB a remit in the course of 2008 to enable them to ensure that the increases they have proposed for 2009 and 2010 continue to be appropriate in the light of latest recruitment and retention data, and wider economic and labour market conditions. I should however make clear that it is my firm view at this stage that the increases set out in the recommendations in relation to 2009-2011 are the right ones. There would need to be clear evidence of a significant and material change in these factors to justify any change to these figures. The STRB would also need to take into account the fact that schools' budgets will have been set assuming the current figures.

The STRB's recommendations also include enhancements to the salaries of some categories of teacher in inner and outer London and that there should be a review over a longer timescale of the current regional pay bands. I also propose to accept these recommendations.

The review body has also made some recommendations on the unqualified teachers' pay scale. These are detailed and technical matters on which I would like to take the views of consultees before proposing how these matters should be resolved. My detailed response contains further information on both these issues.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Regional Spatial Strategy (West Midlands)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Parmjit Dhanda): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is today publishing the phase 1 revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the West Midlands. It follows the public examination in January 2007 and the proposed changes published in September.

The majority of the consultation responses were supportive of the proposed changes and the Secretary of State is therefore pleased to confirm them with some minor amendments. The final revision includes:

new policies to define broad areas for regeneration and growth in the Black Country,

a new policy which replaces Dudley with Brierley Hill and Merry Hill as a strategic centre,

a new policy to emphasise the importance of transforming the environment, and

revisions to the transport priorities to reflect the current status of transport proposals in the Black Country.

Baroness Andrews has today written to the WMRA with the final phase 1 revision together with a summary of responses and schedule of changes.

Copies of the relevant documents are available on the internet, in the Libraries of both Houses, and have been provided for all of the Region's MPs, MEPs and local authorities.

The more extensive phase 2 revision to the West Midlands RSS is also underway. This covers revisions to housing and employment policies and the draft submission from the West Midlands Regional Assembly is currently being consulted on.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): We previously announced on 11 October 2007, [Official Report, column 42WS] the outcome, subject to consultation, of a review of the multiple injury lump sum element of the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme. The purpose of the review was to ensure that the scheme's intent of focusing benefit on the most seriously injured was being delivered. The consultation has now concluded and I

am pleased to confirm that the rule will be amended so that, in future, those who qualify for 100 per cent. of the Guaranteed Income Payment (GIP), who are by definition the most seriously injured, will receive 100 per cent. of the sums payable of all injuries sustained in a single incident, up to a maximum of £285,000. Those who do not qualify for 100 per cent. GIP payments will continue to have the current discounting rule applied to their multiple injuries. This does not affect injuries sustained in separate incidents as these are already paid at the full tariff value of the injury.

The new rule applies to those whose injuries are sustained on or after the legislation comes into force. For those cases whose multiple injuries were sustained between 6 April 2005 (the start of the scheme) and the date the new rule comes into force, and who qualify for 100 per cent. GIP will, exceptionally, have an additional benefit paid to bring them to the same level as those who have the new rule applied.

The AFCS is still relatively new. While a full review of the scheme will be undertaken after five years of operation, we will continue to monitor the scheme in order to identify areas where evidence supports the need for further changes before then. The amendments to the legislation will be laid before Parliament on Wednesday 16 January to put the new rule in place on 8 February. Those service personnel whose claims have already been processed and are entitled to the additional payment will receive their extra money as soon as possible thereafter.

Mild Traumatic Brain Injury

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): In the light of parliamentary and public interest in traumatic brain injuries (TBI) arising in current conflicts, I am pleased to report the status of work being conducted on this topic by the Defence Medical Services.

TBI are seen in both military and civilian populations, occurring when the skull and brain are exposed to acute changes in velocity such as road traffic accidents and contact sports, as well as exposure to blasts and other concussions to the head. Severe and moderate cases are generally readily identifiable to medical practitioners and will be managed by established clinical and rehabilitation programmes. The Defence Medical Services already routinely screens all personnel with multiple injuries admitted to MOD's main rehabilitation centre at Headley Court for symptoms and signs of brain injury, and where necessary special investigations are undertaken to identify the nature and degree of any structural damage to the brain.

However, mild traumatic brain injury (MTBI) can be less easy to recognise and diagnose. It may result from relatively minor head injuries, and symptoms can be both wide-ranging and delayed in their onset, as well as being similar to those of other recognised disorders such as post-concussion syndrome and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Recognising the need for further research, the MOD's surgeon general initiated a project in June 2007 to investigate the historical, clinical and laboratory context of MTBI and make recommendations concerning future management, clinical care, education and research. The project team consulted widely with clinical and research experts within the military and civilian sectors both in the UK and overseas, principally the US.

The project noted that civilian evidence suggests 80 per cent. of TBI is mild and 80 per cent of cases will be symptom-free within three months of exposure. The project concluded that there was no evidence to suggest that the operational capability of the UK's armed forces was being affected by MTBI. The Royal Centre for Defence Medicine (RCDM) has identified 585 cases of casualties with traumatic brain injury (whether mild, moderate or severe) out of some 36,000 total attendances for any medical condition to deployed UK operational emergency departments between early 2003 and November 2007 the majority of which would be for minor ailments with no requirement for admission or, in many cases, further treatment. This represents 1.6 per cent. of all medical presentations during the period, and 0.5 per cent. of the deployed UK military population.

The project has provided a baseline for further work that is already in hand. A four-level protocol is being established by staff at Headley Court for the diagnosis and treatment of MTBI cases. Guidance has been promulgated to all defence general practitioners advising them about MTBI and the treatment options available. Education material has been developed, aimed at all personnel on deployed operations, and an assessment questionnaire is being introduced to help medical staff identify MTBI cases at the time of injury and to enhance surveillance and research.

Research is also continuing into such areas as identification and diagnosis of MTBI cases, and also their prevention. Throughout our research we are in touch with United States developments, and collaborating with its researchers as appropriate.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Avian Influenza (Dorset)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): Between 27 December and 4 January three mute swans were found in a swannery and its vicinity near Chesil Beach; preliminary reports suggest that two of the swans were still alive when located but were euthanised due to injuries and poor condition. The third was already dead. Two were found through regular patrols by the swannery's staff as part of Defra's routine dead wild bird surveillance programme, and a third was found by a member of the public.

Targeted surveillance for avian influenza in wild birds is in place throughout the UK and focuses on species that are most likely to spread the disease and on high risk areas where there is a greater abundance of poultry and waterfowl. More than 6,000 birds were tested last year alone. The numbers of birds tested is in part dependent on the numbers of birds found dead by regular patrols of certain wetland reserves or reported by the public. There have been over 2,000 patrols

undertaken since the start of this migration period in September and October at over 200 sites. The number of dead birds can be lower during a milder year. No cuts have been made to active patrolling or testing and in some areas patrolling has been increased due to national and international avian influenza incidents.

In the case of the swans found in Dorset, there was no immediate cause to suspect disease, and as the cases did not appear unusual given mortality rates among the local swan population, the swannery held the carcasses until Monday 7 January, when they first reported them to Defra. The Meat and Livestock Commission (MLC), which is Defra's contracted collection agent for the wild bird surveillance programme, then collected the carcasses and delivered them on the same day to the local regional laboratory of the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA), at Starcross in Exeter. There, post mortem examinations and sample collections were carried out prior to courier dispatch of the samples for Avian Influenza testing at the VLA in Weybridge, Surrey, which is the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) reference laboratory for avian influenza. This was conducted as part of routine surveillance, and the collection, storage and transportation of the samples to the laboratory, and their testing, were entirely consistent with international standards.

On the evening of Wednesday 9 January, preliminary results indicated the presence of H5N1, but not the pathogenicity. The VLA immediately informed Defra which sought expert ornithological advice on the following day about the restrictions that might be needed. At lunchtime on 10 January, following further laboratory tests, the Acting Chief Veterinary Officer was able to confirm that highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza had been found in the three swans.

Wild bird control and monitoring areas were immediately put in place around the swannery. The boundary of the control area has been set to meet EU requirements for a 3 km minimum radius, and encompasses an appropriate area around Chesil Beach and Portland Bill. The boundary of the monitoring area meets the minimum requirement for a 10 km radius and an appropriate area around the wild bird control area. The boundaries were determined following advice from expert ornithologists who took into consideration the location of local bird reserves and the presence of wild bird populations. This advice also gives us some confidence that birds in this area have not moved widely and therefore there is no scientific justification for requiring birds to be housed, or bird gatherings to be banned, in the rest of the country outside the wild bird monitoring area.

Inside these areas, no poultry or other captive bird movements from premises are permitted, all birds must be housed or otherwise isolated from contact with wild birds, no wild birds may be hunted, and all bird gatherings are banned. Biosecurity measures apply on premises where poultry or captive birds are kept. We are currently working with industry to determine the availability of licences for movements from premises and for hunting of wild birds.

Soon after confirmation, Defra, using the poultry register, sent a text message to all those who had registered a mobile phone number with the register. Two messages were sent; one to keepers in the control and monitoring areas, and one to all those in England and Wales. Known keepers registered on Animal Health's database—excluding those who had already received a message via the poultry register—were also sent a voicemail message.

On 11 January, information packs were posted to all known poultry premises in the control and monitoring areas. These packs have also been distributed by Animal Health vets during surveillance visits in the field.

One member of the public and 11 reserve staff have been assessed for possible risk to their health by the Health Protection Agency (HPA), seven of whom have been given precautionary courses of antiviral drugs because of their close contact with infected or potentially infected birds. None of these people is ill. Vaccination with seasonal human influenza vaccines has also been administered to this group of people. The HPA advise that the risk to the general public is very low.

While surveillance and testing continue, no evidence of disease has been found in domestic poultry or other captive birds. There will be no culling of wild birds because such action might disperse birds further creating a risk of disease spread. While our policy on vaccination is kept under continuous review, experts advise us that it would not assist disease control in this case.

A full epidemiological investigation is under way to determine the source of infection. The strain of the virus identified is very similar to that causing the cases confirmed in the Czech Republic, Romania and Poland mid to late last year. It is less similar to that found in East Anglia in November. We are also carrying out increased surveillance in the area to look for any further carcasses of wild birds for testing, in addition to our routine collection and testing of certain species of dead wild birds in areas of the rest of the country with higher wild bird and poultry density. All premises in the control area with domestic poultry are being visited by Animal Health staff to look for presence of disease. We are making a rapid assessment of the risk to captive birds and poultry in the wider area so that we can consider whether we need to further enhance surveillance of wild and captive birds, and advise local poultry keepers about preventative measures they should take.

Trade in poultry and poultry products to other EU member states from outside the control and monitoring areas can carry on largely unaffected. Exports of poultry and poultry products to non-EU countries are already very limited because, following the H5N1 outbreak in Suffolk in November last year, the UK is currently not officially free from avian influenza according to the OIE—the World Organisation for Animal Health. As these new cases have been found in wild birds our intention to regain our "officially free" status later this year is not affected.

I wish to stress as before that avian influenza is largely a disease of birds. The virus does not easily cross from birds to infect humans; in almost all instances, such transmission requires extremely close contact with infected birds, particularly faeces. The fact that disease has been found in wild birds rather than poultry makes no difference to the human health risk.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those in Defra, Animal Health, other partners and especially the relevant local authorities for their usual professional and rapid response.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Council Operations (Russia)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): I made clear in my Written Ministerial Statement on 12 December, and again in oral questions on 8 January, that the Russian Government's threatened action against the British Council in Russia was illegal, and that the British Council intended to remain open and operational in St Petersburg and Yekaterinburg. The British Council has done so.

I regret to inform the House that, on 14 January, the Russian authorities informed the British Ambassador in Moscow that Russia intends to take a series of administrative measures against the British Council. These include tax measures against the British Council in St Petersburg and visa restrictions against British Council staff in St Petersburg and Yekaterinburg. Russia has further stated that it may take further action against the British Council in Moscow, including visa restrictions against UK diplomatic staff. Such threats can only make matters worse. It is not in the interests of either the UK or Russia for flourishing cultural, educational and scientific links to be held hostage to unrelated issues in this way.

As the Government have repeatedly made clear to the Russian authorities, the British Council's activities in St Petersburg, Yekaterinburg and across Russia are fully compliant both with Russian and international law, under the Vienna conventions. Its presence and activities are also specifically sanctioned by a 1994 UK-Russia Agreement on Co-operation in Education, Science and Culture, signed by Russia.

The Government will consider these latest actions by Russia carefully and will continue to engage with our international partners on them. We will respond to the Russian Government shortly.

I will continue to keep the House informed of developments.

JUSTICE

Appointment to the Youth Justice Board

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I am today announcing with my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, the appointment of Frances Done CBE as Chair of the Youth Justice Board. The appointment will be for three years from 1 February 2008 to 1 February 2011.

The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales is an executive non-departmental public body established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to monitor the operation and performance of the youth justice system and to identify and disseminate good practice to prevent offending by children and young people. The board is also responsible for commissioning services for young people under 18 who are sentenced and remanded to secure facilities.

TRANSPORT

Transport Innovation Fund Pump-Priming and Development Funding

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Ms Rosie Winterton): In July 2005 in a written statement to the House, local authorities were invited to bid for £18 million of "pump-priming" development funding to bring forward packages of schemes that combined better local public transport with hard demand management measures, such as road pricing. In November 2005 and May 2006 my predecessors announced that we were awarding pump-priming for the Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) to ten areas.

In December 2007 we invited local authorities developing TIF proposals to bid for a small amount of remaining funding available in the current financial year. This funding was targeted at those areas that have formally submitted proposals and are providing further information to support the assessment by the DfT and in parallel are developing elements of the proposal while waiting for a programme entry decision, or those that have submitted an outline proposal for a TIF package for which there is a political commitment to working up and submitting a business case during 2008-09.

I am today announcing funding for three areas. We are making up to £1 million available to Cambridgeshire, up to £1·5 million to Greater Manchester, and up to £675,000 to the West of England Partnership (covering Bristol City council, Bath and North East Somerset council, North Somerset council and South Gloucestershire councils).

This award means that these areas can continue to take forward proposals for improved public transport including local road pricing schemes.

I should be clear that receipt of this pump-priming funding is no guarantee that an authority will be successful in bidding for the main Transport Innovation Fund. We are, however, committed to working closely with the successful authorities to deliver the work programmes set out in their pump-priming bids and to support future decisions on the main Transport Innovation Fund.

We will also work with other local authorities developing proposals for improved local transport and demand management and this decision does not affect their ability to bid for substantive TIF funding in the future.

Manchester and Stansted Airport

The Secretary of State for Transport (Ruth Kelly): I am today publishing my decisions on whether Manchester and Stansted airports should remain designated for the purposes of price control under Section 40 of the Airports Act 1986. My decisions follow advice from the independent aviation regulator, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), on these airports and two public consultations. My Department's analysis has also been peer reviewed by Professor Martin Cave, Director of the Centre for Management Under Regulation, at Warwick Business School, whose comments I am publishing alongside my decisions. My predecessor previously consulted on and

announced new criteria for deciding whether an airport should be designated or not.

At Manchester, having carefully considered the responses from the consultation, I have concluded that Manchester airport does not have, and is not likely to acquire substantial market power. Therefore I intend to de-designate Manchester airport, and will introduce the necessary legislative changes.

At Stansted, the decision is more finely balanced. After careful consideration, I have concluded that Stansted meets all of the criteria for designation, and should continue to be designated.

The airports in the south-east are now operating at almost full capacity. This is bad for passengers in terms of delays, congestion, lack of choice, and it is also damaging to the UK's productivity and growth. This is why we support a second runway at Stansted and are consulting on adding capacity at Heathrow, whilst satisfying strict local environmental conditions on noise and air quality. I am therefore asking the CAA to continue to protect passengers by setting price caps at Stansted until new capacity is delivered, or until further evidence emerges from the ongoing Competition Commission review.

In making my decision on Stansted, I am aware of the comments made by a number of the respondents on the costs of the current approach to price controls at Stansted. The structure of price controls is a matter for the regulator, but my decision is not intended to constrain the CAA from adopting other approaches which meet their statutory duties while avoiding some of the costs of the current system that respondents have identified.

I have today published on my Department's website, decision letters setting out in full the rationale for my decisions, and Professor Cave's peer review comments. Copies of these documents have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 16 January 2008

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Environment Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I represented the UK at the Environment Council in Brussels on 20 December 2007.

Political agreement was reached on draft legislation to include airlines in the EU's carbon emission trading scheme (EU ETS). The overall package ensures an environmentally effective scheme, most notably by ensuring that the emissions cap has been set at the average of 2004-6 emissions, in line with UK ambition. The package agreed at Council also includes: a 2012 start date in one phase; 10 per cent. auctioning for 2012, with the figure for 2013 onwards to be decided as part of the review of the EU ETS; and a de minimis clause that applies only to commercial air transport operators. The UK supports the agreement reached.

The Council was unable to reach political agreement on a presidency compromise amending a Commission proposal for a soil framework directive. Several member states (including the UK) did not consider that the changes went far enough to resolve outstanding concerns, notably in relation to provisions on contaminated land and soil sealing, or to bring the proposals into line with the principles of better regulation and subsidiarity. The UK nevertheless made it clear that it remained supportive of the aims of the Commission's thematic strategy for the protection of soil and of the need for all member states to take action to improve efforts to preserve this vital natural resource.

The Council unanimously adopted conclusions on environment and health.

HEALTH

Organ Donation Taskforce

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Ann Keen): The organ donation taskforce has today presented a report making a number of recommendations to increase organ donation rates in the UK. The recommendations largely concentrate on the infrastructure required in order to enable the UK to maximise its potential for organ donation rates. The taskforce believes that if implemented in full, a 50 per cent. increase in donation rates is achievable over five years.

The Government accept the recommendations and look forward to working with stakeholders as part of the implementation process. The taskforce report has been placed in the Library and copies are available for hon. Members in the Vote Office.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Senior Salaries Review Body (Report on Parliamentary Pay, Pensions and Allowances 2007)

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): The 2007 Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB) Triennial Review of Parliamentary Pay, Pensions and Allowances was published today. The Government have considered the SSRB report and will today table motions that will be debated in the House on 24 January. The Commons will debate and vote on resolutions to express their views. Final implementation of any opinion on pay is dependent on the Common's agreement to an additional resolution.

This debate and decision will take place in the context of the current public sector pay policy. MPs and Ministers are paid by the public purse. The Government have committed to ensuring that public sector pay awards remain consistent with the continued achievement of the inflation target of 2 per cent. The Government believe that the principles that apply to public sector pay deals should also apply to MPs to entrench economic stability by holding down inflationary expectations and helping to maintain the economic stability we have seen over the past decade.

This statement sets out a summary of the Government's position, which proposes that changes to MPs' pay and pensions are consistent with the outcomes sought elsewhere in the public sector.

The Government believe that there should be a clear, transparent and independent mechanism for setting the pay and pension of MPs. It is inappropriate that MPs should vote on their own pay and pensions. The Government therefore intend to examine options that find objective criteria for determining the appropriate comparator used for MPs' pay awards within a framework that does not require MPs to vote in future years, and accordingly has asked Sir John Baker, CBE—the retiring chair of SSRB—to conduct a review and make proposals on options for consideration. It would be a significant constitutional reform for MPs to be explicitly removed from the process of voting on and determining their own pay and pensions. In some other countries, elected representatives' pay and pensions are determined entirely independently of the legislature. We hope to draw on this international experience so as to find a suitable mechanism that will work within our parliamentary system. We intend this work to be completed so that the House can resolve it before the summer recess.

The Government are tabling a motion in relation to MPs' pay for the year 2007-08 and seeking the House's support for Sir John Baker's review. There will be separate motions on pensions and allowances.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

MPs' Pay

The position on MPs' pay is as follows:

Financial Year	*SSRB recommendation*
2007-08	Increase from £60,277 to £61,820: In addition to 0.66% already in payment, 1.9% backdated to 1 April 2007, paid. Total in-year cost = 2.56% Year-on-year increase = 2.56%
2008-09	Link to the increase in base pay of senior civil servants plus £650
2009-10	Link to the increase in base pay of senior civil servants plus £650
2010-11	Link to the increase in base pay of senior civil servants plus £650

The Government believe the SSRB recommendation on pay for 2007-08 should be staged, with 0.84 per cent. increase backdated to 1 April 2007 and a further 1.06 per cent. backdated to 1 November 2007. This would give a 1.9 per cent. increase across the year 2007-08 and a final salary of £61,820.

With respect to pay for future years, the Government consider that MPs' pay in the future, including 2008-09, should be determined by a mechanism that is independent of MPs' votes and therefore do not propose taking forward the SSRB recommendations pending Sir John Baker's review of both the appropriate comparator and mechanism for determining MPs' pay.

SSRB has also recommended increasing the London supplement from £2,812 to £3,500, backdated to 1 April 2007. The Government do not accept this proposal.

Ministers' salaries

Ministers' pay is set under the Ministerial and Other Salaries Act 1975. SSRB recommends that the salaries for the Prime Minister, Ministers and other office holders in the Commons should increase more than the salary of MPs. The Government do not accept the proposal and believe that Ministerial salaries should increase at the same rate as MPs.

Severance pay

SSRB makes recommendations to change severance pay for Ministers who leave office. The recommendations are that Ministers or other office holders who are reappointed to a salaried Government or parliamentary post within three months of leaving office should keep a pro rata severance payment and the balance repaid. SSRB recommends abolishing the age bar of 65 that currently applies to severance payments.

Select Committee Chairs supplements

SSRB recommends that the salary supplements paid to chairs of Select and Public Bill Committees should be increased by the same percentage as the overall increase in MPs' salary. The Government accept this principle and propose that the supplements be increased in line with the increases in MPs' salaries.

Pensions

In respect of pensions, the SSRB has proposed the introduction of an optional 1/60th accrual rate. The Government accept this proposal in principle and are prepared to introduce it when the change can be made as part of a cost-neutral package.

SSRB makes a number of recommendations aimed at limiting the cost to the taxpayer of Parliamentary pensions. These include the 50:50 sharing between Members and the Exchequer of future increases or decreases in pension cost pressures, and restricting the underlying Exchequer contribution to the scheme, other than in respect of the deficit identified at the last valuation, to a maximum of 20 per cent. of payroll. The SSRB also recommends that there should be a review of parliamentary pension provision if the costs are rising significantly such that the 20 per cent. cap on the Exchequer contribution is likely to be breached. These recommendations are consistent with the approach being taken in public service pension schemes generally and the Government accept them. The Government propose that the detail of the arrangements should be worked up in consultation with the trustees of the parliamentary pension scheme so that it can be taken into account by the Government Actuary in his 2008 valuation of the scheme.

The SSRB recommendations on MPs' pensions apply also to Ministers' pensions and the Government position on these is as set out above.

SSRB recommends that future holders of the offices of Prime Minister, Lord Chancellor and Commons Speaker are covered by the parliamentary pension and severance arrangements that apply to Secretaries of State rather than the pension arrangements that apply now. The Government accept this recommendation with respect to Prime Ministers and Lord Chancellors. The Government do not propose to implement this recommendation with respect to future Commons Speakers, as they consider the position of Speaker to be substantially different from that of a Prime Minister or Lord Chancellor.

Allowances

SSRB recommends that the staffing allowance ceiling should be altered to allow an increase from the equivalent of 3.0 to up to 3.5 full-time, or equivalent, members of staff recognising that the amount of case work for many MPs has increased. The Government accept this proposal.

The SSRB makes several recommendations on changes to parliamentary allowances including those on:

Staffing expenditure;

expenditure on offices;

communication expenditure;

expenditure on travel;

compensation for leaving office and;

a range of other matters

Given the detailed nature of the proposals, the Government propose that they should be referred to the Members Estimate Committee to examine in light of observations by the Advisory Panel on Members' Allowances.

HOUSE OF LORDS

The SSRB proposes that increases in pay for Lords Ministers are aligned with that of increases in Commons Ministers' pay in accordance with current practice. The Government accept this recommendation. It is proposed that Lords Ministers' pay will be increased by 1.95 per cent. for 2007-08 in line with the proposed increase in

MPs' pay, and that from 1 April 2008, increases in Lords Ministers' pay will be made via the same mechanism as for MPs and other Ministers.

Recommendations on MPs' pensions will also apply to Lords Ministers' pensions—the Government's position is as for Ministers within the Commons. The age bar that currently applies for severance pay will also be abolished for Lords Ministers as for Ministers within the Commons.

Additionally, the Government agree with the proposal to continue the existing salary arrangements for the Leader of the Opposition, Opposition Chief Whip, Chairman of Committees and Deputy Chairman of Committees. Related to this, the Government accept the SSRB recommendation that seeks to peg the salary of the Lord Speaker on a "mark time" basis pending the next review of parliamentary pay or reform of House of Lords.

Until recently the Lord Chancellor was head of the judiciary as well as Speaker of the House of Lords, and is entitled in legislation to a salary £2,500 higher than the Lord Chief Justice. Given the post no longer now has those functions, the SSRB recommends that where the post of Lord Chancellor is held by someone who also holds another ministerial post, that person should receive only the salary for the ministerial post. The Government accept this recommendation.

The SSRB made three recommendations on Lords allowances: on the extension of the spouses', civil partners' and children's travel entitlement to include a named partner; for reviews of the definition of parliamentary business for the purpose of the subsistence allowance; and for a review of IT support for Members. These recommendations should be considered in the first instance by the House Committee.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 17 January 2008

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Avian Influenza (Dorset)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): Further to my written statement on 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 24WS, I would like to provide a brief update on the latest developments in the avian influenza cases in Dorset. On 16 January, a fourth mute swan, collected on 11 January as part of wild bird surveillance from the same area, tested positive for highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza. This is not unexpected, and our enhanced surveillance of wild birds in the area is continuing, including active patrols to look for dead wild birds.

We will also be carrying out sampling of live swans in the swannery in order to investigate whether any others are infected. In addition, we will be carrying out sampling of other species of wild bird, by testing their droppings, for evidence of virus within the area of the swannery.

Winter Flood Risk

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): Members will be aware of the significant rainfall in recent days and that as a result there has been some flooding and others areas are at potential flood risk. In the light of this, and of the events of last summer, I wanted to take the opportunity to report on the position to the House.

Heavy rain is not unusual at this time of year and the quantity we have seen in recent days has not been exceptional. However, we have experienced several bands of often intense rain falling on catchments that are now saturated. This has caused the rainfall to reach rivers more quickly than normal and those rivers have tended to rise rapidly in response.

As at 10:45 this morning, the Environment Agency had 58 flood warnings and 114 flood watches in place in England and Wales. While significant numbers of flood warnings and watches have been in place for several days, and recognising how disruptive and distressing flooding is to those affected and especially for people who were flooded last summer, the impact has been relatively limited. Government offices for the regions have had reports that around 100 properties have flooded in the past week across England, including in Gloucestershire, several locations across southern England and the midlands and in the north-west.

There may well be further flooding given that more rain is forecast over the coming days and as rivers continue to rise. However, the flooding to date is on a much smaller scale than that experienced last summer.

The Environment Agency and local organisations are doing all they can to minimise the impact of flooding in areas currently at risk. This includes using temporary and demountable defences, and sandbags to increase protection where necessary. High volume pumps are in place to reduce water levels, where this is feasible.

Winter rainfall is not, of course, exceptional, and we would expect natural river flood plains to be inundated at this time of year. There are limits to what can be done to keep water out of these areas without making the situation worse elsewhere. River levels remain high and we should remain vigilant.

People have been taking action to protect themselves and to otherwise reduce the losses they might suffer from flooding. They have been putting their own defences in place and moving belongings out of harm's way. I would also like to highlight the importance of people being good neighbours when flooding threatens or occurs. This is something that Sir Michael Pitt emphasised in his interim report on last summer's floods. In my written statement of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 89WS, I said that the Government agreed with all of his urgent recommendations; action to implement them is now proceeding. I also set out in that statement the measures that we have already put in place since last summer.

If people are concerned about flooding they should visit the Environment Agency's website or telephone their Floodline on: 0845 988 1188.

I shall of course keep the House informed of any significant developments.

HEALTH

Health-care Associated Infections

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): "Clean, Safe Care: Reducing Infections and Saving Lives", published on 9 January, set out a comprehensive strategy to tackle health-care associated infections and improve cleanliness in the NHS. This included a full range of measures from ensuring good hand hygiene, to prudent antibiotic prescribing and more specialist staff such as infection control nurses. Deep cleaning is an important part of this range of measures to improve cleanliness and tackle infections.

Further to the written ministerial statement given on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 145 WS, that detailed the £57.5 million of funding for a comprehensive programme of deep cleaning every trust in England, Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs) have today published further information on the implementation of the deep clean of the NHS. Information provided by the SHAs shows that, as of today, out of 328 trusts, 263 trusts have started their deep clean and that the remaining 65 trusts all have agreed plans in place for local deep cleans which will take place over the coming weeks, with the aim of completion by 31 March 2008. Further information is available from SHAs.

The details and timetable of each trust's deep clean plan will vary according to local need and the configuration of local services. For example, a recently built hospital

may not require as intensive a programme of deep cleaning as an older hospital and trusts will have organised their programmes in order to minimise disruption to services and inconvenience to patients.

I will provide confirmation to the House once the £57.5 million programme of deep cleaning has been completed. Following completion of the deep clean of the NHS, the Department will work with SHAs to draw up detailed examples of where a deep clean has had a demonstrable effect in improving patient care and will disseminate these across the NHS.

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet Committees

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): Today I am publishing an updated Cabinet Committee list. Two new Cabinet Committees have been created, one on health and well-being and one on Africa. I have placed a copy of the new list of Cabinet Committees, their full membership and terms of reference in the Libraries of both Houses. The details are also available on the Cabinet Office website.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 21 January 2008

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be held in Brussels on 22 January 2008. The items on the agenda are as follows:

PRESIDENCY WORK PROGRAMME

Slovenia took up the Presidency of the European Council on 1 January 2008 and will present its proposed work programme for the Economic and Financial Affairs Council. This discussion will be a televised public debate, in line with transparency arrangements agreed at the European Council in June 2006.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EURO IN CYPRUS AND MALTA

Ministers will exchange views on the introduction of the euro in Cyprus and Malta on 1 January 2008.

PREPARATION OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL (13-14 MARCH 2008)

i) The next three-year cycle: Strategic report, Broad Economic Policy Guidelines, 2008-10, Country-Specific Integrated Recommendations, and the Community Lisbon Programme.

Ministers will hold an orientation debate on a range of documents related to the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs, the first of which will be the Commission's recently published "strategic report" analysing the last three years of the strategy. The other documents focus on recommendations for the next three-year cycle, including proposals for Broad Economic Policy Guidelines, Country-Specific Recommendations and the Community Lisbon Programme. This discussion will inform the further work of the Economic Policy Committee (EPC) and Economic and Finance Committee (EFC) on these documents. March ECOFIN will then prepare a report on these documents for the spring European Council.

ii) Single Market Review

ECOFIN will agree conclusions on the Single Market Review, which will be transmitted to the European Council in March. The Single Market Review was published by the European Commission on 20 November, and is largely in line with UK thinking on the need for a market-based, flexible, and outward facing single market policy.

iii) Contribution to the Spring European Council Conclusions: Key Issues Paper

Ministers will hold an orientation debate on the broad themes of a Key Issues Paper on economic reform issues which will form ECOFIN's contribution to the spring European Council on these issues. This meeting will inform the drafting of the paper, which will continue through the Economic Policy Committee (EPC) and Economic and Finance Committee (EFC). Ministers will adopt a final version of this paper at the February ECOFIN.

SINGLE EURO PAYMENTS AREA

Ministers will be invited to agree a set of conclusions on the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA), an initiative led by the EU banking industry to develop pan-European payment schemes.

HEALTH

Correction to Written Answer

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Mr. Ivan Lewis): I regret that the answer given to the hon. Member for Aylesbury (Mr. Lidington) on 17 December, *Official Report*, column 1196W, about the number of deaths in custody at Broadmoor hospital was incorrect.

The correct information is as follows.

The information is not held centrally. However, Broadmoor hospital has supplied the following data in the attached table:

Deaths in Broadmoor since 1997 from West London Mental Health NHS Trust

Year	*Number of suicides (suspected or with inquest verdict)*	*Other deaths (natural causes)*	*Total deaths*
1997	1	5	6
1998	2	1	3
1999	6	6	12
2000	1	3	4
2001	0	2	2
2002	2	4	6
2003	0	1	1
2004	0	[1]4	4
2005	3	2	5
2006	0	3	3
2007 (to 30/11/07)	3	2	5

[1]This includes one homicide.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Physics Review

The Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (Mr. John Denham): Today I am publishing the "Terms of Reference for the Review of Physics". I asked Research Councils UK (RCUK) to commission as part of the science budget allocations announced on 11 December. I have placed copies in the House Library.

The Science and Innovation Investment Framework 2004-14 sets out the Government's commitment to nurturing key disciplines. The Research Councils, Funding Councils, and National Academies have made significant progress. It is important that all key disciplines remain strong and vibrant. Research priorities will change over time, and in line with the Haldane principle it is for Research Councils to set these, but it is important that Government are confident that the combined decisions of the Research

Councils properly underpin the health of key disciplines. This is important both for the future of research and, more widely, to ensure a flow of talented individuals into Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects at University.

As a next step, I asked Ian Diamond, as chair of RCUK, to organise a series of reviews on the health of key research disciplines in the UK. I announced that the first of these reviews would be on physics, and would be led by Professor Bill Wakeham, Vice-Chancellor, the University of Southampton.

I am pleased to announce that RCUK has now agreed terms of reference for the review. These are:

RCUK will, as part of its continuing oversight of health of disciplines, commission a cross-Council review of actions that might be taken to ensure the continued health of physics research and postgraduate training in the UK, as the first in a series of such reviews.

The review will:

Consider the priorities for investment across physics as a whole, taking account of the need both to maintain the health of discipline, and to strengthen its wider, including economic, impact in the future;

Identify the contribution physics makes to other areas of research and explore how these contributions can be enhanced, with the view to strengthening the health of the UK research base as a whole;

Identify options for strengthening research leadership, and enhancing the opportunities in physics for young researchers;

With resources coming from more than one funding organisation, examine ways to improve the coherence of the UK Physics programme.

Examine the provision of physics-based facilities, their application across the science base, and appropriate means of sustaining their operation;

Comment on any other issues that have implications for the health of physics in the UK.

The review will make recommendations that will inform the medium term funding of physics across the science base. It will report to RCUK during 2008. RCUK will then submit specific recommendations to the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills. The names of the other members of the review will be announced shortly.

JUSTICE

Administration and Enforcement Restriction Orders

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): In response to an undertaking given to the Commons Committee considering the Tribunals Courts and Enforcement Act (TCEA) 2007, on 16 January I published the consultation paper "Administration and Enforcement Restriction Orders: Setting the Parameters".

This is a formal consultation exercise undertaken by Her Majesty's Courts Service to seek views on the secondary legislation required to establish the constraints and limits that will set out the parameters of the Administration and Enforcement Restriction Order schemes introduced in the TCEA 2007.

The Administration Order scheme is reformed and the Enforcement Restriction Order introduced by the Act. Both are part of a package of measures designed to improve and extend the range of options available to assist the over-indebted.

The consultation document includes proposals covering debts that could be excluded from the schemes, the definition of debts that may be exempt from restrictions on legal action and the proposed total debt limit on Administration Orders.

The consultation document also includes proposals covering the minimum amount of surplus income (the difference between income from all sources and allowed justifiable expenditure) and the amount of money debtors should be able to pay before they are permitted to enter the Administration Order scheme. It also seeks views on how often debtors should update information on financial circumstances as well as the amount of notice that should be given before assets above a fixed value are disposed of.

Copies of the consultation paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and are also available on the internet at http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/cp0108.pdf

I will make a further statement regarding the response shortly after the consultation period ends.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 22 January 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Mr. John Hutton): In September last year I announced Government's commitment to study the feasibility of generating electricity from the tidal range of the Severn estuary, which—as the recent report of the Sustainable Development Commission confirmed—has the potential to generate some 5 per cent. of UK electricity from a renewable indigenous resource. I am publishing today the terms of reference for the study. These are:

"Building on the work of the Sustainable Development Commission and earlier studies, the feasibility study will:

assess in broad terms the costs, benefits and impact of a project to generate power from the tidal range of the Severn estuary, including environmental, social, regional, economic, and energy market impacts;

identify a single preferred tidal range project (which may be a single technology/location or a combination of these) from the number of options that have been proposed;

consider what measures the Government could put in place to bring forward a project that fulfils regulatory requirements, and the steps that are necessary to achieve this;

decide, in the context of the Government's energy and climate change goals and the alternative options for achieving these, and after public consultation, whether the Government could support a tidal power project in the Severn estuary and on what terms.

The work will be carried out by a cross-Whitehall team led from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, including representatives of the Welsh Assembly Government and the South West Regional Development Agency, taking external advice as necessary and engaging stakeholders and the wider public. The study is expected to last roughly two years.

The study will look at the range of options for power generation from the Severn estuary tidal range, including barrages, lagoons and other technologies. It will include a strategic environmental assessment of plans for generating electricity from the Severn estuary tidal range to ensure a detailed understanding of its environmental resource, recognising the nature conservation significance of the estuary.

The feasibility study team will report to the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform supported by ministers from DCLG, DEFRA, DfT, Treasury, Wales Office, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Minister for the South West.

If the outcome of the feasibility study is a decision to proceed, extensive and detailed further work would be needed to plan and implement a tidal power project, and secure the regulatory consents that would be required".

A high level workplan showing the different strands of work and their timing is annexed at the end of this statement. These terms of reference and the workplan will be published on the BERR website.

I will be hosting a parliamentary forum for all interested MPs and Peers on 20 February—details of this will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses nearer the time. Further details of external engagement plans will also be published on the BERR website shortly.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council (December 2007)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I represented the United Kingdom at the December 2007 Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels. The Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Environment, Richard Lochhead, and the Northern Irish Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Michelle Gildernew, also attended.

The Council adopted by qualified majority, a regulation on the definition, description and labelling of spirit drinks. I voted in favour of this regulation but drew attention to the need to resolve a technical problem resulting from the omission of the term "cider brandy" from among permitted product descriptions in the new regulation.

The Council reached unanimous political agreement on a presidency compromise text on Total Allowable Catches (TACs) and quotas and related management measures for certain fish stocks for 2008. I voted in favour of the package on the basis that it represented a suitable balance between ensuring the long-term sustainability of the stocks in question, while at the same time, maintaining the economic viability of the respective UK and EU fishing fleets.

The Council also reached political agreement on a presidency compromise proposal to reform the EU wine sector. I voted in favour as the reform satisfied our main negotiating objectives, in particular the phasing out of restrictions on vineyard planting, including a derogation that will allow the continued development of the small UK wine production sector; the phasing out of EU schemes for disposing of surplus wine and wine products; satisfactory rules on wine making practices, in particular on enrichment; and provision for clearer, simpler labelling of EU wines. In addition it was important that the reform package did not result in an increase in the recent level of expenditure on wine.

The Council reached unanimous political agreement on a package of proposals on food improvement agents. The package of proposals simplifies and updates existing EU legislation on food additives and flavourings, introduces new controls on food enzymes and establishes a common procedure for authorising additives, flavourings and enzymes for use in food.

The Council reached political agreement on a common position following its first reading of a proposal establishing the sustainable use of pesticides and also took note of the state of play of discussions on proposals covering the marketing of plant protection products.

The Council also adopted by qualified majority a proposal establishing the date for application of electronic identification in sheep and goats born after 31 December 2007, with the UK voting in favour. The UK supported by Germany, Ireland and the Slovak Republic, submitted a written statement calling on the Commission to revisit its impact assessment before 31 December 2009.

The Agriculture Commissioner presented the Commission's report on the dairy market situation sector and a proposal to increase milk quotas by 2 per cent.

Under any other business, the Council took note without discussion of updates provided by the Commission on avian influenza, and on the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the EU and Mauritania. The Council also took note without discussion of a presidency progress report on the negotiations on a proposal laying down Community procedures for the establishment of residue limits of pharmacologically active substances in foodstuffs of animal origin.

Sweden supported by a few member states, expressed concerns following European Court of Justice's ruling concerning the eligibility criteria for the bovine slaughter premium and asked the Commission to consider how to re-establish the status quo. The Agriculture Commissioners said that the Commission could not bring forward a new proposal side-stepping the jurisprudence of the European Court of Justice.

The Netherlands, supported by the UK, Denmark and Finland, called on the Commission to develop additional legislative options on illegal timber, to implement the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan.

France supported by a few member states, called for an EU strategy for the industrial use of renewable raw materials, to build upon the existing biomass action.

Germany expressed concerns with the Commission's failure to adopt a Community plan of action to conserve shark stocks within EU waters. The Commission responded that they had just launched a consultation among member states, with a view to introducing such a plan by the end of 2008.

Winter Flood Risk (Update)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): Further to my statement on 17 January I would like to update the House on the current winter flooding.

As at 12.45 today, there are in place 1 severe flood warning, 65 flood warnings and 126 flood watches. Significant rainfall in recent days, on already saturated catchments and flood plains, has caused river levels to rise sharply, including on the River Severn, the Rivers Yarrow and Darwen in Lancashire and the Rivers Colne, Calder and Aire in West Yorkshire. Reports are still coming in of the number of properties flooded from rivers and surface water but current indications are that this is of the order of 500. Some businesses have been affected and there have been a number of school closures, often because of transport problems rather than flooding of the school itself. Roads (including some motorways and trunk roads) and railways have been hit in the affected areas leading to delays. Before travelling, people are encouraged to check the weather forecast and travel information provided by local and national media, and if planning to use public transport, to check with the relevant transport operator. There have been no significant problems so far for essential services including water and power supplies.

The severe flood warning that remains is on the River Severn around Bewdley. However, with further heavy rain forecast for the north-west tomorrow, and as rivers continue to react to recent rainfall, further severe flood warnings cannot be ruled out. However, forecast rainfall totals in the days thereafter are less than over the past week and the overall situation is likely to ease. However, the Environment Agency continues to work closely with local authorities, fire and rescue services, the police and others, and all remain on high alert in at-risk areas. The House should be aware that catchments are saturated and floodplain storage is full in many areas making rivers very sensitive to further rainfall. The risk of further flooding therefore remains high in some areas.

The House will sympathise greatly with all those people whose homes have been flooded and will understand the anxiety of people who may be affected, especially those who were flooded last summer. For the country as a whole, the flooding we have seen in the past week equates approximately to the type of event we would expect to see every three to four years. While river levels have been very high in some areas, overall the flooding so far has been much less than last summer.

We urge people to remain vigilant and to keep away from flood waters, for their own safety. People should also have their electrics checked when returning to flooded homes. We also ask everyone to be good neighbours, especially where elderly or vulnerable people live nearby. Anyone concerned about flooding should call the Environment Agency's floodline on: 0845 988 1188, or look at their website: www.environment-agency.gov.uk which gives the most up to date information and also offers advice on how to prepare for the possibility of floods.

I shall, of course, keep the House informed of any significant developments.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): The Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill currently before Parliament provides for a non-departmental public body, the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, to administer the statutory scheme of child maintenance in place of the Child Support Agency. The Commission will require a robust financial and human resources system, which will be created through modification of the system in use by the Department for Work and Pensions. In order to

avoid delay in the establishment of the Commission, certain modifications to this system need to be made in advance of the Bill receiving Royal Assent. The cost of these modifications is estimated at £1,012,000, which will be met through repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund pending parliamentary approval of the Bill and of subsequent supply estimates.

Pension Service/Disability and Carers Service

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. Peter Hain): The extent to which two of my Department's agencies—The Pension Service and the Disability and Carers Service—have a shared set of customers has been increasing over time to the point where, currently, more than half of all of the customers of the Disability and Carers Service are now over pension age and thus customers of both agencies. Current trends in longevity mean that this proportion will continue to increase in the future.

Against this background it has become increasingly evident that the separate management of the two agencies is no longer the best means of providing a more integrated and seamless service to their customers. Accordingly we have decided to establish, as from the beginning of 2008-09, a single agency, under a single chief executive, to take responsibility for the work of the two organisations.

The two existing organisations—The Pension Service and the Disability and Carers Service—will continue to operate under their existing names and their customers will continue to receive services from them as they do now. But, over time, the new agency will help us to provide a more cohesive service to its customers that will aim to meet more of their needs in a joined-up and seamless way.

The creation of the new agency will not change the way that DWP and DCS in particular, delivers services to its working age customers.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 23 January 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Renewable Energy

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Mr. John Hutton): I am publishing today the Government's plans for developing a strategy to increase renewable energy use in the UK.

The European Commission today published its proposal for a directive on renewable energy.

The draft directive provides the framework for achieving the EU's agreed target of securing 20 per cent. of all its energy from renewable sources by 2020. In particular, it proposes contributions from the UK and other member states towards this goal. As part of the 20 per cent. renewable energy target, each member state is required to achieve a 10 per cent. share for renewable energy in road transport fuels, so long as sustainability conditions are met. Several other important proposals to meet EU climate and energy objectives have also been published today: there are also proposals for the future of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS); member state targets for greenhouse gas emissions; and a Commission Communication and draft directive on Carbon Capture and Storage.

The Government welcome the Commission's proposals as a good starting point for discussion in the Council. The Commission has proposed that 15 per cent. of all the UK's energy—covering the electricity, heat, and transport sectors—should come from renewables by 2020. This would be a very challenging target, as our existing share is less than 2 per cent. and lower than that of most other member states.

The UK is completely committed to meeting our share which will be decided, along with other member states' shares, in negotiations over the coming months. Renewables will play an increasingly important part in meeting our energy and climate change objectives, alongside other low carbon technologies and our policies to increase energy efficiency. A successful EU Emissions Trading Scheme will be vital in meeting these objectives.

It is essential that there is an overall sustainable approach to meeting biofuels and other renewable energy targets—domestically and in the EU. These targets must not be allowed to trigger the unsustainable cultivation of biomass and biofuels. We shall we pressing for robust consideration of the sustainability impacts of how member states meet their targets.

We are already putting in place measures to increase renewable energy supplies, notably:

The strengthening of the renewables obligation on electricity suppliers under the Energy Bill now before Parliament; as a result, we expect to see the electricity generated by RO eligible renewable sources triple between now and 2015.

The introduction, from April, of the renewable transport fuel obligation, which will require suppliers to include 5 per cent. of renewables in their fuel mix by 2010-11. We intend to increase the level after 2010-11 but only if sustainability and other criteria are met.

However, further measures will be necessary. I published yesterday the terms of reference for the Severn tidal power feasibility study, which I announced in September last year. We will shortly publish a call for evidence on heat. I plan a public consultation in the summer on the options for meeting our share of the EU 2020 renewable energy target. And we will publish our renewable energy strategy in the spring of next year, once the EU directive is passed and the UK's contribution is decided.

Cost-effectiveness will be a key consideration in assessing further measures, in the interests of consumers and the wider economy. Close inter-departmental co-operation will be necessary in working up the options. And where the options touch on devolved matters, we will work together with the devolved Administrations.

A paper on the UK renewable energy strategy and the EU renewable energy directive has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and published on the BERR website. This includes further details of our plans for developing a more ambitious renewable energy strategy.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

New Strategic Framework

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): Since taking office in June, my ministerial team has been working with Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff, other Whitehall Departments and other stakeholders to bring a sharper and more strategic focus to the work of the FCO. I should like to inform the House of the outcome.

We considered the wider context in which the FCO, and the UK, are now operating: the changes driven by globalisation; the interdependence of foreign and domestic policy; the growing diversity of international actors; and hence the need for a modern Foreign Ministry to be constantly reassessing where and how it can make the most valuable contribution.

Based on this assessment, I have approved a new Strategic Framework to guide the work of the FCO in future. This has three elements, reflecting the three main roles of the FCO:

i) *Providing a flexible global network serving the Government as a whole.*

In addition to delivering our new policy goals and essential services, our posts abroad will continue to support the rest of Whitehall in delivering Home Departments' own international priorities.

ii) *Delivering essential services to the British public and business:*

Our worldwide consular operation which provides assistance to UK citizens living, working or travelling abroad; UK Trade and Investment, which works to help UK businesses and exporters and attract inward investment to the UK; and our worldwide visa operation, currently carried out by UKvisas, which will be incorporated into the new UK Border Agency later this year.

iii) *Shaping and delivering HMG's foreign policy*:

We have identified four new policy priorities on which the FCO will focus, on which I briefed the House on 8 January: countering terrorism and proliferation; reducing and preventing conflict; promoting a low carbon, high growth global economy; and developing effective international institutions, especially the UN and EU.

I intend to put more of the FCO's overall resources into these new priorities: a closer alignment of resources and priorities will enable the FCO to deliver better for Britain and HMG.

So we will be increasing substantially the overall level of resources the FCO puts into counter-terrorism and counter-proliferation; climate change; Afghanistan and other conflict regions; and key international institutions. All these areas will receive additional staff and money.

We have also decided that we should adapt the FCO's overseas network of posts to align it more closely with our own priorities and those of HMG as a whole. So we will be shifting a proportion of our diplomatic staff from Europe and the Americas to Asia, the Middle East and other parts of the world, while continuing to sustain our global flexibility and reach.

As I told the House on 8 January, we will continue to manage the FCO's overseas network to reflect changing demands and challenges. We will ensure that our resources are aligned with our priorities and that the UK has a cost-effective and flexible network of overseas representation around the world.

In order to put more resources into these new priority areas and to sharpen our strategic focus, it is necessary to reduce the resources the FCO puts into certain other issues, notably where other Whitehall Departments in London are better placed to direct HMG's international priorities, in particular in the areas of sustainable development, science and innovation, and crime and drugs.

Our ambassadors will however remain heavily engaged on all these issues in those countries where they are of particular importance to Britain: for example, the fight against drugs in Colombia and against crime in Jamaica. Our posts overseas will continue to operate as a base for all Whitehall Departments on which they can put their own staff and resources to deliver their own priorities in the countries concerned. Our ambassadors will continue to offer advice to Departments and their local representatives, and act locally on their behalf wherever needed.

This new Strategic Framework will replace the FCO's ten existing Strategic Priorities. This is in line with the view expressed by the Foreign Affairs Committee in their response to our 2006-07 departmental White Paper that "ten strategic priorities is too many" and that they should be "simplified and reduced in number". We will be taking forward the detailed planning and implementation over the next few months, inside the FCO and with other Government Departments.

I believe that every organisation, including every Government Department, should regularly reassess its own aims and priorities. Successful organisations stay focused on the biggest issues on which they can make the biggest difference, and they regularly readjust that focus as circumstances and priorities change. That is what we have sought to do for the FCO through this new Strategic Framework.

HEALTH

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo): I am placing in the library a copy of a letter sent to the Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee in response to the report from the Committee published on 22 November 2007 in relation to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill.

JUSTICE

Her Majesty's Courts Service

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): The Lord Chief Justice and I are today issuing the following joint statement:

We have been exploring the most appropriate arrangements for the future operation of HMCS following the creation of the Ministry of Justice. Following an open and constructive consideration of a number of possible models, we have agreed the main principles of a partnership between the Lord Chancellor and Lord Chief Justice in relation to the governance, financing and operation of HMCS. We hope that the steps necessary to launch a new model for HMCS, based on these principles, will be complete early in the new financial year.

The courts are by their nature a shared endeavour between the judiciary, who are responsible for the judicial function to deliver justice independently, and the Government, who have overall responsibility for the justice system within the framework and resources set by Parliament. Within this overall structure the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice have specific, but different, roles. These were described in part in the Concordat finalised in January 2004 between our predecessors as Lord Chancellor and Lord Chief Justice.

Our recent discussions have built upon this work.

The new arrangements for HMCS will structurally embed the spirit and principle of partnership that already exists. The detailed structure of the partnership and its governance will be set out in a framework document for HMCS, which will be laid before both Houses when it is finalised, together with the consequential amendments to the Concordat.

While we shall not be intervening in the day-to-day operational decision-making of HMCS, we will jointly agree:

the aims and objectives for HMCS; and

the priorities for, and division of, funding within HMCS.

The main principles of this new and unique partnership (which will take the form of an agency) are that:

The leadership and broad direction of HMCS will be in the hands of a new board of 11 members that will hold HMCS (the chief executive and the executive team) to account for the delivery of the jointly agreed aims and objectives. It will be chaired by an independent non-executive chair who will be neither a judge nor a civil servant and who will have a key role to facilitate the working of the partnership;

The other members of the board will be three judicial representatives, a representative of the Ministry of Justice, two non-executive directors and four executive directors (the chief executive of HMCS, its finance director and two others);

The chief executive will have day-to-day responsibility for the running of HMCS. He will be the HMCS accounting officer, via the permanent secretary. The chief executive will work under the general direction set by the board and will be held by it to account for the delivery of the efficient and effective operation of the courts in accordance with the framework document, the budget and plans we shall have agreed;

A joint duty for all HMCS staff to the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice for the effective and efficient operation of the courts; the staff will continue to be line-managed within HMCS;

An open and transparent means of settling the budget for HMCS that includes greater judicial engagement in the resourcing of the courts through the HMCS board. The process will include:

the HMCS board having responsibilities for considering and approving HMCS resource bids and for developing the budget and plans for the operation of the courts; and

greater clarity in the role of the Lord Chief Justice when representing the views of the judiciary on the provision and allocation of resources that will enable him to communicate the views of the judiciary to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, as well as the Lord Chancellor, when the Government are settling spending review negotiations.

A clearer relationship between HMCS and the judiciary, reflecting the new partnership model, operating not only at the centre but also at regional, area, and local level;

A joint examination of how we can improve performance and efficiency across all aspects of the operation of the courts, including the contribution the judiciary may properly make to that while respecting their independence as a body and in respect of individual decisions;

Specific provision will be made in the framework document for arrangements in relation to the court estate, IT, HR and policy issues.

We will be working out the detail of these new arrangements over the coming weeks, that will be reflected in the recruitment of the appointments necessary to launch the new partnership.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Baker Review

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): I announced in my written ministerial statement on Wednesday 16 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 32WS, volume 470, that the Prime Minister had asked Sir John Baker CBE to undertake a review of the mechanism for determining the pay and pensions for Members of Parliament which does not involve MPs voting on their own pay and pensions; and to report to him by May 2008. The terms of reference are as follows:

Review of the mechanism for determining the pay and pensions for Members of Parliament.

to examine options and make recommendations for a mechanism for independently determining the pay and pensions of Members of Parliament which does not involve MPs voting on their own pay; the appropriate comparator; and the frequency with which reviews of the use of the comparator take place;

to ensure that the independent mechanism takes account of the Government's policy on public sector pay and its target for inflation and;

to have regard to the need for any independent mechanism to maintain the support and trust of the public and Members of Parliament.

The review should seek to:

examine comparable international mechanisms and the resulting experience;

address the constitutional framework alongside legal and legislative considerations;

consider the range of evidence that should be considered by the recommended independent mechanism in determining an appropriate comparator;

consider the membership and remit of any independent body that may be part of the pay setting process;

give due consideration to consistency with other public service wage setting mechanisms and wage settlements across the public service and;

outline a recommended timetable for transition to any new system.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 24 January 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

(Regulatory) Impact Assessments

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): The Government is committed to ensuring that regulations are necessary, give effective protection, balance cost and risk, are fair and command public confidence.

In accordance with this, we require Departments to produce and publish (regulatory) impact assessments for all regulatory proposals likely to have an impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies and the public sector.

I have today presented to Parliament a Command Paper listing impact assessments published between 1 January and 30 June 2007. This is the twenty-seventh Command Paper.

Copies have been placed in the Library for the reference of Members and will be available in the Vote Office.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government Finance Settlement (England) 2008-09 to 2010-11

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): I am today laying before the House the Local Government Finance Report (England) 2008-09. This report confirms the amounts of revenue support grant (RSG) and non-domestic rates (NDR) to be paid to local authorities in 2008-09, and the basis of their distribution. Alongside my oral statement, *Official Report*, column 981-83, a draft of this report was laid before the House and issued for consultation on 6 December 2007.

I am also publishing proposals for formula grant allocations in 2009-10 and 2010-11. This is the first full three-year settlement for local government in England. In line with the Government's policy on three-year settlements, it is not intended that the 2009-10 and 2010-11 settlement proposals will be changed from those published today, other than in exceptional circumstances. Nevertheless, separate consultation exercises will be carried out on the local government finance reports for the second and third years of the three-year settlement, late in 2008 and 2009 respectively—in line with the usual settlement timetable.

The Department received a total of 323 representations within the consultation deadlines from the Local Government Association and London Councils, and from local authorities, local authority groups and hon. Members. Ministers also met to discuss the provisional settlement with delegations from individual local authorities, including police and fire and rescue authorities and from the Local Government Association, London Councils, and special interest groups representing the different types of local authority in England.

Having considered the representations from all those who have commented on the provisional settlement, I have decided broadly to confirm my proposals on the basis of distribution for 2008-09 as regards the financial year beginning 1 April 2008. This is a tight settlement but it is fair and it is affordable for local government. It delivers an increase in formula grant to every local authority in each of the next three years.

The final figures published today for the 2008-09 settlement reflect the more accurate data that have become available since we published our proposals, and also appropriate minor data corrections to reflect errors discovered by the Department or notified to us by local authorities. They also include an adjustment for public law family fees to reflect the policy change by Her Majesty's Court Service to full cost recovery for proceedings under the Children's Act.

This year's settlement represents a real terms increase in funding for local government for the 11th year running and my announcement today means that by 2010-11 local government will have received 13 years real terms increases. This will allow authorities to continue to deliver effective services at an affordable cost. We worked closely with local government in the spending review 2007, to examine the spending pressures and the scope for efficiencies. The increase in total Government grant for local services since 1997 is 45 per cent. in real terms by the end of the spending review period covered by this three-year settlement.

We expect local authorities to free up a further 3 per cent. a year through efficiency gains, which will mean £1.5 billion net cash releasing savings next year and a total of £4.9 billion by 2010-11, to help local authorities manage service and council tax pressures. Government are providing an additional £150 million funding to support local authorities to achieve this value for money ambition as part of £384 million over three years to support local government improvement and efficiency.

Given this substantial investment in local government, there is no excuse for excessive council tax increases. We expect the average council tax increase in England in 2008 to be substantially below 5 per cent. We will not hesitate to use our capping powers as necessary to protect council tax payers from excessive increases.

I am sending copies of these reports to all local authorities in England, and making available full supporting information on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at: http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/0809/grant.htm.

Copies of the reports and related tables showing each authority's allocation of formula grant and other supporting material have been placed in the Library of the House of Commons and are available in the Vote Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Police Grant (England and Wales)

The Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing (Mr. Tony McNulty): I have today placed in the Library a copy of the Police Grant Report (England and Wales) 2008-09 (HC 265). The report sets out my right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary's determination for 2008-09 of the aggregate amount of grants that she proposes to pay under section 46(2) of the Police Act 1996, and the amount to be paid to the Greater London Authority for the Metropolitan Police Authority.

General police grant allocations which include Home Office police grant and DCLG revenue support grant for each police authority for 2008-09 are set out in the table.

General police grant allocations for English and Welsh police authorities 2008-09:

Police Authority	*Adjusted 2007-08 Formula Allocation*[1] *£m*	*2008-09 Allocation*[1] *£m*	*Change on 2007-08 Formula Allocation* *%*
English Shire Forces			
Avon and Somerset	167.8	173.7	3.5%
Bedfordshire	66.3	68.5	3.3%
Cambridgeshire	76.4	78.7	3.0%
Cheshire	114.7	117.6	2.5%
Cleveland	93.0	95.3	2.5%
Cumbria	64.0	65.6	2.5%
Derbyshire	105.8	109.2	3.2%
Devon and Cornwall	177.4	181.9	2.5%
Dorset	62.2	63.7	2.5%
Durham	87.0	89.2	2.5%
Essex	168.4	173.0	2.8%
Gloucestershire	56.4	57.8	2.5%
Hampshire	197.2	202.2	2.6%
Hertfordshire	114.4	117.7	2.9%
Humberside	122.0	125.1	2.6%
Kent	182.5	187.2	2.6%
Lancashire	193.6	198.8	2.7%
Leicestershire	111.4	114.7	2.9%
Lincolnshire	60.4	62.3	3.1%
Norfolk	83.4	85.4	2.5%
North Yorkshire	73.0	74.8	2.5%
Northamptonshire	71.7	73.5	2.6%
Nottinghamshire	132.4	136.9	3.4%
Staffordshire	114.2	117.4	2.8%
Suffolk	67.5	69.2	2.5%
Surrey	96.9	99.3	2.5%
Sussex	161.6	165.7	2.5%
Thames Valley	225.8	231.9	2.7%
Warwickshire	51.5	52.8	2.6%
West Mercia	116.0	118.9	2.5%
Wiltshire	62.0	63.6	2.5%
Shires Total	3476.7	3571.3	2.7%
English Metropolitan Forces			
Greater Manchester	432.5	445.6	3.0%
Merseyside	253.7	260.6	2.7%
Northumbria	237.9	243.8	2.5%
South Yorkshire	194.2	199.1	2.6%
West Midlands	450.0	468.0	4.0%
West Yorkshire	317.4	328.2	3.4%
Mets Total	1885.6	1945.4	3.2%
London Forces			
GLA	1883.0	1930.0	2.5%
Police City of London[2]	22.8	20.2	N/A
English Total	7268.0	7466.9	2.7%
Welsh Forces			
Dyfed-Powys[3]	51.8	53.1	2.5%
Gwent[3]	78.6	80.6	2.5%
North Wales[3]	76.3	78.2	2.5%
South Wales[3]	172.1	176.7	2.7%
Welsh Total	378.8	388.6	2.6%
Total	7646.8	7855.5	2.7%

Notes:

[1] Rounded to the nearest £100,000. Grant as calculated under the Local Government Finance Report (England) and Local Government Finance Report (No.2) 2008-09 Final Settlement—Police Authorities (Wales). Table includes the effects of floors and scaling.

[2] Figures for the City of London relate to Home Office Grant only as calculated in the Police Grant Report (England and Wales). Revenue Support Grant is allocated to the Common Council of the City of London as a whole in respect of all its functions. The city is grouped with education authorities for the purposes of floors.

[3] Welsh figures include Home Office floor funding.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Latin America (Development)

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): To address better persistent poverty in Latin America, I have decided to increase DFID's financial support to the region and change the way the support is provided. Financial support provided by DFID will increase by 15 per cent. and will be provided through civil society organisations and international institutions.

Civil society organisations are at the front line of tackling the social exclusion and inequality responsible for persistent poverty in Latin America. Channelling more support through NGOs will help address these important issues.

The World Bank and European Commission will continue to be important regional development agencies, together providing over $4 billion to Latin America. Our finance and influence in the Bank and EC will continue to be central to our support to the region.

DFID's total funding for Latin America will increase from £84 million in 2007-08 to £97 million in 2010-11. This will include:

an increase in funding for UK NGOs working in Latin America, from £7 million to £12 million per year;

£5 million per year for new research on climate change and ecosystems in Latin America;

£1 million per year to share lessons from the Latin American development experience with other developing countries around the world;

increases in our support to Latin America through the World Bank and European Commission, from £65 million to £73 million per year in total; and

we will continue to provide about 20 per cent. of the funding for the EC's programmes to help farmers diversify out of coca in Colombia and Peru, the two biggest coca-producing countries. The EC is also developing a coca diversification programme for Bolivia.

As Nicaragua becomes a middle-income country in 2008, we will maintain our programme at £4 million per year, switching funding for the Government to providing support through other channels, including civil society.

We will maintain our office in Brazil, with a focus on climate change and Brazil's role in global development. At the same time, we will close our offices in Nicaragua and Bolivia, which will not be needed to deliver our new regional programme.

We will continue to strengthen and monitor the operations of the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank and EC in Latin America through our representatives in Washington and Brussels and staff in the UK.

JUSTICE

Review of Voting Systems

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): The Government have today laid before Parliament the "Review of Voting Systems: The Experience of New Voting Systems in the United Kingdom since 1997" (Cm 7304).

This report delivers the Labour 2005 manifesto commitment to review the experience of the newly introduced voting systems for the Scottish Parliament, the Northern Ireland and Welsh Assemblies, the European Parliament, and the London Mayor and Assembly, to inform the ongoing debate about the voting system in the House of Commons.

Since 1997 the Government have embarked upon a major programme of constitutional change: devolving power away from Westminster, enshrining fundamental rights in the Human Rights Act, introducing freedom of information and completing the first stages of reform to the House of Lords. New voting systems were introduced when the Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly and Northern Ireland Assembly were established in 1998. In addition, a new voting system was introduced for elections to the European Parliament in 1999, and for elections to the Greater London Assembly and the London Mayoralty established that year.

Our constitutional arrangements have never been fixed, nor should they be. A strength of the British constitution is that it evolves to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of our democracy.

To that end the Government established the Jenkins Commission to report on a suitable voting system for the House of Commons. In 1998 Jenkins proposed a completely new voting system for Westminster called the "Alternative Vote Plus". At the time the then Home Secretary, now my right hon. Friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, stated:

"we need to see how the new elections systems settle down in Scotland, Wales, London and the European Parliament... a great deal of constitutional change is under way, and the British people would not thank us for moving too quickly without thinking carefully about how changes fit into the whole"

5 November 1998, *Official Report*, volume 318, column 1038. This view was widely supported across the House of Commons.

The Government therefore decided to review and assess how the new voting systems would perform, and then consider the implications for Westminster.

The new voting systems introduced since 1997 have now been in place for some time and provide experience of up to three elections in Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland, and two elections for the European Parliament, London Mayor and London Assembly. We therefore have a wealth of practical experience from within the United Kingdom upon which to draw.

This review provides a summary of the experiences of the new voting systems introduced over the past decade and on that basis sets out the advantages and disadvantages associated with each. It uses a range of commonly accepted criteria for assessing the experience of the new voting systems. These include the degree of proportionality under different systems, the impact on voters in terms of the choices available, voter turnout rates, the impact on political campaigning, social representation, Government formation and Administration of elections under different systems.

The experiences of some other countries, including New Zealand, the Republic of Ireland, Germany and the Netherlands, which have similar systems to those introduced within the United Kingdom, is also examined. In addition the review refers to the findings of other studies into voting systems within the United Kingdom.

The review is intended to inform the ongoing debate about the voting system in Westminster but does not make any recommendations.

It remains the Government's strong view that since the voting system for Westminster Commons elections could fundamentally change the way parliamentary democracy operates, any proposed changes would need to be endorsed by a referendum.

At this point, it would be premature to seek to reform the electoral system for the Commons while the voting system for a reformed and substantially or fully elected House of Lords is still to be determined. Reform of the electoral system for the Lords to a wholly or 80 per cent. elected chamber was supported by the House of Commons free vote in March 2007 and the Government are committed to formulating a comprehensive package of Lords reform, including developing detailed proposals for a wholly or mainly elected second chamber. Good progress is being made on the cross-party talks on Lords reform and the Government intend to publish a White Paper in the first part of 2008 reflecting the outcome of these discussions.

This review will be available on the Ministry of Justice website at: http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/voting-systems-review.htm and Governance of Britain website at: http://governance.justice.gov.uk for interested parties, as well as through the Stationery Office (TSO).

TRANSPORT

Blue Badge Parking Scheme (Consultation)

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Ms Rosie Winterton): I have today announced the publication of a consultation document looking at a number of ways of making the blue badge scheme more secure and ensure it continues to benefit those who need it. We are consulting on the eligibility criteria for the scheme together with better ways of administering and enforcing the scheme in order to cut down on levels of abuse.

I have also announced today the publication of revised local authority guidance for England and the launch of a new £500,000 Blue Badge Centres of Excellence Fund, to promote best practice and improve consistency on the administration and enforcement of the scheme.

Blue Badge Scheme

The Disabled Person's Parking Badge Scheme ("The Blue Badge Scheme") was introduced in 1971 to provide parking close to essential amenities and services for people with severe mobility problems.

The scheme is designed to help severely disabled people to travel independently, as either a driver or a passenger, by allowing them to park close to their destination.

Consultation Document

In May 2007 an independent consultant, Rob Smith, was commissioned to conduct a review of the blue badge scheme.

The final report has been published today and is available on the DfT website at: www.dtf.gov.uk/transportforyou/access/bluebadge and addresses the following issues:

Eligibility (who should qualify for the scheme?)

Concessions (which concessions should apply?)

Better administration (how can the scheme be more consistently administered and enforced?) and;

Choice and alternatives within the scheme

We are now consulting on a number of issues that arose from the report. The Department's draft response to the review, that is included as part of the consultation document published today, reflects our preliminary thinking and is designed to help us to modernise the scheme within the context of current transport policy; making it more consistently administered, tougher on fraud and easier to understand. The Department will be working closely with stakeholders, including disabled groups, throughout the consultation period.

The consultation document includes proposals to:

Extend the reach of the scheme, for example, ensuring more parents of severely disabled children are eligible for a badge;

Give parking attendants the power to confiscate on the spot blue badges that have been stolen, forged or are being fraudulently used;

Improve the security of the badge design to prevent forgeries;

Create a system of national data sharing, to help identify blue badge cheats;

Launch a public awareness campaign to increase understanding of the scheme.

The consultation also asks if individual local authorities should be given the opportunity to run aspects of the scheme in a way that responds to local circumstances.

The final date for responses to be received by the DfT is 17 April 2008. The full consultation document is available on the DfT website at: www.dft.gov.uk/consultations

The results of the consultation exercise will aid us in the publication of a comprehensive "Blue Badge Reform Strategy" in spring 2008.

Revised local authority guidance and Blue Badge Centres of Excellence Fund

Revised local authority guidance for England has been published today and is intended to improve assessment and enforcement of the scheme, in order to promote fairness and prevent fraud and abuse.

The revised guidance, that is available on the DfT website at: www.dft.gov.uk/transportforyou/access/bluebadge showcases good practice in administering and enforcing the Scheme.

The DfT are now looking to appoint a number of local authorities to act as centres of excellence in relation to the scheme. £500,000 has been made available to fund a small set of English local authorities to improve their services and share their good practice with neighbouring authorities in the 2008-09 financial year.

Copies of the consultation document, and other related documents, have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and are also available on the Department's website at: www.dft.gov.uk. Further copies of the consultation document can also be obtained from the Vote Office.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 25 January 2008

DEFENCE

Iraq: Aitken Report/Mr. Baha Mousa

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): In February 2005, the then Defence Secretary, my right hon. Friend the Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon), undertook to publish the findings of the review instigated by General Sir Mike Jackson into the cases of deliberate abuse of Iraqi citizens in 2003 and 2004. I am pleased to announce that the report, entitled "The Aitken Report: An Investigation into Cases of Deliberate Abuse and Unlawful Killing in Iraq in 2003 and 2004" is today being released in full.

The report by Brigadier Aitken is critical in places, and rightly so; only the highest standards are acceptable to the Army and to the Ministry of Defence as a whole.

Since the events that Brigadier Aitken has examined in his report, the Army has already done a great deal to improve its procedures. I am satisfied that the Army is doing everything possible to ensure that its personnel do not repeat the appalling acts that were perpetrated in these cases. I believe that Brigadier Aitken has demonstrated this in his report, but we must not be complacent.

The report makes three broad recommendations:

The Army needs to ensure that it learns and implements lessons from the disciplinary process in the same way that it does for wider operational issues;

The Army needs to find better ways to inculcate its core values of selfless commitment, courage, discipline, loyalty, integrity, and respect for others and its standards of behaviour and discipline, into the everyday lives of its personnel;

The Army must educate itself to ensure that they are using administrative action correctly.

The report is part of a continuing process of review, investigation and continuous professional development for the Army. It details the work that has already been completed, or is in progress, to ensure such acts as are examined by the report are not repeated. This work includes enhancements to training packages for both routine and specific training, and the implementation of a standard operating procedure for use in Operation Telic, which includes the treatment of detainees and prisoners.

I am proud to acknowledge that the vast majority of our personnel who have served in Iraq have conducted themselves to the highest standards of behaviour—some displaying extraordinary qualities of courage, self-discipline, integrity and selfless commitment far and above what might reasonably have been expected under the circumstances they faced.

One of the cases of abuse examined by Brigadier Aitken and referred to in his report is that of Mr. Baha Mousa. In September 2003, an Iraqi civilian, Mr. Baha Mousa, lost his life while in British military custody. He and eight other Iraqis had been subjected to varying degrees of abuse. I should like to take this opportunity to also update the House on recent developments in this case.

Last year, the court-martial of seven British Army officers and soldiers concluded. That trial resulted in the conviction of one individual, who had pleaded guilty to the inhuman treatment of prisoners; the other defendants were acquitted.

Following the trial, and in line with normal procedures, the Royal Military Police (Special Investigation Branch) reviewed the case to establish if there was any new evidence (including evidence from the trial) and any further lines of criminal inquiry into the death of Mr. Mousa and ill-treatment of other Iraqi nationals. They reported their findings to the Army Prosecuting Authority, who, in turn, having considered the report, consulted the Attorney-General.

The criminal review concluded that no further criminal lines of inquiry could be pursued on the basis of the existing evidence. This does not mean that a further investigation will not be instigated should new evidence be made available. Those individuals who were under investigation, and Mr. Mousa's family, have been informed that no further disciplinary action will be taken based on the current evidence. The Army's chain of command is now considering whether individuals should face administrative action.

The next step is to consider what form any future inquiry into these appalling incidents should take. I have agreed to receive representations from the legal representatives for Mr. Mousa's family, and I will make a further statement when a decision has been made. The conclusions of Brigadier Aitken's work and the subsequent actions already carried out by the Army will then be taken into account in this process.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and External Relations Council

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy): The General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) will be held on 28 January in Brussels. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs will represent the UK.

The agenda items are as follows:

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Western Balkans

The Government expect discussion of the Western Balkans to focus on Serbia and Kosovo. The Council is likely to discuss the forthcoming second round of presidential elections in Serbia, including ways the EU can best take forward Serbia's European perspective. The Government are committed to a tangible EU future for Serbia but, at the same time, committed to full co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia as a requirement for progress. On Kosovo, EU leaders agreed in December that the Union should play a leading role in implementing a settlement on Kosovo's final status.

The Council is likely to discuss ways to take forward that commitment. The Government believe the status quo in Kosovo is unsustainable and are working for a rapid resolution of status in co-ordination with international partners.

Middle East

The Government expect the Council to discuss latest developments in Gaza and southern Israel, as well as highlighting their support for the political process and welcoming the contributions made at the Paris donors' conference in December, which raised over $7.4 billion over three years in support of Palestinian development.

The Government will support conclusions at the Council welcoming recent bilateral negotiations, maintaining continued support for the political process through the framework of the EU action strategy and expressing the EU's serious concern about the humanitarian situation and continued violence in Gaza. The Government also want conclusions to encourage the parties to adhere to their roadmap commitments, particularly on Israeli settlement activity and on Palestinian security; and to welcome the achievements of the Paris donors' conference.

The Government are committed to supporting the process initiated at Annapolis, which has put the Israelis and Palestinians on a path to real negotiations in 2008, which the Government hope will lead to a final settlement of two states living side by side in peace and security. Israeli security is absolutely fundamental to a just solution: and Palestinian hardship can only be tackled through a political process that creates an economically and socially viable Palestinian state.

The Government expect the Council to adopt conclusions on Lebanon in light of the ongoing political crisis and the recent spate of violence. Lebanon has been without a Head of State since President Lahoud's term of office expired on 23 November 2007 amid ongoing divisions between the Government and the opposition over who should succeed him. The Government will support EU endorsement of the latest Arab League diplomatic initiative to help resolve the crisis and call on all parties to engage.

Sudan/Darfur, Chad/Central African Republic

The UN envoy for Darfur, Jan Eliasson, will brief the Council on latest developments in the political process in Darfur. The Government will support conclusions welcoming the return of the SPLM to the Government of National Unity in Sudan, while noting the importance of timely and thorough planning for the elections in 2009. The Government will also want the Council conclusions to call on all parties to facilitate the prompt establishment of an effective African Union-UN peacekeeping force, UNAMID, noting in particular the continued lack of full co-operation by the Government of Sudan.

The Government hope that the Council conclusions will in addition express concern about the tensions between Chad and Sudan, call on both sides to refrain from any further escalatory action and support calls for an internal political process in Chad to end the armed conflict. The Government expect the Council to launch the EU military mission to Chad and the Central African Republic, which will contribute to the protection of refugees, facilitation of humanitarian assistance and the work of the UN. The Government welcome and fully support EU engagement and messages on these issues.

Kenya

The Government expect the Council to discuss the latest situation in Kenya and agree conclusions expressing concern about the humanitarian situation following questions raised in reports by a number of independent observers over the results of the presidential elections in December.

The Government will support a clear condemnation of the violence in the conclusions, which should also urge Kenya's political leaders to work together to agree a political solution to the crisis while expressing strong support for the efforts of the African Union and the mission led by Kofi Annan to assist Kenya's politicians in achieving this goal. The Government also expect the Council to discuss what further action the EU could take to support efforts to find a political solution. The Government welcome this opportunity for discussion given the seriousness of the crisis in Kenya.

Pakistan

The Government expect the Council to discuss the current political situation in Pakistan with a particular focus on upcoming elections and the steps the EU can take to support the Government of Pakistan towards delivering free and fair elections, including through an EU election observation mission.

Iran

The Government expect the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy to brief the Council on next steps following Iran's failure to comply with United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1737 and 1747. The Government fully support the strengthening of EU sanctions and will be pressing partners to take a firm stand on this issue, following the adoption of a new UN Security Council Resolution.

WALES

Planning Bill

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mr. Paul Murphy): I am pleased to inform the House that an explanatory memorandum explaining the proposals for the use of framework powers in the Planning Bill is available today. Copies of which can be found in the Vote Office and at: www.walesoffice.gov.uk.

Petitions

Monday 7 January 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Office Closures (Bidborough)

The Petition of customers of Bidborough Post Office and local residents of Bidborough and surrounding villages,

Declares that the Government must keep Bidborough Post Office open.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons accept this petition and call upon the Government and the Post Office to overturn their decision to close Bidborough Post Office.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Greg Clark, Official Report,* 13 November 2007; Vol. 467, c. 645 .] [P000053]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced back in May confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies.

Post Office Ltd develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The consultation period for the Kent area finished on 12 November and in announcing its final decisions on 6 December Post Office Ltd confirmed that the Bidborough Post Office will close. Post Office Ltd published their decision in an Area Plan Decision Booklet for Kent available on their website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices and final decisions on which post offices will close are taken by Post Office Ltd.

Post Office Closures (Nottingham)

The Petition of Rebecca Anderson on behalf of the customers of Carrington Post Office, Nottingham,

Declares that the selection criteria of Post Office branches that are proposed for closure have not taken into account the economic and social impact these closures will affect. This has resulted in one of the top 25 performing branches in the Nottingham area being proposed for closure. Each proposed branch should be comprehensively and accurately assessed. The Petitioners have evidence that this has not been done so far.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urge the Government to review the restructuring process with Post Office Ltd: with a view to protecting commercially viable branches from being closed; and further urge the Government to ask Post Office Ltd. to enter in public meetings where these are requested by the local communities.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. John Heppell, Official Report,* 14 November 2007; Vol. 467, c. 791 .] [P000050]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced back in May confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and

more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies.

Post Office Ltd develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

Around 75% of sub post offices are unprofitable for Post Office Ltd because the payments they make to sub postmasters, taken together with the associated network support costs, are higher than the revenues generated for Post Office Ltd by those offices. Offices can therefore be profitable to sub postmasters, particularly when any associated retail business is also taken into account, but still be loss making for Post Office Ltd. In order to restructure the network in a balanced way and meet the access criteria, some busy offices which make losses for Post Office Ltd but have alternative branches nearby will have to be closed.

The consultation period for the East Midlands area finished on 12 November and in announcing its final decisions on 11 December Post Office Ltd confirmed that the Carrington Post Office will close. Post Office Ltd published their decision in an Area Plan Decision Booklet for East Midlands available on their website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices and final decisions on which post offices will close are taken by Post Office Ltd.

Post Office Closures (St John's Road)

The Petition of customers of St John's Road Post Office and local residents of St John's Road and surrounding villages,

Declares that the Government must keep St John's Road Post Office open

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons accept this petition and call upon the Government and the Post Office to overturn their decision to close St John's Road Post Office.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Greg Clark, Official Report,* 13 November 2007; Vol. 467, c. 644.] [P000054]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced back in May confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies.

Post Office Ltd develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The consultation period for the Kent area finished on 12 November and in announcing its final decisions on 6 December Post Office Ltd confirmed that the St John's Road Post Office will close. Post Office Ltd published their decision in an Area Plan Decision Booklet for Kent available on their website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices and final decisions on which post offices will close are taken by Post Office Ltd.

Post Office Closures (Thanet)

The Petition of Cllrs. Stephen Broadhurst, Michael Jarvis and Edwin Watt-Ruffell who represent the residents of Dane Valley, Thanet,

Declares that the proposed reduction in the number of Post Offices serving our communities will be socially damaging and is unwelcome.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons call upon the Government, as the major shareholder in Post Office Ltd., to withdraw the current proposals and review the funding of the Post Office network.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Roger Gale, Official Report,* 13 November 2007; Vol. 467, c. 643.] [P000052]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003. It has decided to extend that support to 2011 with the provision of up to another £1.7 billion additional funding.

Post Office Limited is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies.

Post Office Ltd develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The consultation period for the Kent area finished on 12 November and Post Office Ltd published their decision in an Area Plan Decision Booklet for Kent available on their website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices and final decisions on which post offices will close are taken by Post Office Ltd in light of the responses received to the area consultations.

Post Office Closures (Shipley)

The Petition of the residents of the Shipley constituency and the surrounding area.

Declares that the Petitioners are extremely concerned at the threat of closures and the removal of public services to the post offices in the Shipley constituency and believe that this is a pressing public service priority within the Bradford district.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls upon the Government to recognise the importance of the post office to the local community and to other businesses in the Shipley constituency and to ensure that the Post Office honour their promise to maintain sufficient post offices and services in the Shipley constituency.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Philip Davies, Official Report,* 19 November 2007; Vol. 467, c. 1071.] [P000058]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced back in May confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies.

Post Office Limited develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The consultation period for the Shipley constituency area (West Yorkshire) commences May 2008 and Post Office Ltd have confirmed that they will carefully consider the comments in the petition as part of the consultation process.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices and final decisions on which post offices will close are taken by Post Office Ltd.

Post Office Closures (Boat of Garten)

The Petition of the Community Council and residents of Boat of Garten and vicinity, Inverness-shire, Scotland.

Declares that the Petitioners are concerned for the future of their local Post Office in Boat of Garten and the damaging economic and social effects that any closure would have on their community. Further declares that the Boat of Garten Post Office is widely

supported by local residents, businesses and visitors to the Cairngorms National Park and that public transport is insufficient to allow vulnerable residents access to any other Post Office.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to ensure that Boat of Garten Post Office is retained before irreparable damage is done to the well-being, sustainability and *cohesion of our community*.

And the Petitioners remain, etc. *[Presented by Danny Alexander, Official Report,* 13 November 2007; Vol. 467, c. 644.] [P000055]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003. It has decided to extend that support to 2011 with the provision of up to another £1 billion additional funding.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced back in May confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October this year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until next July with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for the Highlands of Scotland will commence 8 January 2008 and is expected to conclude 18 February 2008.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices and final decisions on which post offices will close are taken by POL in light of the responses received to the area consultations.

TRANSPORT

Boston Bypass (Lincolnshire)

The Petition of people of Boston and the Boston Bypass Pressure Group,

Declares that they are dissatisfied with the short-term road strategy proposed by Lincolnshire County council for Boston and want a major road scheme to allow traffic to flow around, and have access to, the town centre, to ease the appalling congestion and prevent damaging economic and environmental impacts upon Boston.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Transport to give recognition to the needs of the failing road infrastructure of Boston and South East Lincolnshire; and further urges the Government to make Boston a special case for investment to improve the social, environmental and economic conditions of the town.

And the Petitioners remain, etc. *[Presented by Mark Simmonds, Official Report,* 12 December 2007; Vol. 469, c. 430.] [P000075]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

It is for Lincolnshire County Council, as the local highway authority, to determine priorities for local transport investment and to make bids for funding through the Regional Funding Allocation (RFA) process for major transport schemes i.e. the regional statement of priorities for transport investment.

In July 2005, the Government asked each English region to submit advice about how the anticipated funding available for major transport schemes should be allocated over the next ten years. This involved each region determining the relative priorities of its proposed transport schemes in the light of an anticipated regional budget. Throughout, Lincolnshire County Council was fully engaged in this process. A proposed Bypass for Boston was not put forward for assessment by the Council as part of the process and did not, therefore, receive priority for funding in the East Midlands advice submitted to the Government in January 2006 which was accepted by the Government in July 2006. A bypass of Boston does not therefore feature as a scheme to be delivered before 2015/16.

As part of the Government's response to the regions in July 2006, Ministers have stated that they expect to hold a further round of the regional funding process in the next three years. This will provide a further opportunity for supporters of a bypass for Boston to make sure the case for a scheme is heard within the region.

Petitions

Tuesday 8 January 2008

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carers' Allowance

The Petition of those concerned about carer's allowance,

Declares that Carer's Allowance needs to be reformed to make it a fair and just benefit for all carers. In particular that the rules which prevent Carer's Allowance being paid to those receiving an equivalent amount of retirement pension or incapacity benefit should be ended. Further that the earnings rule be changed to a sliding scale, so that carers do not suddenly lose all of their Carer's Allowance when they earn more than a given amount.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Health to reform the Carer's Allowance to make it a fair and just benefit for all.

And the Petitioners remain, etc. *[Presented by Mr. David Clelland, Official Report,* 5 December 2007; Vol. 468, c. 932.] [P000074]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions:

People have signed this petition because they wish to see Carer's Allowance reformed. In particular, they are calling for the abolition of the overlapping benefits rule and for the current earnings rule to be replaced by a sliding scale arrangement.

The Government's commitment is clear. We fully appreciate the vital role which carers fulfil, and will continue to support them through a range of measures. We are also looking at what more we might do to help them.

To this end, we are currently undertaking a comprehensive Review of the Prime Minister's 1999 National Carers Strategy. The Review is being led by an inter-departmental steering group which includes representatives from several Government departments and from the main national organisations representing carers. The work is being carried out by four task forces which are looking at Incomes, Employment, Health and Social Care, and Equalities. The Incomes task force is conducting a detailed examination of all aspects of the financial support currently being provided to carers. The future of Carer's Allowance, including its eligibility conditions, is being considered as part of this Review.

The Review will be published in Spring 2008.

Petitions

Monday 14 January 2008

DEFENCE

Support for Armed Forces

The Petition of residents of Castle Point and others,

Declares that members of HM Armed Forces in Iraq and Afghanistan are fighting and dying, and that they lack basic equipment to do their job and there is insufficient appreciation and support from the Government for them and their families, particularly when they return from active service, and, in welcoming the provision of limited free postage, feel that the Government should go much further to give help and recognition.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to adopt more generous policies for serving and returning members of HM Armed Forces, and to give them priority in housing, in recognition of the contribution made by these brave men and women.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 21 November 2007; Vol. 467, c. 1307 .] [P000065]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Defence:

I am heartened by the recognition by the residents of Castle Point for the commitment, bravery and professionalism of our armed forces in all their operations. They will further recognise the enormous contribution made by Service families to the effectiveness of those forces and the debt owed by the nation to veterans. I would like to add that we announced on 13 December that the Government has commissioned an independent study into how the British public can better express its support and gratitude for the nation's armed forces.

On provision of equipment, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) takes all the measures possible to ensure that the equipment issued to the armed forces is both right for the job and right for them. Its quality and versatility is higher than it has ever been, and we continually work to improve its range and reliability. The Equipment Programme is designed to deliver the long-term core capabilities our forces need, complemented by the Urgent Operational Requirement (UOR) process which provides the speed and flexibility needed to adapt and respond to specific operational environments and emerging threats. Over £1.5 billion of Force Protection UORs have been approved for Afghanistan and Iraq since 2003 in response to the specific conditions and changing threat.

The welfare of personnel and their families is core to MOD business, and there are comprehensive measures in place to ensure that we give the best possible support to all concerned. The highest priority is placed on supporting the families of those who have given their lives or have been injured in the service of their country, and robust procedures ensure that all concerned receive the help they require to come to terms with injury, or life without loved ones. Turning to the wider MOD Deployment Welfare Package, this is an extensive and integrated programme of welfare provision that includes: unlimited free Forces Aerogramme letter post, Electronic Aerogrammes (where available) and a free postal packet service, welfare telephones including satellite telephones in forward locations (30 minutes free calls per person per week to anywhere in the world) are also available, as is free e-mail and Internet access. Back home, concessionary travel allowances are provided for families to enable them to keep in touch with immediate relatives. On return from an operational tour, a leave of 20 working days for a six month deployment is provided. A tax-free 'Operational Allowance' of £2,320 for a six month deployment is also payable.

On housing, personnel and their families deserve decent accommodation and we are committed to providing this. There is no quick fix and a legacy of decades of under-funding along with the size of the living accommodation estate means that tackling all shortcomings will take time. We plan to spend over £8 billion on accommodation over the next 10 years. Separately, Service personnel are encouraged to prepare for their return to civilian life by purchasing their own homes, and MOD has initiatives to assist. In areas where housing is more costly - such as London, MOD has negotiated Key Worker status. MOD also provides a Joint Service Housing Advice Office which offers advice and information in sourcing accommodation. The Government is amending housing legislation to ensure that Service personnel leaving the Services are placed on an equal footing with civilians when applying for social housing. Currently, under housing legislation, former Service personnel cannot establish a local connection with the area in which they have worked or lived while serving with the Armed Forces for the purposes of establishing priority for social housing. However, the Housing and Regeneration Bill which is currently before Parliament will rectify this and ensure that Servicemen and women looking for social housing are treated fairly.

HEALTH

Community Hospital (Braintree)

The Petition of the people of Braintree,

Declares that a new community hospital on the site of the former St. Michaels hospital in Braintree is a vital part of a renewed community hospital network which is needed to deliver improved local care. Further declares that the continuing delays in approving a new community hospital for the people of Braintree, together with an ongoing programme of cuts and closures to viable and valued community hospitals, is at odds with the commitment made in the Health White Paper "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say".

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons shall urge the Department of Health to remove any remaining barriers to the construction of a community hospital for the people of Braintree.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Brooks Newmark, Official Report,* 4 December 2007; Vol. 468, c. 804 .] [P000049]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

The issues raised in the petition are complex as the potential for a new community hospital to replace the existing St. Michaels hospital in Braintree is linked to the proposals for an Independent Sector Treatment Centre (ISTC) in Essex.

The plans for the ISTC are at a critical stage, the outcome of the negotiations will need formal approval of a business case by Department of Health officials. If the ISTC is approved it may dictate what the PCT can do with regards to the St. Michaels hospital site.

Petitions

Tuesday 15 January 2008

PRESENTED PETITION

Prisoner Rights

The Petition of James Ryan Strudwick,

Declares that he has exhausted all the systems of complaints available to him to satisfactorily resolve this complaint.

The Petitioner therefore requests that the House of Commons urges the Ministry of Justice to amend "Prison Service Order 4400" to include nieces and nephews in accordance with Article 8 of the Human Rights Act as per the case won by: Boyle V UK 1994, 19 E.H.R.R 179 Op Comm. and end the deprivation of family building relationships.

And the Petitioner remains, etc. [P000106]

HEALTH

Carers Grant

The Petition of the Alzheimer's Society (South Buckinghamshire Branch) and residents of Chesham and Amersham and others,

Declares that carers and former carers having greatly appreciated Carers Grant that has enabled them to take breaks from caring for those closest to them and that this benefit has helped them to care for those that they love in their own homes.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Health to ensure that this valuable benefit continues to be made available through the Alzheimer's Society and other organisations in the voluntary sector.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mrs. Cheryl Gillan, Official Report,* 13 December 2007; Vol. 469, c. 3P.] [P000085]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

The Government has long recognised the valuable role played by carers and that caring can have a negative effect on a person's health and well-being. This is why we introduced the carers grant in 1999 in recognition of the support carers need for breaks and services. The grant has now provided over £1 billion in support for carers and we have recently announced that monies that councils can use to support carers will continue throughout the next spending review period.

From April 2008, the carers grant will be paid as part of the new area based grant. We have recently announced that the contribution in 2008/09 for carer support will increase to £224 million. It will rise to £240 million in 2009/10 and £256 million in 2010/11. This contribution is intended to enable local authorities to continue to develop innovative and personalised outcomes reflecting the needs of their local carer population.

These sums include £25 million each year in recognition of the need to ensure councils have the means to provide emergency cover when carers are suddenly unable to care. This was first paid as a separate sum in October 2007.

It is for each local council to ensure that they determine how best to spend the grant in order to deliver local and national priorities in their area. Councils are able to commission local service providers, including those in the voluntary sector, to deliver the services which are needed.

We announced a new deal for carers earlier this year, which has a number of strands including the payment of additional monies to help councils arrange emergency cover for carers. Firstly, we are developing a carers' helpline, which will provide access to the information so needed by carers. Secondly, we are establishing an Expert Carers' Programme, which will provide training to carers to empower and enable them. Thirdly, we are reviewing the 1999 National Carers Strategy, which we plan to publish in the spring of 2008. This revised document will provide us with the blueprint for carers support in the future. Finally, we are establishing a Standing Commission on Carers, which will ensure the voice of carers is central to the development of Government policy and look at how carers will be affected by the long-term issues. Membership of the Commission will be announced in due course.

Petition

Thursday 17 January 2008

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Dangerous Dogs Act (Amendment)

The Petition of Courtney's Campaign,

Declares that Courtney Walker's face was changed beyond recognition by an unprovoked vicious attack by a Bull Mastiff Dog.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons legislate to amend the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 so that it can also be applied to a dog dangerously out of control on private property on which it is permitted to be, if that dog does injure a person when out of control.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Andrew Gwynne, Official Report,* 10 January 2007; Vol. 455, c. 404 .] [P000110]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:

Section 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 (as amended 1997) gives protection to the public from a dog which is dangerously out of control in a public place, or in a private place where it has no right to be.

A dog is regarded as being dangerously out of control in a public place on any occasion on which there are grounds for reasonable apprehension that it will injure a person, whether or not it actually does so.

I know that some feel that the law relating to dog attacks in the home should be strengthened. Having considered the existing legislation in light of recent tragic events I am not convinced that changing the existing law would help those who either enforce the law or administer justice, or reduce the number of attacks that take place in domestic places. The reason the 1991 Act did not extend to private property was because of the possibility of intruders being able to prosecute dog owners where the dog may have acted in defence of the owner.

The Dogs Act 1871 applies to areas where a dog may be permitted to be, including in and around a private house. Any person can make a complaint under the 1871 Act to a magistrates courts that a dog is dangerous. The strength of the Dogs Act 1871 is that, as the civil standard of proof applies, an order may be made by the court on the balance of probabilities that a dog is dangerous.

In addition, where an attack has taken place on private premises it may be possible for a person who has been attacked by a dog to initiate civil proceedings to claim damages on the basis that the person owning or controlling the dog was negligent. Where a person has been invited onto premises by the occupier then that occupier may become liable for any injury suffered by the visitor under the Occupiers' Liability Act 1957. This duty generally covers the state of the premises, but has been held to extend to cover damage caused by animals present on those premises. The Animals Act 1971 also provides that in certain circumstances the keeper of an animal is liable for any damage it causes, if he knew it was likely to cause such damage or injury unrestrained.

Nevertheless it is an area that I and my officials will keep under close review and if necessary make changes to the law if we think that this will reduce these very distressing incidents.

Petition

Monday 21 January 2008

TRANSPORT

Rail Services (Kettering)

The Humble Petition of Mr. Christopher Croome of Kettering Rail Users and others,

Sheweth

That East Midlands Trains, part of The Stagecoach group, proposes, in December 2008, to cut, from present levels, the number of weekday passenger trains from Kettering to London by 5%, the number of weekday passenger trains from London to Kettering by 18% and the number of weekday passenger trains from London to Kettering by 30% in the evening peak, whilst halving the main passenger rail service northbound from Kettering.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges Her Majesty's Department of Transport to call upon East Midlands Trains in its proposed timetable to reinstate these services together with fast and semi-fast services to and from London and a far more frequent service northbound so as to restore Kettering's inter-city rail service and provide the Borough of Kettering with the rail service it needs to serve a rapidly expanding population.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mr. Philip Hollobone, Official Report,* 17 December 2007; Vol. 469, c.674.] [P000090]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

The new East Midlands Trains franchise came into operation on 11 November 2007. As set out in the department's Press Release of 22 June 2007, the new franchise will deliver:

Additional off-peak services on the Midland Mainline

9% increase in peak capacity into and out of London St Pancras

New East Midlands Parkway station to be serviced by 2 trains an hour

Reductions in journey time Sheffield, Derby and London

Improved performance

Matlock and Derby services extended to Nottingham

£5 million investment in station improvements

During October 2007, East Midlands Trains consulted widely on their proposals for the December 2008 timetable. Having taken due consideration of responses to that consultation, they will carry out a bidding process with Network Rail. The new Franchise Agreement specifies a minimum level of service on all routes and East Midlands Trains must certify to the Department that in bidding for the December 2008 timetable it is compliant with the level of service we have specified.

Overall the proposed new December 2008 timetable will deliver an increase in capacity on the Midland mainline with East Midlands Trains planning to run five trains per hour between London and the East Midlands / South Yorkshire for most of the day, Monday to Saturdays, an increase from the four per hour which run today. The changes to the mainline services that affect Kettering are a result of a number of factors, and supported by consultation responses and train passenger loading data.

Long distance passenger demand on the whole Midland Mainline route is strong and current growth is expected to continue. Without service pattern changes, commuters from intermediate stations such as Kettering will find themselves trying to join full trains with little prospect of finding a seat—especially in the morning peak. The solution is to create a distinct London to Kettering service. With trains starting in Kettering, this will provide significantly more commuter seats while simultaneously facilitating fewer stops in the long distance trains, improving journey times between Sheffield and London by up to 12 minutes. A consequence of the provision of this increased capacity is pressure on East Midlands Trains rolling stock fleet, and track capacity on the main line. Having noticed the low patronage of the current Northbound services from Kettering, where seats provided were significantly in excess of demand, this mismatch has been rectified through a reduction in service frequency that better matches demand. In summary, while the frequency of service to Kettering will reduce, the capacity provided is being significantly increased, providing a better quality journey for all users of the services on the route.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 7 January 2008

SCOTLAND

Christmas

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether it is his Department's policy to use *(a)* incandescent light bulbs and *(b)* LED lights for festive decorations on departmental premises. [173495]

David Cairns: The information is as follows:

(a) The Scotland Office is included in the environmental management policy and programme for the Ministry of Justice and is implementing the Government's UK sustainable action plan, issued on 5 March 2007. This includes the ongoing changeover from general lighting bulbs to energy saving bulbs wherever possible.

(b) No specific requirements have been set for decorative Christmas lights.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his Department's policy is on the selection of *(a)* real and *(b)* artificial Christmas trees for his Department's festive decorations; and how real trees are disposed of. [173520]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office purchases a real Christmas tree, via an MoJ procurement contract, from a sustainable source and it is collected and recycled as green waste.

Departmental Minimum Wage

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many London-based staff are employed by his Department on the national minimum wage. [175968]

David Cairns: All the staff in the Scotland Office are on loan from other Government Departments and the office reimburses those Departments for the costs involved. We do not hold payroll information on the national minimum wage as it applies to such staff.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on special advisers in 2006-07; how much has been allocated for 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [173278]

David Cairns: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1216W.

Members' Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many letters his Department received from hon. Members and Peers in each session of Parliament since 1997. [174925]

David Cairns: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/Peers correspondence. Information relating to 2007 will be published as soon as it has been collated. The report for 2006 was published on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 101-04WS. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

WALES

Barnett Formula

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment has been made of the Barnett consequentials arising from the Children's Plan for *(a)* Wales and *(b)* the Bridgend constituency, broken down by funding area. [175236]

Mr. Hain: The funding for the Children's Plan announced by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCFS) in December 2007, formed part of their comprehensive spending review (CSR 2007) settlement. Barnett Consequentials formed part of the settlement for the Welsh Assembly Government.

It is for the Welsh Assembly Government to determine the allocation of the block budget reflecting their priorities and policies.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister in Wales on the £20 million Barnett consequential payment from support for disabled children and their families; and whether funding from this payment has been allocated in Bridgend constituency. [175274]

Mr. Hain: I meet regularly with the First Minister and discuss a wide range of topics including the Welsh Budget.

It is for the Welsh Assembly Government to determine the allocation of the block budget reflecting their priorities and policies.

Departmental Minimum Wage

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many London-based staff are employed by his Department on the national minimum wage. [175970]

Mr. Hain: None.

Departmental Redundancies

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the cost was of redundancies in his Department in the 12 months preceding *(a)* 30 June 2004, *(b)* 30 June 2005 and *(c)* 30 June 2006. [175478]

Mr. Hain: Nil.

Regulation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales for which regulators and inspectorates his Department has had responsibility in each year since 1997; what the budget was of each such body in each year; and what the cost to the public purse was of any restructuring of each such body in each year. [175311]

Mr. Hain: None.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Energy Efficiency

Mr. Winnick: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the Commission will take steps to ensure that *(a)* heating is not kept on in offices within the Parliamentary Estate at weekends and on other occasions when it is not likely the rooms are being used and *(b)* radiators are turned off at weekends and times when they are not used; and if he will make a statement. [174323]

Nick Harvey: All buildings on the parliamentary estate are under the control of a Building Management System (BMS), together with heating time scheduling to automatically turn on the heating prior to the time office areas are usually occupied and turn it off when the areas are vacated at the end of the day. The BMS is monitored by the Parliamentary Works Services staff around the clock.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much was spent on heating on the Parliamentary Estate in each of the last four years. [174327]

Nick Harvey: It is not possible to determine how much was spent just on heating on the parliamentary estate in each of the last four years. Most of the buildings are heated by natural gas boilers which are not metered separately; most of the gas meters also record the gas used in hot water generation and in some buildings, kitchens, as well as in heating. The heating costs of a small number of buildings are included in the leasing charges and therefore they are not known.

The amounts spent on gas on the parliamentary estate in each of the last four years are given in the following table:

	£
2003-04	455,554
2004-05	380,627
2005-06	584,069
2006-07	793,760

The increase in gas expenditure in the last two years is mainly due to significant increases in the unit price of gas in those years.

Portcullis House: Fires

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many times the occupants of Portcullis House were directed to leave the building due to fire in 2007; on how many such occasions a fire had occurred; what the seat of the fire was in each case where fire occurred; and what steps were taken on each occasion to *(a)* identify the person or persons responsible and *(b)* minimise the likelihood of reoccurrence. [175740]

Nick Harvey: Since 1 January 2007 there have been 13 evacuations from Portcullis House. Three were actual fires. After each fire a full fire investigation was carried out by the Fire Safety Manager.

TRANSPORT

Aircraft: Noise

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimates she has made of the likely mean *(a)* nitrogen dioxide and *(b)* aircraft noise levels in each London borough under each of the proposed third runway scenarios in (i) 2015, (ii) 2020 and (iii) 2030; and what equivalent estimates she has made if levels of nitrogen dioxide emissions and noise from aircraft remain at average 2007 levels; [171791]

(2) what the mean *(a)* nitrogen dioxide, *(b)* PM10 and *(c)* aircraft noise levels were in each London borough in (i) 2000 and (ii) the last year for which figures are available. [171792]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The consultation document "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" and supporting technical reports include data and contours for NO_2, PM_{10} and noise in the Heathrow area for 2002 (the base year for comparative purposes) and future airport development scenarios for 2015, 2020 and 2030.

Comprehensive information on air quality for each London borough is available via the London Air Quality Network

(www.londonair.org.uk/london/asp/default.asp?la_id=&showbulletins=&width=1024)

and is updated daily.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the reasons were for the time taken to publish her Department's Attitudes to Noise from Aviation Sources report. [170691]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This was an especially challenging study given that it was not only reviewing attitudes of people to aircraft noise, but additionally was attempting ground breaking work by using specialist techniques to examine what monetary value should be put on such annoyance.

The study took longer to complete than originally envisaged primarily to accommodate additional pilot studies—as recommended by independent experts—designed to reinforce the methodology underpinning the main phase of the social survey.

The results of the study were announced just as soon as the extensive independent peer review process was completed.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to provide for independent verification of whether aircraft noise limits are being exceeded at UK airports. [170698]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The issue of independent monitoring of breaches of aircraft noise limits is a matter for individual airports as part of their day-to-day operational business.

I am aware of a number of cases where airports ensure that there is independent consideration of their noise and track keeping systems either by being certified to the ISO 14001 environmental management standard or having environmental policy and management systems subject to regular independent audit. In their environmental guidance manual for airports the Airport Operators Association acknowledge that the demonstration of a good environmental management system through externally certified management system can enable the airport to secure better relationships with customers, investors and the local community.

In the "Future of Air Transport" White Paper we said that our preference remains that local solutions should be devised for local problems wherever possible, and we expect airport master plans to describe the package of measures that an airport operator intends to apply to deal with local noise problems. We look to individual airport noise and track keeping groups and consultative committees to monitor airport operations such as track-keeping, noise mapping and observance of Continuous Descent Approach (CDA).

Cars: Exhaust Emissions

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will estimate the number of cars in *(a)* London and *(b)* South East England which have carbon dioxide emissions (i) under 120g/km and meeting the Euro 4 standard for air quality, (ii) under 120g/km and not meeting the Euro 4 standard for air quality, (iii) between 120 and 225g/km and (iv) above 225g/km in each of the last five years. [172591]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Information on the number of vehicles meeting the Euro 4 standard is not held centrally.

The number of licensed cars over the last five years in London and South East England with carbon dioxide emissions between 120 and 225 g/km and above 225 g/km were as follows:

Thousand

	London		*South East England (excluding London)*	
	120-225 g/km	*Above 225 g/km*	*120-225 g/km*	*Above 225 g/km*
2002	366		733	
2003	532		1,095	
2004	594	117	1,253	181
2005	749	141	1,556	215
2006	902	161	1,840	244

Notes:

1. CO_2 emissions data are unavailable for vehicles registered before 1 March 2001. In addition, CO_2 data are also unavailable for a small number of vehicles registered after this date.
2. CO_2 emissions data in the above 225 g/km group are not held separately for 2002 and 2003.
3. Data regarding the number of vehicles meeting the Euro 4 standard are not held centrally.

Cumbrian Coastal Rail Service

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passengers used the Cumbrian coastal rail service between Barrow-in-Furness and Carlisle in each year since 1997. [176645]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport does not hold this information. The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) does however publish regional passenger flows in the National Rail Trends Yearbook editions, which are available in the House Library or from their website at www.rail-reg.gov.uk

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what proportion of her Department's staff are employed within each salary band; what the title and role of each position within each salary band is; and for each salary band what the *(a)* bonus structure, *(b)* retirement provision, *(c)* expenses provision, *(d)* total expenses incurred in each of the last 10 years, *(e)* average age of employee, *(f)* number of (i) women and (ii) men and *(g)* ethnic composition is. [171410]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The current staffing figures for the Department are in the following table.

Level	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
SCS Level	148	49	197
Grades 6/7	905	297	1,792
All other grades	10,180	7,140	17,320
Total	11,233	7,486	18,719

The default retirement age in the Department is 65, with an option to retire at 60. Staff may continue working after 65 subject to there being an annual business case to remain in service.

Further analysis of the composition of the Department's workforce is included in the Civil Service statistics collected by ONS from the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (formerly mandate) and the latest published statistics are for the year to 30 September 2006. These can be found in Table H at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/2006CivilServiceStatistics.pdf

A further breakdown of the information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Illegal Immigrants

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many illegal immigrants were discovered working for her Department and its agencies in the last year for which figures are available. [170482]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There are no cases of which we are aware of illegal immigrants who have been discovered working for the Department for Transport and its agencies in the last year.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff aged between 16 and 18 were employed by her Department and its predecessors *(a)* directly and *(b)* through an employment agency in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of these were given time off work to undertake some form of training; and what proportion were provided with some form of training (i) wholly and (ii) partially funded by her Department. [171278]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Generally, nearly all 16 to 18 year-olds employed directly will be given time-off to undertake training and this is funded. However, the detailed breakdown requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Galileo

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the EU Lisbon treaty, once implemented, will have an effect on the EU's Galileo programme. [175587]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the treaty basis is for the EU's Galileo programme; and if she will make a statement. [175588]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The objectives of the Galileo programme derive from Article 156 of the treaty establishing the European Community.

Galileo: Finance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the UK *(a)* has spent and *(b)* is expected to spend on the Galileo satellite navigation project. [175526]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The technical development of Galileo is a joint project of the European Commission and the European Space Agency (ESA). Approximately €1.6 billion has been committed to the development phase of the system.

European Finance and Transport Ministers have recently agreed a way forward for the funding of Galileo over the 2007-13 financial perspective. Ministers have acknowledged the Commission's estimate, based on a public procurement, of €3.4 billion over the period to 2013 for deployment and initial operation of the system, and have agreed that it should represent a ceiling on expenditure within this financial perspective. It is intended that the deployment and initial operation of Galileo will be taken forward as an EU only programme funded through the EC Budget.

The UK's directly committed costs as an ESA member state for the ESA element of the design and development phase of the programme is €142 million. As EU member states contribute to the EC Budget as a whole rather than to individual spending programmes within it there is no specific UK contribution to the EC Budget funded element of the development and subsequent deployment costs for Galileo.

There has been no political discussion of potential funding commitments for the public sector beyond 2013.

Heathrow Airport: Railways

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of flights into and out of Heathrow which were to destinations where there is a viable rail alternative in the latest period for which figures are available. [170714]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There is no definition of what constitutes a viable rail alternative to flying. However, according to CAA statistics for 2006 there were 58,915 domestic flights to or from Heathrow carrying just under 6 million passengers. There were 28,550 flights to or from Paris and Brussels, with 2.7 million passengers.

Public Transport

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was made available to support rural public transport in Cumbria in each year since 1997. [176730]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We have supported the provision of bus services in rural areas by means of rural bus subsidy grant (RBSG), a grant paid to local transport authorities according to numbers living in rural areas. RBSG allocations to Cumbria county council since the grant's introduction in 1998 are shown in the following table.

	£ *Allocation*
1998-99	957,384
1999-2000	957,384
2000-01	957,384
2001-02	1,222,506
2002-03	1,399,254
2003-04	1,428,712
2004-05	1,471,573
2005-06	1,529,273
2006-07	1,566,783
2007-08	1,604,293
Total	13,094,545

In addition, we have encouraged the development of innovative solutions to meeting rural transport needs by means of Rural Bus Challenge (RBC) competitions held from 1998 to 2003. RBC awards to Cumbria county council are shown in the following table.

	£ *Award*
1999-2000	722,000
2000-01	800,000
2001-02	542,300
2002-03	805,573
2003-04	482,594
Total	3,352,467

Local authorities also support rural public transport from their own resources, including revenue support grant from central government.

Rail funding is not split on a county by county basis and therefore we cannot provide a specific figure for rail support for Cumbria.

Public Transport: Concessions

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will extend the national concessionary fare scheme to community transport services. [176942]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Those community transport services operated under section 22 of the Transport Act 1985 which are fully available to the public will be eligible. The inclusion of all community transport services would have to be fully funded and careful consideration would have to be given to the impacts on the sector and rural bus services. The Government have a strong track record in extending concessionary travel. However its current priority is to focus on the successful implementation of the national concession in 2008. Local authorities will retain the flexibility to include community transport in their local schemes to reflect local needs and circumstances.

Railways: Standards

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to her answer of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 430W, on railways: standards, how many hits there have been on the website; and if she will place a copy of the study in the Library. [176886]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is held by Stagecoach South Western Trains who can be contacted at the following address:

Stagecoach South Western Trains Limited
Customer Service Centre
Overline House
Blechynden Terrace
Southampton
Hampshire
SO15 1AL

Refuse Collection Vehicles

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the new tachograph regulations will apply to local authorities' refuse collection vehicles. [176394]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Vehicles used in connection with door-to-door household refuse collection and disposal are exempt from the EU drivers' hours and tachograph rules provided they are operated by, or under contract to, a public authority.

In the Department's opinion, such operations would involve the primary collection of waste from household or commercial premises, including the collection of street cleansing waste, where the transport activity remains subsidiary to the collection. The waste collected from commercial premises must be similar to or of the same kind as that collected from households, it must be collected in the same way (i.e. door-to-door), it must not be subject to any special collection regime or special rules, and must be collected using the same vehicles.

Such operations might involve longer aggregate journeys where there are a number of stops, particularly in rural areas, but such journeys should not normally exceed a radius of 50 kilometres from the place where a vehicle is normally based.

Road Traffic

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the projected traffic numbers are on the M25 approaches to the Dartford Crossing from Essex. [176789]

Mr. Tom Harris: The projected traffic numbers on the M25 approaches to the Dartford Crossing from Essex for the financial year 2007-08 are 26,576,414 vehicles.

Roads

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the lane restrictions on the M3 at its junction with the M25 came into force; what works were undertaken requiring the restrictions; when those works were completed; for what purpose cameras were installed west of the junction; and when she expects to lift the lane restrictions. [175609]

Mr. Tom Harris: The trial layout of lane restrictions at Junction 12 of M25 came into force on 5 March 2007.

The lane restrictions were put in place to improve the flow of traffic from the M25 onto the M3 by re-allocating the available road space more accurately to reflect actual traffic flow. Traffic on the M3 has been restricted to a single lane through this junction to allow two dedicated lanes for traffic joining from the M25.

The trial was initially implemented for a period of four weeks to confirm the effective operation of the layout. As the trial layout has proved to be effective it has been retained.

Throughout the new layout a speed limit of 50 mph has been implemented and managed by Surrey Safety Camera Partnership to act as a safety deterrent while the trial is in place.

An announcement will be made shortly as to whether this scheme is to be made permanent or if lane restrictions are to be removed.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate her Department has made of the likely levels of road usage on the A595 between Greenodd and Whitehaven by *(a)* private vehicles and *(b)* freight traffic in each of the next three years. [176732]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department has made no specific estimates of road usage, either private or goods vehicles, on this stretch of road for the forthcoming three years. Forecasts of traffic at a regional level are

made using the Department's National Transport Model (NTM) and these are published on the Department's web site:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/roadpricing/researchtrafficcongestion.

The latest forecasts for Northwest Region, which were published in October 2007, indicate that traffic growth on rural A roads between the years 2003 to 2010 will be 9 per cent. for cars, 17 per cent. for light goods vehicles and 2 per cent. for heavy goods vehicles.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road accidents resulting in a fatality in Copeland involved *(a)* drivers under 25 years of age and *(b)* drivers within 12 months of passing their driving test in the last five years. [176643]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of reported fatal road accidents involving drivers aged under 25 in Copeland in each of the last five years is as follows:

	Number of fatal accidents
2002	2
2003	1
2004	2
2005	0
2006	1

Information on the length of time that drivers involved in personal injury road accidents have held a driving licence is not available.

Roads: Children

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the merits of roadside pedestrian training schemes for children. [175813]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We funded the £9 million Kerbcraft child pedestrian training research project in 64 English local authorities. The project provided training for five to seven-year-olds in three important road-crossing skills. The project was fully evaluated; we have disseminated interim evaluation results which show that trained children made statistically significant improvements to key behaviours, compared to untrained children. We will disseminate best practice to all local authorities.

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will extend roadside pedestrian training schemes for children on a national basis. [175814]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Local authority road safety officers (RSOs) have the responsibility of supporting and co-ordinating road safety education, training and publicity; it is for them to consider how best to meet their local needs.

DfT will disseminate good practice in roadside child pedestrian training schemes to local authorities and educators, based on, but not exclusive to, the Kerbcraft child pedestrian training scheme as it was piloted and evaluated in England and Scotland between 2001 and 2007.

Roads: Lorries

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to reduce congestion caused by heavy goods vehicles on roads. [175635]

Jim Fitzpatrick: To reduce congestion the Department provides direct grant funding to support the use of rail and water freight where appropriate. This year these mode-shift programmes are expected to remove 1.1 million lorry journeys from the roads. The Government also promote efficiency within the road sector through the Freight Best Practice and other programmes.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many community groups she has met to discuss road improvements since her appointment; how many road improvement schemes she has visited since her appointment; and which representatives of road haulage businesses she has met since her appointment. [168683]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As part of routine business Ministers will meet a wide range of organisations including Members of Parliament, local authorities and community organisations in relation to road improvement schemes. In addition, during visits to regions, Ministers will also see a number of road schemes that have been completed or which are being promoted by the Highways Agency and local highway authorities.

Ministers have over recent months met a number of community groups, MPs and local councillors to discuss road improvement schemes, across England.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much was spent on *(a)* road building and *(b)* road maintenance in Copeland in each year since 1997; [176641]

(2) how much was made available to support road improvement schemes in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency in each year since 1997. [176731]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since 1997, the Department has contributed funding as set in the following table to the following Highways Agency major road schemes on the trunk road network in Cumbria.

A595 Parton to Lilyhall Improvement Scheme;

A590 High and Low Newton Bypass;

M6 Carlisle to Guardsmill Extension;

A66 Stainburn and Great Clifton Bypass; and

A66 Temple Sowerby Bypass and Improvement to Winderwath.

Highways Agency funding

	Cost (£ million)
1997-98	0
1998-99	0
1999-2000	0
2000-01	2.2
2001-02	5.3
2002-03	9.0
2003-04	2.8
2004-05	3.8
2005-06	10.7
2006-07	65.4
2007-08	94.3

Cumbria county council as local highway authority is responsible for local transport in Cumbria including the Copeland constituency. The council is currently promoting the Carlisle Northern Development Route which will be partly funded through the Government's private finance initiative with a departmental contribution of £142.8 million towards the total cost.

The following table shows the funding through the Local Transport capital settlement that has been allocated to Cumbria county council since 1997. It is for Cumbria to determine how allocations are spent, having regard to its Local Transport Plan.

£ million

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Capital Highway Maintenance	5.5	9.2	9.8	11.1	13.0	14.7	15.5	18.8
Integrated Block Allocation	2.3	6.0	7.2	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.3	5.3

Prior to 2000-01, the Government funding support for local transport investment by Cumbria county council (including for major schemes and major maintenance) totalled £3.748 million in 1997-98, £2.384 million in 1998-99 and £5.311 million in 1999-2000.

The following table sets out the total reported revenue and capital spend both by Cumbria county council and Copeland district council on road maintenance in each year between 1997-98 and 2006-07.

£ million

Cumbria council	*Area of spend*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Total Reported Revenue Spend	Cumbria	16.4	16.9	17.6	16.0	16.8	18.1	12.1	15.3	14.6	13.4
	Copeland	0.037	0.054	0.032	0.029	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Reported Capital Spend	Cumbria	n/a	2.4	5.2	2.3	4.4	11.7	10.3	12.3	15.6	13.5
	Copeland	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

n/a = Not available.

Roads: Safety

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of UK road safety measures against EU member state benchmarks; and if she will make a statement. [175822]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We keep abreast of developments in road safety best practice across the EU (and indeed, the world) on a continual basis, and maintain regular dialogue with our international counterparts. In addition we produce statistics showing how the UK compares with other countries, including other EU member states, as part of the yearly report Road Casualties Great Britain.

The UK is one of the safest countries in the EU in terms of overall casualties. In 2005 there were 5.5 road deaths per hundred thousand population, which is the fourth lowest in the EU; or 4.9 road deaths per billion passenger-kilometres, which is the second lowest in the EU.

Roads: Tolls

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost has been to date of the consultancy contracts for road pricing policy; and how much is committed for future costs. [176896]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since the then Secretary of State, the right hon. Member for Edinburgh, South-West (Mr. Darling) committed in 2004 to lead a national debate on the practicality of road pricing as a highly-effective response to rising congestion, the Department has spent some £6.5 million on consultancy contracts including professional advice on possible technical designs,

system architecture and cost modelling. Another £1.0 million is currently contractually committed through to the end of 2007-08.

Although further consultancy expenditure on road pricing policy is envisaged in 2008-09 and beyond, the amount will depend on our requirements, yet to be determined, and no further expenditure is contractually committed.

South West Trains

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport by how many *(a)* Class 442 and *(b)* Class 444 units South West Trains has reduced its main line express rolling stock fleet since the renewal of the franchise; and what percentage of the fleet the reduction represents. [176779]

Mr. Tom Harris: 24 Class 442 units were taken off lease before the start of the Stagecoach South Western Trains (SSWT) Franchise that commenced in February 2007. The class 442s represented 7 per cent. of the total South West Trains (SWT) fleet under the previous franchise. No Class 442s ran in service under Stagecoach South Western Trains.

45 Class 444 units are on lease to Stagecoach South Western Trains and no class 444s have been cut from mainline express services.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make it her policy to require South West Trains to put Class 442 back in service in the interests of passenger comfort. [176780]

Mr. Tom Harris: No.

Speed Limits

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average speed is of London bound traffic on the M25 during the morning and evening peak hours between junctions 26 and 30. [176786]

Mr. Tom Harris: The average speed of traffic on the M25 from Junction 26 to 30 is set out in the following table.

Junctions	*Peak*	*Average speed (mph)*
26-30	Morning	57
	Evening	48
30-26	Morning	52
	Evening	54

The data are for weekdays only, for the hours of 7:00 to 10:00 (inclusive) and 16:00 to 19:00 (inclusive).

Sustainable Development: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding her Department has provided to the Sustainability of Land Use and Transport in Outer Neighbourhoods Project. [176395]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department's overall expected financial contribution to the above project amounts to £136,495, of which £35,000 was funded by ODPM in 2004. To date £120,221 has been spent.

Trains

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the reliability of Reading's Class 458 train coach units; and if she will make a statement. [176781]

Mr. Tom Harris: The miles per casualty (moving annual average) in the period prior to the start of Stagecoach South Western Trains 07/11 (January 2007) for the Class 458s was 14,817 with six units in service.

The miles per casualty (moving annual average) in the latest period available 08/04 (June/July 2007) for the Class 458s was 14,613 with 30 units in service.

This demonstrates that the reliability of the units remains steady despite there being more trains diagrams in service and undertaking more mileage.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Frontiers

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether all NATO member states with forces serving in Afghanistan recognise the same international border between Afghanistan and Pakistan for military operations. [175452]

Des Browne: All contributing nations to the ISAF mission in Afghanistan agree to be bound by the definition of the joint area of operations contained within the operational plan. Consequently the international border between Afghanistan and Pakistan is viewed consistently by all these nations.

Afghanistan: NATO

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many NATO personnel are serving in Afghanistan; and what percentage are of *(a)* British, *(b)* American and *(c)* other nationality. [175012]

Des Browne: There are currently around 42,000 troops in Afghanistan as part of ISAF. British forces deployed in Afghanistan currently number approximately 7,800. We do not comment on the numbers of deployed troops from other nations, which are matters for the countries concerned; however they are listed with periodic updates on the ISAF website at:

www.nato.int/isaf/index.html

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operation

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the earliest date is by which the Future Lynx could be available in Afghanistan. [172536]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the then Minister of State for the Armed Forces on 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 515W.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in what roles the Army employs native Pashtun speakers. [176083]

Des Browne: The vast majority of locally engaged civilians are employed as interpreters. However, local nationals are also employed in the following roles:

Assistant Chef
Barber
EFI Shop Assistant
EFI Stock Controller
Guards
Kitchen Hands
Labour General Duties
Mechanics
Tailors
Welders
Cleaners
Clerks

While we require our interpreters to speak Pashto, there is no such requirement on locally engaged civilians in other roles.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has conducted any review of the procedures governing to operations of private security companies in Afghanistan since 2001. [164351]

Des Browne *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* The MOD operates according to the cross-government 'Guidance on Contacts with Private Military and Security Companies', as published by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in February 2007. The MOD currently is reviewing the application of this guidance within Defence. The MOD has not carried out any reviews into the procedures governing to operations of private security companies in Afghanistan. Currently, the MOD does not employ any private security companies in Afghanistan.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what outreach programmes are being carried out by British forces in Kandahar province. [174477]

Des Browne: UK forces carry out a range of outreach projects around the Kandahar airfield that are designed to improve local infrastructure and public health. These vary in size and scope and include the provision of blankets to villages and escorting medical and dental personnel to local villages. Further activity, such as painting of mosques, installation of water pumps and drainage and irrigation projects are planned up until the end of March 2008.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the small arms threat to aircraft in *(a)* Helmand and *(b)* Kandahar province. [174487]

Des Browne: We constantly assess the threat to our aircraft operating in Afghanistan and utilise tactics, techniques and procedures suitable for the threat. I am withholding further information as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* planned and *(b)* actual Apache flying hours were per month in (i) Afghanistan and (ii) Iraq in 2007. [174494]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding the information relating to Afghanistan as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces. The UK does not have any Apache helicopters deployed in Iraq.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans there are to send Vector armoured vehicles to Afghanistan; what the Vector's capabilities are; and if he will make a statement. [174499]

Des Browne: The Vector vehicle has provided a light protected patrol vehicle capability in Afghanistan since April 2007.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many helicopters of each type were deployed in Afghanistan in each month since 1 January 2002; what additional deployment of *(a)* Sea Kings and *(b)* other helicopters is planned for 2008; and if he will make a statement. [175443]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information on the type of helicopters deployed each month prior to January 2006 is not held centrally. I am withholding the number of helicopters deployed as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces. The following table sets out, by month, the helicopter types deployed in-Theatre from January 2006 to December 2007.

	Chinook	*Lynx*	*Apache*	*Sea King*
January 2006	Yes	No	No	No
February 2006	Yes	No	No	No
March 2006	Yes	No	No	No
April 2006	Yes	No	No	No
May 2006	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
June 2006	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
July 2006	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
August 2006	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
September 2006	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
October 2006	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
November 2006	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
December 2006	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

	Chinook	Lynx	Apache	Sea King
January 2007	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
February 2007	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
March 2007	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
April 2007	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
May 2007	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
June 2007	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
July 2007	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
August 2007	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
September 2007	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
October 2007	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
November 2007	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
December 2007	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department uses *(a)* civilian and *(b)* military personnel during the take-off and landing phase of unmanned aerial vehicles operations in Afghanistan. [175447]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence uses both civilian contractors and military personnel during the take-off and landing phase of unmanned aerial vehicles; however, the vast majority of operators are military. Once airborne, all operational mission activity is conducted by military personnel.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the statement by the Prime Minister of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 304, on Afghanistan, what capabilities Sea King helicopters would have in Afghanistan. [175458]

Des Browne: The Sea Kings will be operating as a support helicopter able to carry troops and equipment and will be tasked accordingly.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the statement by the Prime Minister of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 304, on Afghanistan, what plans his Department has to recruit and deploy specialists who speak Afghan languages and understand tribal dynamics. [175460]

Des Browne: The MOD is already using specialist linguists in support of its operations in Afghanistan and we expect to increase the number deployed over the coming months. In addition to specialist linguists, considerable use is made of local employed civilians in a linguist role.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Statement by the Prime Minister of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 304, on Afghanistan, how many of his Department's personnel serve in the collocated headquarters. [175466]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 777W.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by whom each soldier killed during the 1st Battalion The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment/2nd Battalion The Mercian Regiments' recent operational tour in Helmand Province was replaced in the order of battle. [175622]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member.

Airborne Manned Surveillance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the status is of the Airborne Manned Surveillance urgent operational requirements; and if he will make a statement. [174485]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There have been a significant number of urgent operational requirements relating to surveillance capabilities for manned airborne platforms. Some are in service delivering capability on operations. Others are in progress.

I am withholding further information as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

Aircraft Carriers: Finance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated cost to his Department is of extending the out-of-service date of *(a)* HMS Illustrious and *(b)* HMS Ark Royal caused by the delay of the in-service dates of the CVF Carriers from 2012 and 2015 to 2014 and 2016. [169346]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There has been no delay to the future aircraft carriers' in-service dates of 2014 and 2016 as announced on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 865 and no subsequent changes to the out of service dates of the current carriers. These out of service dates have been adjusted as planning assumptions for the introduction of the new aircraft carriers have been developed. There have been no significant extra costs associated with these adjustments.

Aircraft Carriers: Procurement

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current status is of the order for two future aircraft carriers; and if he will make a statement. [137888]

Des Browne *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* As I announced on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 865, we have committed to placing an order for two future carriers. Contracts will be placed with the industrial participants in the Aircraft Carrier Alliance delivering the project, when the joint venture between BAE Systems and VT Group has completed the necessary approvals to allow it to receive a contract. This process is nearing completion.

Animal Experiments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his timetable is for concluding the review into hyperbaric experiments excluding the use of *(a)* goats and *(b)* any other animals; and which alternative methods are being considered. [175990]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The team of experts has now concluded its stage of the review and its recommendations are to be considered. I will write to the hon. Member when the whole process has concluded.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 394W, on armed forces: deployment, from which units the 200 regular army reinforcements came; and how many of them have been operationally deployed in the last six months. [174765]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 4th December 2007]:* The Regular Army reinforcements required by the 2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment to provide the particular skill sets and rank structure required in its role as the Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team came primarily from other units in 52 Infantry Brigade.

Units within the brigade have not deployed on an operational tour at either unit or sub-unit level in the last six months. The trawl process used by the Army prevents individuals from deploying on operations within six months of a previous deployment, unless the individual is a volunteer or there is a pressing operational requirement.

Armed Forces: Finance

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much in near cash terms was spent on service retention in each financial year since 2002-03. [176278]

Derek Twigg: The cost of Financial Retention Initiatives (additions to basic pay for groups or trades with particular shortages) and Commitment Bonuses (cash payments at particular times throughout the career progression of personnel to encourage a continuance of service) is shown in the following table.

Financial year	*£ million*
2002-03	44.3
2003-04	63.7
2004-05	73.9
2005-06	58.2
2006-07	74.1

Many disparate activities within the Services could be considered as measures to improve retention, from the improvement of accommodation to the implementation of welfare lines or services. Information about these activities could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) by what means he monitors whether servicemen and women discharged with combat stress receive continuing treatment from the NHS; [172885]

(2) what arrangement his Department has in place for the transfer of the medical care of discharged service men and women to the NHS. [172893]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence is committed to doing all it reasonably can to ensure successful transition to civilian life. On discharge, all ex-service personnel are provided with a medical summary record, and this can be presented at the GP's surgery when they register with a civilian doctor. If the doctor has a requirement for the full medical record, we will provide this upon request.

For the vast majority of service personnel these procedures are sufficient to ensure a seamless transition to the NHS. However, for those who are medically discharged with significant ongoing physical or mental health conditions, the care is formally handed over to appropriate medical staff by MOD specialists as the patient is medically discharged.

In the case of physical illness or injury, social work teams at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre or the single service welfare organisations ensure this seamless transfer. For those with ongoing mental illness, the specific Defence Medical Services mental health team who have been caring for that individual will begin a liaison with appropriate civilian healthcare providers (e.g. general practitioner civil mental health team) to ensure that transfer of care and patient history takes place. Additionally, we have specific mental health social workers who manage the individual's wider resettlement issues, liaising with relevant civil agencies such as local housing authorities, financial authorities, service welfare and charitable organisations. These MOD mental health social workers ensure that the individual's transfer into the civilian environment is as smooth as possible.

Since the beginning of 2007, we have also put in place arrangements for the Department's Veterans Welfare Service to monitor those discharged with a seriously disabling injury; this covers cases of both physical and psychological injury. While this monitoring is primarily focused on welfare matters, the service will also identify sources of medical assistance where appropriate. In cases where there is a mental health issue, this could include if appropriate a NHS/MOD Mental Health Pilot team, the Medical Assessment Programme at St. Thomas' Hospital London, or the charity Combat Stress.

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to his Department of health provision for service men and women in the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force was in 2006-07. [172894]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held in the format requested.

The Defence Medical Services (DMS) are headed jointly by the Deputy Chief of Defence Staff (Health) (DCDS(H) and the Surgeon General (SG). They oversee the work of three separate organisations:

(a) Defence Medical Services Directorate Headquarters (DMSD HQ);

(b) Defence Medical Education and Training Agency (DMETA);

(c) Defence Dental Services (DDS).

DCDS(H) and SG also produce medical policy for the three single services. However, the Royal Navy (RN), Army and Royal Air Force (RAF) Medical Services are responsible for delivering primary healthcare to their respective service commanders in chief and for providing the requisite medical support on operations.

The overall expenditure for the DCDS(Health) organisation for the financial year 2006-07 was £268 million. The organisational structure of the DMS in its entirety means that comprehensive primary care and operational costs cannot be provided without disproportionate effort as they are disaggregated and embedded in individual military units' budgets.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of *(a)* single and *(b)* family defence estate accommodation is classed as (i) category 1, (ii) category 2, (iii) category 3 and (iv) category 4; what criteria he uses for deciding whether accommodation is sub-standard; and what assessment he has made of the findings of the Public Accounts Committee report on managing the defence estate. [175298]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 18 December 2007]:* Service Families Accommodation (SFA) and Single Living Accommodation (SLA) is assessed by Grade for Charge, while most SFA is also assessed by Standard for Condition. Grade for Charge takes account of an assessment of the physical condition of the accommodation and other factors such as location and closeness to amenities.

As at 30 June 2007, our worldwide SLA stock of some 165,500 bed spaces was at the following Grade for Charge.

	Number
Grade 1	38,100
Grade 2	19,000
Grade 3	28,200
Grade 4	80,200

At 1 April 2007, the worldwide SFA stock of some 70,193 properties is at the following Grade for Charge.

	Number
Grade 1	12,430
Grade 2	26,447
Grade 3	22,209
Grade 4	8,720
Below Grade 4	387

Of the 70,193, some 55,548 have also been assessed by Standard for Condition (SfC). These are broken down as follows:

	Number
S1fC	30,223
S2fC	19,016
S3fC	3,954
S4fC	2,355

All occupied accommodation is considered of a habitable standard. The Department currently expects to publish its response to the Public Accounts Committee report on managing the defence estate in February 2008.

Armed Forces: Influenza

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to ensure that sufficient quantities of *(a)* influenza vaccines, *(b)* anti-virals and *(c)* face-masks are held by armed forces operating in (i) Iraq, (ii) Afghanistan and (iii) elsewhere in the world for them to cope with a potential influenza pandemic; and if he will make a statement. [172797]

Derek Twigg: The best method to prevent infection with influenza is by prior immunisation with an appropriate vaccine. The Department of Health (DH) has purchased a quantity of the H5N1 Avian Flu vaccine, which could be offered to key occupational groups when the risk of a pandemic increases as it may give a degree of protection should the pandemic strain be a variant of H5N1. Supplies of this vaccine are being held by the DH on behalf of the MOD and in the event of an outbreak will be deployed by MOD in accordance with DH guidelines.

When an influenza virus is already circulating, therapeutic antiviral agents can help to lessen the severity of illness, reduce deaths and contain spread. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommends that during an influenza pandemic, patients with a flu-like illness should be treated with zanamivir ("Relenza") or oseltamivir ("Tamiflu"). The DH has arranged for an appropriate stockpile quantity of Tamiflu to be purchased, which is also being held centrally, and includes an allocation for MOD. For armed forces personnel employed at one of MOD's Permanent Joint Overseas Bases (PJOBs), stockpiles of the Tamiflu antiviral have been pre-positioned within the PJOB logistics chain for rapid deployment if necessary. For those on operational deployment in Iraq, Afghanistan or elsewhere, supplies are held by Permanent Joint Headquarters, and will be deployed to theatre as required.

Supplies of face-masks are already held in-theatre and will be used with other appropriate preventative measures in the event of a pandemic outbreak of influenza.

Armed Forces: Leave

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to reduce leave entitlement during operational tours. [175320]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Armed forces personnel take rest and recuperation (R and R) while on operational tours. R and R is not leave. There are no plans to change the amount of R and R for which personnel are eligible.

Armed Forces: Legal Opinion

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether armed forces chiefs receive allowances for the commissioning of legal advice. [172005]

Des Browne: There are no allowances payable to service personnel for the commissioning of legal advice.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what legal advice is available to armed forces chiefs for official purposes; and whether such advice was sought before the invasion of Iraq in 2003. [172006]

Des Browne: Internal legal advice is available to armed forces chiefs from the legal branches of their respective services and from the MOD's Director General Legal Services as appropriate. Any such advice is subject to legal professional privilege.

Armed Forces: Personnel Management

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 23 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 173W, on armed forces: personnel management, how many underpayments there were to Royal Air Force personnel between 1 January 2007 and 30 September 2007 classified by category of error; how many of these underpayments have now been corrected; and what changes have been made to the *(a)* payment system and *(b)* departmental processes following these errors. [174135]

Derek Twigg: From 1 January 2007 to 30 September 2007, other than a Change of Rank (see serial number 6 in the following table), there were no Joint Personnel Administrative system errors which affected RAF basic pay. During this period 1.83 million payments were made. Details of the Royal Air Force underpayments are given in the following table:

Serial	*Type of Error*	*Service*	*Number*	*Action taken*
	January			
1	Substitution Pay	RN and RAF[1]	620	Error corrected. Supplementary payroll run, payments one day late into bank. Average underpayment value of £150 per person.
	March			
2	Flying Pay for Reserve Band Pilot Officers, Navigators and Observers	RN and RAF[1]	54	Data and records manually correct and payments made. Average underpayment value of £170 per person.
	June			
3	Incorrect Statutory Maternity Pay (SMP)	All[1]	90	Error corrected. SMP now being processed correctly. Individuals underpaid by 4 days salary per month.
4	Reservists' Home to Duty Travel (HDT) allowance	All[1]	10,752	Error corrected. All outstanding payments made in September. Average value distance related, typically £20 to £30 per person.
	September			
5	Non-Commissioned Officer Flying Pay	RAF	12	Error corrected. Refunds of Flying Pay paid in October. Underpayment typically 12 per cent. of that month's salary.
6	Change of Rank	RAF	666	Records manually corrected. Automated process refined. All records corrected for October's pay run. Underpayment of promotion uplift, typically 5 per cent. of basic pay.

[1] The numbers of Royal Air Force personnel affected by these issues could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Service personnel who have been underpaid can request cash advances from their units.

Service personnel who have been underpaid can request cash advances from their units.

Armed Forces: Weapons

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which less-than-lethal weapons and non-lethal weapons are available for use by armed forces personnel; how many personnel are qualified for those weapons in each branch of the forces; and how much training is required annually to maintain that qualification. [173721]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The only non-lethal weapons used by our armed forces are the L104 and L67 baton guns. Information on the number of personnel trained in the use of these weapons is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Neither of these weapons is permanently held by units; they are issued to meet the requirements of specific theatres of operation.

When these weapons are required, nominated personnel will receive appropriate training in their use prior to deployment. Those personnel trained in handling such weapons, who are required to maintain their proficiency, will need to pass a weapons handling test every six months and take part in an annual weapons assessment shoot as is the case for any weapon.

In addition to baton rounds, these weapons can also be used to fire a CS gas grenade, the L96A1, for law enforcement operations at the discretion of unit commanders in theatre. The necessary instruction is delivered during unit pre-deployment training.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Supercat vehicle is classed as a *(a)* protected, *(b)* unprotected or *(c)* patrol vehicle. [175210]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We have a number of Supacat-based vehicles, used for specialist roles. The most numerous are the All Terrain Mobility Platform (ATMP), and the Mobility-Weapon Mount Installation Kit (M-WMIK) which will enter service shortly.

The ATMP does not have a specific classification. It was procured as a lightweight load carrying vehicle used by airborne and airmobile units.

The M-WMIK, like all WMIK vehicles, is designed as a carrier for medium support weapons, providing high levels of terrain accessibility, situational awareness and firepower. It complements the use of Protected Patrol Vehicles.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles: Afghanistan

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 6 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1402W, on armoured fighting vehicles: Afghanistan, whether the 170 Vector vehicles are in addition to the 160 previously ordered. [173963]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We have ordered over 170 Vector vehicles in all, comprising a small number of specialist ambulances in addition to the original order.

Army's Total Fleet Requirement 2007

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the Army's Total Fleet Requirement 2007. [174482]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will arrange for a copy of the most recently endorsed Army's Total Fleet Requirement, from 2006, to be placed in the Library of the House.

AWE Burghfield

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what operational restrictions have been imposed at AWE Burghfield following the report from the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate. [172494]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) now requires AWE plc to seek prior authorisation for assembly/disassembly work. Such activities have always been allowed to proceed, with no impact on operations at AWE Burghfield, which remains fully operational and safe.

It is emphasised that, if NII believed a particular operation were unsafe, it would not allow it to take place, and has appropriate regulatory powers at its disposal to cease operations. AWE Burghfield remains operational as the NII is satisfied that all appropriate licence conditions are being met by AWE plc.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence why AWE Burghfield did not meet the deadline of 27 September to address the shortfalls identified as a result of its periodic review of safety. [172496]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Some of the issues identified by AWE plc as a result of its periodic review of safety required the procurement of specialist equipment where the acquisition time was such that the equipment could not be brought into service by the deadline of 27 September. Consequently, the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) has agreed a new programme of work with AWE plc. It is important to note that NII is satisfied that appropriate progress is being made at AWE Burghfield to address the findings of the periodic review of safety.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what safety care shortfalls were identified by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate at AWE Burghfield. [172497]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The safety case issues in question were identified not by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII), but by AWE plc in its own periodic review of safety. These were associated primarily with risk assessment techniques and the clarity of audit trails. A revised safety case addressing these issues was adopted in September 2007 and NII is satisfied that appropriate progress is being made at AWE Burghfield to address the findings of the periodic review of safety.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what responses he has made to the letter from the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate dated 9th May, Annex 1, with particular reference to its conclusions on the safety of continuing to operate at AWE Burghfield; and if he will make a statement. [172498]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The letter from the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) was to AWE plc and not MOD. MOD officials work very closely with both the AWE nuclear site licensee, AWE plc, and the external regulator, the NII The latter is satisfied that operations at AWE Burghfield are safe and the Department's internal nuclear safety regulator supports this position. No useful purpose could therefore be served by the intervention of the Secretary of State for Defence in matters which are essentially for AWE plc to address with the NII.

AWE Management

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* name, *(b)* function, *(c)* estimated cost and *(d)* projected in-service date is of each of the 23 new build projects in the Atomic Weapons Establishment Site Development Context Plan 2005-15. [170844]

Des Browne: The 23 projects included in each of the functions in the Atomic Weapons Establishment Site Development Context Plan 2005-15 are listed in the following table. Where applicable, the names of projects are indicated where they have been finalised. The function of each project correlates with the headings in the plan. Costs not shown are being withheld as their disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice commercial interests. Projected in-service dates are shown in five-year bandings in order to avoid prejudice to national security and/or defence interests.

These facilities are required to support the UK's current warhead in-service. Decisions on whether and how we may need to refurbish or replace this warhead are likely to be necessary in the next Parliament.

Name of project	*Cost (£m)*[1]	*Function*
Projected in-service period 2007-10		
Orion Laser	183	Testing/research
IT server buildings (two projects)	30	Computer/ communications
New office accommodation Phase 1	71	Office and business support accommodation
New office accommodation Phase 2	—	Office and business support accommodation
New office accommodation Phase 3	—	Office and business support accommodation
Modular accommodation five buildings	25	Office and business support accommodation
Car park	0.1	Office and business support
Car park	—	Office and business support
Landscaping	—	Environmental
Projected in-service period 2011-15		
Small components interim	—	Manufacturing/ production
High explosives climatic trials	—	Manufacturing/ production
Warhead assembly/disassembly	—	Manufacturing/ production
Systems engineering	—	Manufacturing/ production
Hydrodynamics	—	Testing/research
High performance computer	—	Computing/ communications
High explosives fabrication	—	Manufacturing/ production
Chemical processing	—	Manufacturing/ production
Landscaping	—	Environmental
Projected in-service period 2016-20		
Uranium components	—	Manufacturing/ production
High explosives assembly for trials	—	Testing/research
Small components	—	Testing/research
Laboratory	—	Testing/research

[1] 2007-08 prices.

Ballistic Missile Defence

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what requests he has received from the United States administration to use RAF Menwith Hill as part of the US Missile Defense System since 1st January 2001; and if he will place copies of those requests in the Library. [173866]

Des Browne: The US administration's request for missile warning data being routed through RAF Menwith Hill for use in the US missile defense system was received in a classified letter dated 29 June 2007. It is not the practice of the Government to make public the details of correspondence with foreign governments as this would, or would be likely to, prejudice international relations.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter he received on 29 June 2007 from the United States requesting the use of RAF Menwith Hill as part of the US Ballistic Missile Defence programme. [175472]

Des Browne: It is not the practice of the Government to make public the details of classified correspondence with foreign governments as this would, or would be likely to, prejudice international relations.

Bombs

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what definition the Government uses of *(a)* smart and *(b)* dumb cluster munitions; what munitions it will ban in accordance with the Oslo process; and if he will consider banning all forms of cluster munitions. [170146]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Dr. Howells) gave on 4 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1131W.

Contracts

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average rate of increase of indices used in variation of price formulae for fixed price contracts was in each financial year since 1997-98. [176282]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provide only at disproportionate cost.

Corporate Hospitality

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which members of *(a)* the Defence Council, *(b)* the Defence Management Board, *(c)* Defence Equipment and Support, *(d)* Defence Estates, *(e)* Science, Innovation and Technology TLB and *(f)* Central TLB attended the reception hosted by defence equipment manufacturers at the Automobile Club in London on Tuesday 18 September 2007. [175951]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Defence Analytical Services Agency: Forecasts

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will place in the Library copies of each of the Defence Analytical Service Agency's quarterly 'what if' fuel price forecasts issued since 2001-02; [176287]

(2) if he will place in the Library copies of each annual review of the Defence Analytical Service Agency's 'what if' fuel price forecast model issued since 2001-02. [176288]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Details of these forecasts are not available for this period as the Defence Analytical Services Agency does not routinely retain this information.

Defence Analytical Services Agency: Publications

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which statistical publications have been produced by the Defence Analytical Services Agency since 1997. [176286]

Derek Twigg: The external statistical publications produced by the Defence Analytical Services Agency are available on the DASA website at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk

Information in some instances goes back as far as 2001 or 2000. UK Defence Statistics, the annual statistical compendium of the Ministry of Defence is available on the website back to 1997.

Prior to the establishment of the website, the following titles were published in printed form:

TSP01 - Strength, Intake and Outflow of UK Regular Forces (Monthly)

TSP02 - UK Armed Forces Full Time Strengths and Requirements (Quarterly)

TSP03 - UK Armed Forces Trained Strengths and Requirements (Monthly)

TSP04 - Quarterly Press Release

TSP05 - Trained Outflow to Civil Life (Quarterly)

TSP06 - Global Location of UK Regular Forces[1] (Quarterly)

TSP07 - Reserve Forces (Annual)

TSP08 - Age Distribution (Annual)

TSP09 - Rank Structure of UK Regular Forces (Quarterly)

TSP10 - UK Regular Forces Stationed Location (Quarterly)

TSP11 - Marital Status by Paid Rank (Annual)

TSP13 - UK Regular Forces servicemen age on entry[2] (Annual)

TSP15 - UK Service Personnel on loan to other countries[2] (Quarterly)

TSP16 - UK Regular Forces disciplinary convictions[2] (Annual)

TSP19 - Intake to and Outflow from UK Regular Forces (Annual)

TSP20 - Male Regular Forces outflow by rank[2] (Annual)

TSP22 - UK Regular Forces comparative statistics[2] (Annual)

TSP24 - Strength of uniformed medical staff[2] (Annual)

CPS01 - Civilian Personnel Statistics (Quarterly)

CPS02 - Regional analysis of resignations for admin and science group staff[1] (Quarterly)

[1] TSP06 was merged into TSP10 from January 2007.

[2] Publication discontinued.

Defence Analytical Services Agency: Standards

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of all extant Defence Analytical Services Agency service level agreements. [176285]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Yes, copies of Defence Analytical Services Agency (DASA) extant service level agreements (SLA) are being collated. I will arrange to place copies in the Library of the House when this work is complete.

Defence Equipment and Support Organisation: Private Sector

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many secondees from the private sector are working within the Defence Equipment and Support Organisation at Abbey Wood. [173409]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 11 December 2007]:* As at 1 December 2007 there were 79 non-MOD employees working at MOD Abbey Wood. The number of these who were secondees from the private sector within Defence Equipment and Support is not recorded separately.

Defence Equipment and Support: Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) in what ways Defence Equipment and Support encourages competition in the supply chain in order to ensure value for money; [174787]

(2) in what ways the Defence Suppliers Service encourages competition in the supply chain to ensure better value for money. [175272]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department seeks effective competition at the prime and sub-contract level, using the Defence Contracts Bulletin and, where appropriate, the Official Journal of the European Union to publicise future requirements including competitive sub-contract opportunities.

The Ministry of Defence is currently reviewing its policy in relation to supply networks. One of the aims of the policy is to address the issue of competition and value for money in the supply chain.

Defence Equipment: Procurement

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on the programmes for *(a)* Type-45 destroyers, *(b)* Astute submarines, *(c)* MARS and *(d)* CVF; and what is expected to be spent on each project in each of the next seven years. [172144]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Expenditure up to 31 March 2007 for the Type 45 Destroyer and the Astute submarine programmes was reported on 30 November 2007 in the National Audit Office's Major Projects Report 2007 and is reproduced in the following table:

Programme	*£ million*
Type 45	3,477
Astute	2,539

Expenditure up to 31 March 2007 for the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability (MARS) and CVF programmes is shown in the following table:

Programme	*£ million*
MARS	10.5
CVF	374.9

Detailed spending plans are kept under review.

Defence Estates: Charities

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether his Department charges charitable organisations for public liability insurance for events held on departmental property; [171348]

(2) what arrangements are made for public liability insurance for events organised by charitable organisations held on his Department's property; [171349]

(3) if he will make it his policy not to charge charitable organisations for events held on departmental property; [171351]

(4) whether his Department charges charitable organisations for events held on departmental property; and if he will make a statement. [171346]

Derek Twigg: Under Government Finance Accounting Regulations (Managing Public Money), there are no special arrangements for the treatment of charities, whether service or other. The fact that a charity is to be the main beneficiary of a good or service is not in itself sufficient justification to introduce a special charging regime or to set charges aside. There is the opportunity for abatement of full costs and this decision is on a case-by-case basis taking account of any special circumstances that may apply.

All privately-run events on departmental property, whether charitable or other are required to be covered by public liability insurance. This requirement is passed on to the organiser who is responsible for ensuring that appropriate cover is in place. Where commercial insurance is either not available or only at disproportionate cost, then organisers are charged under a Departmental Insurance Scheme.

Defence Manufacturers Association

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidelines his Department issues to staff at *(a)* his Department, *(b)* Defence Equipment and Support staff and *(c)* members of the armed forces on attending events organised by the Defence Manufacturers' Association. [174785]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD Statement of Civilian and Service Personnel Policy Annex: Gifts, Rewards and Hospitality issued by the People, Pay and Pensions Agency, provides Departmental guidance to all MOD Civilian staff and Service personnel on the rules governing the way in which individuals should react to offers of gifts, hospitality or other considerations from private companies and defence contractors that have a contractual relationship with the MOD. This will include the Defence Manufacturers Association and associated member companies.

Defence Equipment and Support (D E and S) have issued additional separate guidelines to all D E and S officials on attendance at external events and conferences.

Defence Suppliers Service

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Defence Suppliers' Service maintains a list of preferred suppliers. [174783]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No.

Defence: Finance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what recent discussions he has had with HM Treasury on payments for urgent operational requirements; [174493]

(2) whether urgent operational requirements are paid for from the Treasury Reserve; [174500]

(3) pursuant to his statement of 12 November 2007 that the defence budget will receive an additional £200 million in 2010-11, *Official Report*, column 500, what the revised *(a)* near cash resource departmental expenditure limit (DEL), *(b)* non-cash resource DEL and *(c)* capital DEL is. [174554]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The first £100 million of the additional £200 million in the defence budget for 2010-11 was included in the MOD's capital departmental expenditure limits (DEL) announced in the comprehensive spending review. HM Treasury has agreed that a further £100 million will be added to the defence budget in 2010-11, which will bring the capital DEL funding to £8,971 million in 2010-11. There will be no change to the near cash or the non-cash resource DEL.

Defence Ministers have frequent discussions with colleagues from HM Treasury on a range of issues.

Urgent operational requirements are, and will continue to be, paid up front in full from the Treasury Reserve. We have agreed a new overall funding arrangement with HM Treasury for the funding of UORs for the comprehensive spending review period

as I set out in my statement to the House on 12 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 500. This arrangement is designed to be cost neutral to defence.

Defence: ICT

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the merits of switching to the Defence Information Infrastructure version F computer system from the Defence Information Infrastructure version C; and if he will make a statement. [175017]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* The long-term aim of the MOD is to implement a single information infrastructure across Defence; the Defence Information Infrastructure Future (DII(F)). The Defence Information Infrastructure Convergence (DII(C)) project was implemented at specific sites to bridge the gap between ageing legacy systems in MOD, which were going out of service, and DII(F) being available.

DII(F) is being rolled out now to become the primary information infrastructure across the MOD and is replacing many ageing legacy systems and DII(C) as planned. DII(F) will provide common core infrastructure services which meet the security, technical and interoperability demands of the MOD jointly across the business and battle space and will provide access to the applications required to support and enable the delivery of MOD's outputs.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated cost is of changing from Defence Information Infrastructure version F to Defence Information Infrastructure version C; and how many officials worked on making the change. [175018]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* Defence Information Infrastructure Convergence (DII(C)) was a precursor infrastructure to Defence Information Infrastructure Future (DII(F)) and was only implemented for a subset of the eventual DII(F) user community. DII(C) was implemented at specific sites to bridge the gap between the ageing legacy systems in MOD going out of service and DII(F) being available. DII(C) will eventually be subsumed by DII(F).

Defence: Lobbying

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidance is in place for *(a)* his officials and *(b)* officials at (i) the Defence Suppliers Service and (ii) Defence Equipment and Support Organisation on meetings with lobbyists employed by defence contractors. [174788]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No specific guidance is issued to MOD officials regarding the meeting of lobbyists employed by defence contractors. However, all MOD Crown servants (including members of the armed forces) are expected to conduct themselves at meetings with representatives of defence contractors in accordance with MOD policy on the acceptance of gifts, rewards and hospitality and the civil service code.

Defence: Procurement

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list for each of the last four years the principal items of military equipment acquired under the Urgent Operational Requirements procedures which have been transferred to his Department's budget; when they were so transferred; and what proportion of Urgent Operational Requirements acquired equipment in the 2007-08 financial year he expects to be charged to his Department's budget in 2007-08. [164657]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: When there is an enduring requirement for Urgent Operational Requirement (UOR) equipment, it is brought into the core defence programme. This is usually at the end of the operation. Continuing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan mean that we have not yet brought a significant number of UORs into core.

UORs brought into core have only been recorded centrally by MOD since 2005. Principal UORs taken into core since 2005 include enhanced armour and environment modifications for Challenger II; AS90 environmental enhancement to operate in extreme hot, dry conditions; tactical Global Positioning Systems; Helmet Mounted Night Vision Systems; and additional weapons stocks.

We have not yet taken decisions on UORs to be brought into our core programme in the current financial year as the planning round has not yet concluded.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on spare parts for equipment by *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Royal Navy and *(c)* the Royal Air Force in each of the last five financial years. [174238]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The total defence equipment and support (DE&S) expenditure on capital spares additions in each of the last four financial years (to the nearest £ million) is provided in the following table. Individual capital account codes did not exist within the Department's financial systems prior to Financial Year 2003-04. Previous information for Financial Year 2002-03 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	£ million
2003-04	581
2004-05	439
2005-06	385
2006-07	409

The breakdown by Front Line Command for Financial Years 2005-06 and 2006-07 is given in the following table. Information broken down for Financial Years 2003-04 and 2004-05 (to the required accuracy) could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Service	2005-06	£ million 2006-07
Army	82	109
Royal Navy	45	55
Royal Air Force	248	228
Joint service/others	10	17
Total	385	409

It should be noted that these figures do not include any expenditure for non-balance sheet low value spare parts for equipment.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria have to be fulfilled for a would-be defence supplier to become a prime contractor; and how a decision on the matter is made. [175041]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In response to business need, the Department assesses any potential supplier's eligibility against a number of standard objective criteria including capability, quality, financial and legal status, organisation, and supply chain management. The potential supplier is also assessed against project-specific criteria pertinent to the particular requirement.

Departmental Assets

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what total value of *(a)* land and *(b)* facilities is surplus to his Department's foreseeable purposes in Northern Ireland; and what plans he has to dispose of such assets. [176656]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence keeps its estate, including that in Northern Ireland, under constant review to meet present and planned future requirements. Land and property that is no longer required is disposed of as quickly as possible.

It is the Department's normal policy to dispose of such surplus assets at market value in accordance with the guidance set out in "Managing Public Money".

Sites are disposed of by means of a competitive process in order to ensure best value for defence. Therefore, it would not be appropriate to release expected receipts as it might impact on future negotiations with potential purchasers.

A list of all sites currently in disposal is available in the Library of the House.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total value of *(a)* land and *(b)* facilities gifted, donated or loaned to local community initiatives by his Department was in each region of the UK in each of the last 10 years. [176657]

Derek Twigg: The gifting of land and facilities over £100,000 (£250,000 since 1 April 2005) requires the approval of HM Treasury and Parliament. Details of gifts below that level are not held centrally. Since 1997 the following value of gifts of land and facilities, in support of local community initiatives, have been reported in the departmental accounts following approval by Parliament:

	£ million
Northern Ireland	
2002-03	6.4
2003-04	13.0
South East	
2005-06	0.35

The MOD does not loan facilities for local community initiatives except in so far as these constitute welfare facilities for the armed forces. Any land and facilities that are surplus to defence requirements are disposed of in accordance with "Managing Public Money" issued by HM Treasury.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what total value of his Department's *(a)* land and *(b)* buildings was sold in each region of the UK in each of the last 10 years. [176658]

Derek Twigg: This Department does not keep a separate record of the value raised from the sale of land and buildings in each region of the UK and such a breakdown could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the total accrued disposal receipts for each year since 1998-99 (the earliest year available) were as follows:

Financial year	£ million
1998-99	59
1999-2000	301
2000-01	225
2001-02	185
2002-03	279
2003-04	207
2004-05	212
2005-06	258
2006-07	394

These figures are taken from the Defence Estates annual reports and accounts, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what mechanism exists for liaison between his Department and the Northern Ireland Office when considering disposal of departmental *(a)* land and *(b)* buildings in Northern Ireland. [176659]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is required to obtain market value when disposing of surplus assets. In Northern Ireland all surplus MOD assets are advised to the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFM/DFM) at the earliest opportunity. OFM/DFM circulates details to Northern Ireland Government Departments.

We have also committed to adhere to the "clearing house" process used by Northern Ireland Government Departments under which details of surplus MOD assets are circulated to Northern Ireland Government Departments and agencies. This process is managed by the Central Advisory Unit (CAU) of Land and Property Services. Northern Ireland Government Departments and agencies may register interest through the CAU who notifies MOD accordingly.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what account is taken of community cohesion when considering the disposal of departmental *(a)* land and *(b)* buildings in Northern Ireland. [176660]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence is required to obtain market value when disposing of surplus assets, and follows procedures laid down in "Managing Public Money" and particular processes applicable to Northern Ireland. The Department works closely with the Northern Ireland Office when disposing of surplus assets to allow other Northern Ireland Government Departments and agencies to express an interest. We also work closely with the local authorities and other key stakeholders when considering its disposal strategy and the most appropriate alternative use, taking into account the requirements of the local community. This will often include an assessment of development and regeneration opportunities through the preparation of a planning brief or outline planning application which can be taken forward by prospective purchasers.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will consider gifting his Department's land and facilities to local communities to promote inter-community cohesion initiatives. [176812]

Derek Twigg: Land and facilities that are surplus to defence requirements are disposed of in accordance with HM Treasury's "Managing Public Money" guidance. Any gifting with a value in excess of £250,000 requires both Treasury and parliamentary approval.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many air miles were travelled by Ministers in his Department in each year since 2000; and what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as a result; [172228]

(2) how many air miles were travelled by *(a)* the Secretary of State and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department on short haul flights over the last 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as a result of these flights. [172455]

Derek Twigg: Since 1999 the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the current financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. From next year, the list will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

All central Government ministerial and official air travel has been offset from 1 April 2006. Departmental aviation emissions are calculated on an annual basis and subsequently offset through payments to a central fund. The fund purchases certified emissions reductions credits from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with sustainable development benefits, located in developing countries.

In addition, offsetting the flights of Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development, and the Prime Minister has been backdated to 1 April 2005.

A list of Government Carbon Offsetting Fund members, their emission figures and what activities they have offset through the fund is available online at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/carbonoffset/government.htm

Departmental Coordination

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 309W, on Departmental Coordination, on what date his Department was consulted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. [176152]

Des Browne: I refer my right hon. Friend to my answer of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 395W.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent by his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by his Department for this purpose. [173843]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Expenditure Limits

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Winter Supplementary Estimates (HC 29), for what reasons he plans to transfer £70 million from voted capital departmental expenditure limit to non-voted near cash resource departmental expenditure limit; and if he will make a statement. [175445]

Derek Twigg: The transfer of £70 million from voted capital departmental expenditure limit to non-voted near cash resource departmental expenditure limit relates to a planned increase in the cash release of provisions. Under arrangements agreed in the 2004 spending review, increases in the cash release of provisions (which score as non-voted DEL) are offset against voted near cash provision.

Departmental Finance

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will break down his Department's RfR1 near cash resource expenditure by *(a)* value and *(b)* standard industrial classification for each financial year since 2001-02; [176293]

(2) if he will break down his Department's RfR1 capital expenditure by *(a)* value and *(b)* standard industrial classification for each financial year since 2001-02. [176294]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Estimates of aggregate MOD cash expenditure in UK industry and commerce, by standard industrial classification (SIC), are published in the annual United Kingdom Defence Statistics, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. This analysis, however, is not fully compatible with the Treasury RfR framework, as it measures only cash expenditure and excludes non-cash costs such as depreciation; it includes both capital and resource expenditure; and it does not cover expenditure overseas incurred by the Department. It is likely also to include expenditure which may be claimed under RfR2 (Conflict Prevention). Identification of RfR1 near cash expenditure by SIC could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of the Freedom of Information requests his Department has received in the last 12 months were answered with *(a)* the information requested, *(b)* a refusal and *(c)* a partial disclosure (i) within 20 working days and (ii) after more than 20 working days. [175321]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence received 3,103 Freedom of Information requests in the period from October 2006 to September 2007, the most recent 12-month period for which statistics are available. Of these requests, 2,571, 83 per cent., were answered within 20 working days. 532 requests (17 per cent.) required longer than 20 working days to answer. However, in 148 of these cases (5 per cent. of the total received), the delay was authorised by a legitimate extension of the 20-working day time limit, permitted under the Freedom of Information Act; the Department, therefore, answered 88 per cent. of requests for information 'in-time'.

Of the total requests for information received, 2,639 were deemed 'resolvable', i.e. it was possible to make a substantive decision on the release of the information sought, as distinct from those cases where the Department does not hold the information requested, or where the request is withdrawn or altered by the applicant. 1,810 (69 per cent.) of these resolvable requests were answered in full with all the information requested, 354 (13 per cent.) requests were refused in full; while 224 (8 per cent.) requests were answered by partial disclosure of the information requested. The remaining 10 per cent. of requests had not received a response at the time these statistics were collected, which is done by quarterly report.

Status of FOI requests by number and percentage for the period October 2006 to September 2007

Status	*Number*	*Percentage*
Information released	[1]1,810	69
Refusal	354	13
Partial release	224	8
Within 20 working days	2,571	83
>20 working days	[2]532	17
'In-time'	2,719	88

[1] Of 2,639 resolvable requests.
[2] 148 permitted extension.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the office costs for his Department's special advisers for 2007-08 are expected to be, including costs of support staff; and how many full-time equivalent civil servants work in support of such special advisers. [164929]

Derek Twigg: One civil servant is employed at the Ministry of Defence to provide dedicated support of a non-political nature to the special advisers in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers. The pay band for the post range between £24,700 and £33,250 per annum.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on special advisors in 2006-07; how much has been allocated for 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [172819]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 147-50WS.

Departmental Pay

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Departmental employees were paid *(a)* over £60,000 and *(b)* over £100,000 per annum, inclusive of bonuses, in the most recent financial year for which figures are available. [173102]

Derek Twigg: The numbers of civilian staff in the Ministry of Defence and its Agencies who received taxable pay (including salary, allowances and bonuses) of over £100,000 in financial year 2006-07 was some 70; the number who received over £60,000 was some 1,175. The nearest equivalent figures for members of the armed forces relates to salary levels including bonuses and specialist pay in the current year, where some 550 armed forces personnel receive salaries in excess of £100,000, and some 6,100 receive salaries in excess of £60,000.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total expenditure in near cash terms was in each financial year since 2000-01 as listed in his Department's resource account code hierarchy. [175446]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Ex-servicemen: Military Decorations

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people in each London constituency have received the veterans' badge in each of the last three years. [175369]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held in the format requested and can be provided only at disproportionate costs. However, we have identified from our records that a total number 3,612 badges have been issued to residents in the London area.

Hazardous Substances: Fort Halstead

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements are in place for the removal and transport of hazardous materials from Fort Halstead in Kent; what such materials have been removed from the site in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [175557]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Fort Halstead site is owned by QinetiQ but leased to the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl), who have a 90-year lease. The transportation of hazardous material from the site is managed by the Dstl Facilities Management Provider, Serco.

Over the last five years the hazardous materials transported have included sealed radioactive materials, explosives and a variety of toxic or harmful chemicals. All of these materials have been transported following detailed risk assessments and in accordance with UK legislation, e.g. the use of controlled waste administrators and pre-qualified licensed carriers, and have been moved only to approved/licensed sites. In addition to this, as a duty of care, both Dstl and Serco have conducted sample audits of the process.

Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* planned and *(b)* actual average flying hours for each helicopter type in the (i) Army, (ii) Royal Navy and (iii) Royal Air Force was in each month of 2007. [175449]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Total planned and actual flying hours for each helicopter type in each of the three services from January to November 2007 are shown in the following tables:

Army Air Corps

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Apache AH1											
Planned hours	801	901	901	1,119	1,259	1,259	1,259	839	1,398	1,259	1,119
Total flown	1,165	948	832	839	1,130	979	1,202	838	918	1,020	1,132
Agusta A109											
Planned hours	80	90	90	80	90	90	90	60	100	90	80
Total flown	41	48	97	75	109	67	95	91	108	134	82
Gazelle											
Planned hours	898	1,011	1,011	1,186	1,334	1,334	1,334	889	1,482	1,334	1,186
Total flown	749	888	1,291	935	1,151	1,147	1,113	1,012	1,193	1,119	871
Lynx Mk 7 and 9											
Planned hours	1,480	1,666	1,666	1,152	1,296	1,296	1,296	864	1,440	1,296	1,152
Total flown	1,772	1,583	1,825	1,665	1,702	1,514	1,556	937	1,555	1,674	1,522

Royal Navy

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Lynx Mk3											
Planned hours	590	590	590	200	555	555	555	200	560	555	555
Total flown	732	617	463	443	569	568	449	318	707	684	599
Lynx Mk 8											
Planned hours	590	590	590	200	555	555	555	200	560	555	555
Total flown	571	497	564	495	515	542	479	245	446	430	489
Merlin Mk 1											
Planned hours	880	880	1,076	590	804	965	859	322	1,073	1,234	1,126
Total flown	511	522	575	632	691	736	624	293	651	704	519
Sea King Mk 4 and 6											
Planned hours	1,114	1,003	781	909	1,023	1,023	1,023	682	1,137	1,023	909
Total flown	1,124	996	1,033	839	1,044	1,031	896	735	998	992	923
Sea King Mk 5											
Planned hours	441	441	439	294	441	441	441	294	441	441	441
Total flown	340	342	450	351	325	410	409	286	375	458	320

Royal Navy

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Sea King Mk 7											
Planned hours	387	387	366	258	387	387	387	258	387	387	387
Total flown	221	217	239	447	577	285	283	39	262	230	259

Royal Air Force

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Chinook HC2/2a											
Planned hours	1,000	1,125	1,125	1,000	1,125	1,125	1,125	750	1,250	1,125	1,000
Total flown	1,053	997	1,140	961	1,189	1,075	1,233	1,179	1,167	1,255	1,087
Merlin HC Mk 3[1]											
Planned hours	403	520	578	473	414	473	503	532	503	562	590
Total flown	445	378	505	522	525	517	387	362	477	486	503
Puma HC Mk 1											
Planned hours	963	1,084	1,083	963	1,084	1,084	1,084	722	1,204	1,084	963
Total flown	999	837	1,059	937	835	1,026	977	759	791	782	815
Sea King HAR 3/3a											
Planned hours	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	900
Total flown	753	757	839	915	835	802	907	843	835	742	NYA

NYA = not yet available.
[1] Includes the first of the newly procured Merlin Mk 3 from November 2007.

Planned hours show the funded annual flying task for each aircraft type as agreed in annually agreed customer supplier agreements (CSA) between the Front Line Commands and Defence Equipment and Support. Actual hours flown includes both those flown in the UK for training as well as those deployed on operations. Hours flown in excess of the CSA on operations are funded by the Conflict Prevention Fund.

There is no requirement to hold data on average flying hours. CSA calculations are based on the total amount of flying hours that can be supported by the integrated project teams for a given aircraft type and are not broken down by individual airframe.

Helicopters: Procurement

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated average cost is of each of the Future Lynx helicopters to be delivered under the contract with the Finmeccanica group. [172588]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The value of the contract placed with Finmeccanica is approximately £1 billion (excluding VAT). This cost is for the development and manufacture of 70 aircraft.

Helicopters: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many training exercises were conducted by Apache and Chinook helicopter crews in each of the last five years; and what the *(a)* location and *(b)* type was of each. [174495]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of collective training exercises supported by both Apache and Chinook helicopter crews was seven in 2005, 13 in 2006 and 18 in 2007. Records are not held for collective training exercises conducted prior to 2005. The location and type of each exercise are shown in the following table. The number of collective training exercises supported by Chinook only and Apache only will take longer to collate. I will write to the hon. Member when this information is available. Aircrew training flights are too numerous to quantify.

	Exercise details	*Location*
2005	Exercise Iron Storm - 3 (UK) Division live firing Exercise.	UK wide.
2005	Qualified Helicopter Training Instructor Flying Phase - Air Crew Training Exercise.	Scotland.
2005 3 times	Exercise Bowman Vanguard - Fleet Collective Training Exercise	UK wide.
2005	Exercise Bowman Ord - Fleet Exercise part of HMS Ocean sea trials.	Sea trials.
2005	Exercise Argonaut - Fleet Collective training Exercise.	UK Wide.

	Exercise details	*Location*
2006	Exercise Herrick Eagle - 16 Brigade Herrick 4 Mission Rehearsal Exercise.	Salisbury Plain Training Area and Sennybridge Training Area.
2006	Exercise Southern Raider - 3 Commando Brigade Mission Rehearsal Exercise	Salisbury Plain Training Area and Sennybridge Training Area.
2006 5 times	OPTAG (Operational Training and Advisory Group) confirmation Exercises 3 Commando Brigade units Herrick 5 Pre Deployment Training.	Stanford Training Area.
2006	Exercise Iron Storm - 3 (UK) Division Capstone Combat Services Support Exercise for Engineer Regiments' Herrick 5 Pre Deployment Training.	UK Wide.
2006 5 times	OPTAG confirmation Exercises - 12 Division units Herrick 6 Pre Deployment Training.	Stanford Training Area.
2007	Exercise Desert Dragon - 12 Division Herrick 6 Mission Rehearsal Exercise	Salisbury Plain Training Area and Sennybridge Training Area.
2007	Exercise Pashtun Ace - 12 Division Close Combat Attack concentration as part of Herrick 6 Pre Deployment Training.	Otterburn Training Area.
2007 4 times	Ex Druid's Dance - 52 Brigade Herrick 7 Pre Deployment Training.	Sennybridge Training Area.
2007 5 times	OPTAG Confirmation Exercises - 52 Brigade units Herrick 7 Pre Deployment Training.	Stanford Training Area
2007	Exercise Desert Dragon - 52 Brigade Herrick 7 Mission Rehearsal Exercise.	Salisbury Plain Training Area and Sennybridge Training Area.
2007	Exercise Eagle's Eye - 16 Brigade Airborne Task Force validation Exercise.	Salisbury Plain Training Area.
2007 5 times	OPTAG Confirmation Exercises - 16 Brigade units Herrick 8 Pre Deployment.	Training on Stanford Training Area.

Influenza: Disease Control

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what documents dealing with contingency arrangements for an influenza pandemic have been *(a)* prepared by and *(b)* commissioned by his Department since 1 March 2005; and if he will make a statement. [175797]

Derek Twigg: Since October 2005 the MOD has been developing a generic Pan Defence Pandemic Flu Planning Framework document. This brings together activities which, for the most part, will be undertaken by Departmental operational commands and business units. In June 2006 the Business Continuity Policy team developed a generic influenza exercise scenario with the aid of the Health Protection Agency (HPA). Additionally, the Defence Medical Services Department (DMSD) has issued periodic policy guidance to the Single Services, designed to inform defence medical professionals, beginning in October 2005 when "Preparing for an Influenza Pandemic in UK" was issued. In January 2006 DMSD produced "Use of Influenza Vaccines and Anti-virals in the event of an Influenza Pandemic", and, in February 2007, "Pandemic Influenza – Infection Control Guidelines for Military Settings" was issued, produced by DMSD in collaboration with the HPA.

No external flu pandemic studies or reports have been commissioned.

Iran: Sequestration of Assets

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if the Government will take steps to sequester assets of the government of Iran in the UK to the value of the British military equipment which was seized in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2007; and if he will make a statement. [176065]

Des Browne: We will continue to pursue diplomatic means for the return of the boats and equipment seized by Iran in 2004 and 2007.

Iraq Conflict: Legal Opinion

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 840W, on Iraq conflict: legal opinion, whether such advice was commissioned using resources from the public purse. [172004]

Des Browne: No private legal advice was sought prior to the invasion of Iraq by any of the then armed forces Chiefs of Staff.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 481W, on Iraq: peacekeeping operations, what the estimated cost of providing medical services to employees of private military and security companies under Government contract in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan was in each of the last five years; what estimate he has made of the cost of procuring such services from the private sector; and if he will make a statement. [168453]

Des Browne *[holding answer 28 November 2007]:* In the last five years, the Ministry of Defence has contracted only two private military security companies both in 2007, one in Iraq and one in Afghanistan. Available records do not show any routine or emergency treatment having been provided

to employees of these companies. In order to confirm this categorically a trawl of all medical records would have to be undertaken, which would require a level of effort generating disproportionate cost to the benefit of the information provided.

There has been no estimate done on the cost of procuring such services for PMSCs from the private sector.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many convoy escort missions were conducted by British forces along Military Supply Route Tampa in Britain's area of operations in each month in 2007. [173732]

Des Browne: The Military Supply Route Tampa is one of numerous routes that British forces can use to conduct convoy missions.

I am withholding further information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

Legal Costs

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent, in near cash terms, on *(a)* legal fees, *(b)* legal fees incurred in relation to land acquisition/disposal and *(c)* legal fees incurred in relation to compensation payments, as listed in his Department's resource account code hierarchy, in each financial year since 2000-01. [169347]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The total resource costs of the expenditure items are set out in the following table.

£ million

Financial year	*Legal fees*	*Legal fees—land acquisition and disposal*	*Legal fees—compensation payments*
2000-01	38.7	0.9	28.9
2001-02	1.4	1.0	0.4
2002-03	2.0	1.5	[1]—
2003-04	3.0	0.4	[1]—
2004-05	5.2	1.0	1.6
2005-06	21.1	0.8	3.9
2006-07	7.7	8.4	7.6

[1] While the overall Operating Cost Statement (OCS) was correct, the balance relating to this resource account code in 2002-03 and 2003-04 incorrectly excluded expenditure to be offset by the utilisation of provisions resulting in an erroneous credit balance. (An estimate of the expense for the legal fee obligation is taken through the OCS in the year the obligation arises and held as a provision. When the obligation becomes a liability and the provision is utilised, a charge is made to the OCS and the provision is used to offset the expense in the OCS). The detailed data required to restate the correct expenditure for this specific resource accounting code have been archived and the restatement can be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

Near cash expenditure is not separately identified in the final resource accounts or the centrally held supporting records. Total resource costs have therefore been provided; however it is unlikely that there are any non cash costs attributed to the expenditure items which would result in the near cash expenditure being different from the resource expenditure. The creation of legal provisions is attributed to a different resource account code to those listed in the question.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many letters his Department received from hon. Members and Peers in each session of Parliament since 1997. [174936]

Derek Twigg: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/Peers correspondence. Information relating to 2007 will be published as soon as it has been collated. The report for 2006 was published on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 101-04WS. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

Mercian Regiment

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the peace establishment was of the 2nd Battalion the Mercian Regiment before its deployment to Afghanistan; what the strength was of the Battalion; how many reinforcements to the Battalion were received from *(a)* the regular Army, *(b)* the Territorial Army and *(c)* the regular Army Reserves; how many of all ranks were (i) left behind on recruitment duties, (ii) physically unfit to deploy and (iii) left behind in barracks to form a rear party; and what the Battalion's battle casualty replacement policy was. [175390]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 18 December 2007]:* Prior to deploying to Afghanistan in March 2007, the peace time establishment of the 2nd Battalion Mercian Regiment was 559; the battalion's strength was 466; it received additional reinforcements of 58 Regular Army and 17 Territorial Army Personnel; and no reinforcements from the Regular Army Reserves. Two individuals remained on recruitment duties and 75 soldiers remained in barracks to form the rear party, 37 of whom were unfit to deploy.

The policy on battle casualty replacement was to utilise appropriately trained deployable personnel, who would be received into the unit's rear party. In order to rectify a deficiency arising in a specific skill, replacements would be requested from other units in theatre or if necessary an individual would be deployed forward from the United Kingdom or British forces in Germany.

Military Aircraft

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contribution he expects the purchase of a sixth C-17 Globe Master to make to his Department's heavy lift strategy. [172560]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 10 December 2007]:* The sixth C-17 will deliver a significant increase in our ability to transport personnel and equipment, including large cargo, over strategic distances, particularly in support of our current operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many accidents have taken place involving *(a)* Puma, *(b)* Merlin, *(c)* Chinook and *(d)* Sea King RAF helicopters since 2001; how many British service personnel were killed or wounded as a result in each case; and whether (i) equipment failure and (ii) pilot error were contributory factors in each case. [171010]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Accidents involving the requested types of helicopter, in which the aircraft suffered category 4 (major damage, repairable off-site) and category 5 (write-off) since 2001 are given in the following table:

Date	*Aircraft*	*Location*	*Injured*	*Killed*
9 April 2001	Puma XW200	Kosovo	1	2
16 August 2001	Sea King XZ599	RAF St. Mawgan	2	
21 January 2002	Puma XW214	Ballykelly, NI	1	
16 March 2002	Puma[2] XW227	Jonesborough, NI	[1]3	
19 July 2004	Puma XW221	Basra, Iraq	2	1
10 April 2006	Chinook[1] ZA654	Afghanistan		
1 April 2007	(Puma[1] XW211	Iraq		2
1 April 2007	Puma[1] XW218	Iraq	9	3
8 August 2007	Puma[2] ZA934	Catterick, N. Yorkshire	2	2
20 November 2007	Puma[2] ZA938	Iraq		

[1] These accidents are still under investigation.
[2] In addition, there was one civilian passenger injured in this incident.

There have been no accidents involving Merlin helicopters since 2001.

Where the cause has been determined, none of the accidents has been attributed to major equipment failure.

Military Bases: Carbon Emissions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the total cost incurred by military bases in the UK in relation to the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. [175983]

Derek Twigg: On 12 July 2007, I placed in the Library of the House a table detailing the Ministry of Defence (MOD) costs for 2005 of participating in the first year of Phase 1 of the EU European Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS).

The table details MOD sites registered in the scheme, the number of free allowances, actual carbon dioxide emissions, scheme administration costs and additional allowance costs.

Details of the cost to MOD of the second year of Phase 1 of the scheme, are currently being compiled and a table will be placed in the Library of the House when this is complete.

Phase 2 of the EU ETS will commence on the 1 January 2008. As details have yet to be made available for the operation of the scheme it is not currently possible to compile a meaningful estimate of the likely cost to MOD of participating in Phase 2.

Minimum Wage

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many London-based staff are employed by his Department on the national minimum wage. [175980]

Derek Twigg: None.

Ministerial Duties

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what average percentage of his working week has been taken up by his duties as Secretary of State for Defence. [169993]

Des Browne *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the oral answer I gave to the hon. Member for Blaby (Mr. Robathan) on 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 557-60.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the job descriptions of his special advisers. [172303]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 147-50WS.

National Identity Register

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has to make use of data on the national identity register when it is established; and what the estimated cost to his Department of that use is. [174039]

Derek Twigg: The MOD will be working with the Home Office prior to the introduction of the national identity scheme to establish how identity information held on the proposed national identity register might be used to provide easier access to MOD's services for our customers. It is too early in the process to establish the detailed costs and benefits.

Nimrod Aircraft

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the review into the Nimrod conducted by Mr. Charles Haddon-Cave QC to be published. [176269]

Des Browne: I have nothing to add to the written ministerial statement I made in the House on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 50WS. It is too early to speculate on a possible timescale for publication.

Nuclear Submarines

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 13th December 2007, *Official Report*, column 778W, on nuclear submarines, what safeguards are in place to prevent UK submarine commanders launching a nuclear attack on their own initiative; and if he will make a statement. [175623]

Des Browne: There are a number of technological and procedural safeguards built into the UK's nuclear deterrent to prevent an unauthorised launch of its Trident missiles. Any launch of a Trident missile would require a large proportion of the submarine's crew to act in concert. I am withholding further details as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Nuclear Submarines: Decommissioning

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of the decommissioning of the Vanguard Class submarines; and if he will make a statement. [169442]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Nuclear decommissioning costs are the subject of current work within the Department. When this work is complete, I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Nuclear Weapons: Finance

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much he plans to spend on a replacement for the UK strategic nuclear deterrent in each year of procurement; and whether this spending is included in the overall allocation for his Department announced as part of the conclusions of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review. [175589]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1357-58W, to the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey) and chapter D8 of the Comprehensive Spending Review White Paper (CM 7227).

Spending plans for 2011-12 and beyond will be set as part of the Government's spending review process.

Official Engagements

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his official engagements were between 1 and 21 November 2007. [169459]

Des Browne: My official engagements as Secretary of State for Defence and Secretary of State for Scotland, throughout the period 1 November to 21 November, included various meetings in London and Scotland, including with ministerial colleagues and officials from the MOD and Scotland Office.

On Thursday 1 and Friday 2 November I was overseas visiting Service personnel serving in Iraq. On Monday 5 November I met with the HBOS in Scotland. On Tuesday 6 November I attended the State Opening of Parliament. On Wednesday 7 November I hosted the French Defence Minister for bilateral discussions in London. On Thursday 8 November I attended the British Torch of Remembrance ceremony at Westminster Abbey and met with National Grid. On Friday 9 November I visited Diageo with my hon. Friend the Member for Ochil and South Perthshire (Gordon Banks). On Saturday 10 November I attended the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance 2007 event and, on Sunday 11 November, I attended the Remembrance Ceremony at the Cenotaph. On Monday 12 November I met EU ambassadors in London, hosted by the Portuguese ambassador, before attending the Defence debate in the House of Commons. On Tuesday 13 November I met separately with the National Farmers Union Scotland and Scottish Financial Enterprise. On Wednesday 14 November I attended a Sailor, Soldier, Airmen and Families Association reception. On Thursday 15 November I hosted the Romanian Defence Minister for bilateral discussions in London. On Friday 16 November I hosted a reception in Edinburgh for Polish National Day. On Sunday 18 and Monday 19 November I was in Brussels attending a meeting of EU Defence Ministers. On Tuesday 20 November I met with The Crown Prince of Bahrain.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what his official engagements were from 22 to 28 November; [170828]

(2) what his official engagements were from 22 November to 10 December. [173719]

Des Browne: Throughout the period 22 November to 10 December, I had various meetings in London and Scotland, including with ministerial colleagues and officials from the MOD and Scotland Office. On 22 November, I had a meeting with the Columbian Defence Minister and a meeting with the Turkish Chief of Defence Staff. On 23 November, I addressed the State of the City Economy Conference in Glasgow. On 28 November, I answered oral questions for the Scotland Office in the House of Commons. On 29 November, I attended a reception to mark the home coming of 12 Brigade from Iraq. On 1 December, I visited the Longannet Power Station in Alloa and participated in the Scottish Interfaith Week Come and Play the Diversity Game event in Edinburgh. On 3 December, I answered oral Defence questions in the House of Commons. On 4 December, I met with service families about the Board of Inquiry findings into the crash of the RAF Nimrod XV230 before attending the House to make a statement about the same. On 6 December, I gave oral evidence to the AFPRB and in the evening I attended a Sailor, Soldier, Airmen and Families Association carol service at the Guards' Chapel, Wellington Barracks. On 8 December, I met with representatives from the services charity "Forward Edge Battle Area". Between 7 and 10 December, I was overseas visiting service personnel in Afghanistan.

Operating Costs

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's RfR 1 operating cost statement (level 4 view) for each financial year since 2001-02. [176283]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Departmental Operating Cost Statement (OCS) is a consolidation of OCSs by Top Level Budget (TLB) and includes Request for Resources (RfR) 1, 2 and 3.

RfR 1 and 2 data are not held centrally at level 4 (Resource Account Code). Extraction of the RfR 2 data from the consolidated OCS, to produce an OCS for RfR 1 at level 4 could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

An OCS in the summarised format produced for the Department Resource Accounts for RfR 1 can be produced for the period 2001-02 to 2006-07 and I shall place a copy in the Library of the House.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's RfR 1 balance sheet (level 4 view) for each financial year since 2001-02. [176284]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The departmental balance sheet is a consolidation of balance sheets by top level budget and includes request for resources (RfR) 1, 2 and 3. Balances at the year end are not identified by individual RfR and construction of a balance sheet for RfR1 from source data could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Operational Readiness Force

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which units form the UK's commitment to the Operational Readiness Force (ORF) for KFOR; whether they are fully equipped; whether the ORF is deployed; and when the next ORF will take over from the current ORF. [170804]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 4 December 2007]:* The UK element of NATO's Operational Reserve Force (ORF) is currently a battalion from the 2 Royal Ghurkhas Rifles. Subsequently the UK ORF will consist of a battalion from 1 Welsh Guards and then followed by a battalion from 2 Rifles. The UK ORF battalion is prepared and positioned in the UK and will take over as the highest ready (four days notice for the lead element) battalion in support of NATO responsibilities in the Balkans from 1 January 2008 until 30 June 2008. The battalion is fully equipped for the potential tasks required of it.

Phantom Clocking

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the costs to his Department of phantom-clocking in each year since 1997. [175294]

Derek Twigg: The term "phantom clocking" is taken to mean the abuse by employees, of time recording equipment at their place of work. This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Princess Mary's Hospital

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many patients have been treated at the Princess Mary's Hospital in RAF Akrotiri in the last 12 months; what the hospital's establishment is; how many staff are working at the hospital; and whether the hospital is fully equipped. [173970]

Derek Twigg: The number of patients treated at the Princess Mary's Hospital at RAF Akrotiri from 1 December 2006-30 November 2007 was 12,848, including both in-patients and out-patients. The total staff establishment is for 161 personnel, made up of both military and civilians, and present manning stands at 147. The current staffing level has not prevented the hospital from carrying out its required tasks, and it is also equipped for the clinical services it is required to provide.

Recruitment

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much in near cash terms was spent on civilian recruitment in each financial year since 2002-03. [176281]

Des Browne: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Redundancy Pay

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much in near cash terms was paid out in severance payments in each financial year since 2002-03. [176280]

Derek Twigg: The amounts paid out in near cash terms for redundancy and severance payments in each financial year from 2002-03 are set out in the following table:

Financial year	*£ million*
2002-03	81
2003-04	106
2004-05	92
2005-06	130
2006-07	221

Amounts paid are in respect of payments directly charged to the operating cost statement and the cash utilisation of provisions, for both military and civilian personnel.

Reserve Forces: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to allow recruitment to the Parachute Regiment Reserve in Wales. [176266]

Derek Twigg: The 4th Battalion the Parachute Regiment constitutes the Parachute Regiment Reserve. The Battalion Headquarters is based in Pudsey, West Yorkshire, with sub-unit and detachment locations in Glasgow, London, Edinburgh, Croydon and Newcastle-upon-Tyne. There are no plans to create a detachment in Wales.

Recruits to the regiment are welcome from any location, although anyone joining the regiment would need to travel to one of the unit locations in order to conduct administration and training.

Royal Fleet Auxiliary: Contracts

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contracts have been entered into by the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Support Integrated Project Team since 2004; and what the value was of each contract. [175648]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Since 2004, numerous contracts have been entered into by the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Support Integrated Project Team and I will write to the hon. Member with details.

Royal Fleet Auxiliary: Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people work in the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Support Integrated Project Team; and how many of them are *(a)* serving armed forces personnel, *(b)* civil servants, *(c)* external consultants and *(d)* others. [175649]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) Support Integrated Project Team (IPT) currently employs 75 personnel. Of these, 32 are civilian RFA Officers, 38 are civil servants, one is an external consultant and there are four posts filled on a temporary basis by non-civil servants, for example, agency staff. There are no serving armed forces personnel employed within the IPT.

Territorial Army: Military Decorations

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 314W, on Territorial Army: military decorations, what guidance he has issued to regional commanders on exercising their discretion to allow members of the Territorial Army to wear medals on Combat Soldier 95 working dress at Remembrance Parades and on other ceremonial occasions. [175429]

Derek Twigg: Guidance on dress is given in Army Dress Regulations, which are widely available. These allow regional commanders to authorise the wear of medals for specific parades on combat dress. No additional guidance is necessary.

It remains the Army's intention that parade uniform (number 1 or number 2 dress) be worn for most scheduled public events. Number 2 dress is available to the TA for specific parades, and remains the uniform for general wear on Remembrance day.

Type 45 Destroyers: Procurement

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has changed his plans in respect of the number of Type 45 destroyers to be ordered; and when a decision will be made about ships seven and eight. [137886]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* We currently have a contract for six Type 45 destroyers and a decision has yet to be made on a further order. The decision and its timing will be based on a range of factors including requirements, affordability, value for money and the wider context of the Defence Industrial Strategy.

United Kingdom Hydrographic Office

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence why there was no call for evidence as part of the early stages of the departmental review of the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office. [176702]

Derek Twigg: The study was announced through the Defence website on 9 February 2007. The study team identified and consulted relevant authorities and bodies in assessing options. A number of industry bodies also provided input.

Warships: Deployment

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what studies have been undertaken of deployment schedules for *(a)* aircraft carriers, *(b)* assault vessels, *(c)* destroyers, *(d)* frigates and other *(e)* warships and *(f)* auxiliary vessels with a view to keeping them tied up in port. [137889]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* Deployment plans for all Royal Navy ships and Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels are kept under continuous review in the light of operational demands and maintenance requirements. In addition, a range of options relating to ship readiness states and activity levels are considered in the Department's annual planning rounds. No decisions have yet been taken in the current planning round concerning specific deployment schedules.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Aviation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many air miles were travelled by Ministers in his Department in each year since 2000; and what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as a result. [172236]

Mr. Woodward: Since April 2006 emissions from central Government ministerial and official air travel has been offset through the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund. Departmental aviation emissions are calculated on an annual basis and subsequently offset through payments to the fund. The fund purchases certified emissions reduction credits from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with sustainable development benefits, located in developing countries.

The DEFRA website provides a comprehensive list of Government Carbon Offsetting Fund members, their emission figures and what activities they have offset through the fund, available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/carbonoffset/government.htm

Figures for air miles and the resulting emissions from ministerial air travel are not collated separately from our overall figures and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500. Copies of the lists are available in the Library of the House.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many miles he and other Ministers in his Department travelled on short haul flights in the last 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon emissions produced as a result of these flights. [172566]

Mr. Woodward: Ministers in the NIO make regular short haul flights between London and Belfast to enable them to take forward departmental business in both Northern Ireland and meet their commitments at Westminster.

Since April 2006 emissions from central Government ministerial and official air travel has been offset through the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund. Departmental aviation emissions are calculated on an annual basis and subsequently offset through payments to the fund. The fund purchases certified emissions reduction credits from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with sustainable development benefits, located in developing countries.

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Christmas

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether it is his Department's policy to use (*a*) incandescent light bulbs and (*b*) LED lights for festive decorations on departmental premises. [173496]

Mr. Woodward: A limited amount of Christmas decorations are put up each year by staff in departmental buildings. Where these decorations include festive lights these will generally have been bought in previous years and are re-used for the sake of economy. The Department does not have a policy on the type of light bulbs used in festive decorations.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his Department's policy is on the selection of (*a*) real and (*b*) artificial Christmas trees for his Department's festive decorations; and how real trees are disposed of. [173522]

Mr. Woodward: A limited amount of Christmas decorations, including trees, are put up each year by staff in departmental buildings. For reasons of economy the trees are generally artificial and can be reused over a number of years. In two departmental buildings where real trees are used, the trees are sourced from sustainable tree farms, and are recycled after use.

Civil Disorder: Belfast

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many persons were (*a*) arrested for and (*b*) charged with riotous behaviour arising from civil disturbances in Belfast city centre on the evening of 20 November. [170485]

Paul Goggins: PSNI has advised that no persons were arrested or charged with riotous behaviour during the disorder in Belfast City Centre on 20 November 2007. However, three persons were arrested for other public order related offences arising from this incident. One person was released without charge and the two others were released pending report to the Public Prosecution Service.

The incident involved crowds of youths, aged on average between 12 and 16 years, both male and female. The number of youths and children attending the event was significantly larger than in any previous year. This may have contributed to the cause of this incident, which was dealt with quickly and effectively by the police.

Departmental Manpower

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what proportion of posts in his Department have been recategorised from back office to frontline posts as classified by the Gershon efficiency review in each year since 2004. [172259]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office is committed to achieving work force reductions of 1,446 posts by the end of 2007-08. This is a net target and no posts will be reallocated to the frontline as part of it.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the standard terms and conditions of purchase used by his Department in the procurement of goods and services from the private sector prohibit the assignment of debt. [172431]

Mr. Woodward: NIO Procurement Unit standard terms and conditions do not contain an express provision prohibiting the assignment of debt. However, there is a provision which states that the contractor shall not transfer or assign the contract or part thereof and shall not sub-contract any part of the provision of the services without the prior written consent of the Department.

Motor Vehicles: Theft

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many vehicles were stolen in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years; how many persons were (*a*) charged with and (*b*) convicted of vehicle theft in each year; and what steps he is taking to reduce the incidence of car theft. [170495]

Paul Goggins: The Policing Board and the PSNI have made tackling vehicle crime a key priority, and have achieved a 65 per cent. reduction in the number of recorded incidents in the period covered by the following table.

In 1998-99 the Home Office introduced revised counting rules for recording crime. As crime figures produced from 1998-99 onwards should be regarded as a new statistical series, figures for 1997-98 are not comparable and have therefore not been provided.

Vehicle crime control strategies focus on the main areas of prevention, intelligence, enforcement and reassurance. This results in a variety of tactical responses including targeted high visibility patrolling, enforcement of bail conditions for known offenders, development of community watch programmes, pro-active operations and media awareness campaigns. This list is not exhaustive as strategies are applied in line with the needs and priorities of the local policing area.

	Number of recorded incidents of theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicles	*Number cleared by means of charge or summons*
1998-99	9,715	976
1999-2000	10,196	993
2000-01	10,806	907
2001-02	11,635	757
2002-03[1]	8,410	711
2003-04	5,369	638
2004-05	4,456	618
2005-06	3,721	560
2006-07	3,418	595

[1] From 1 April 2002 most attempted thefts/ unauthorised taking of motor vehicles are recorded as vehicle interference due to a change in the Home Office Counting Rules.

The following table displays the number of convictions for theft of a vehicle by offence during the calendar years 1996-2005. 2005 is the last year for which data are available[1].

[1] Data are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

	Theft of vehicle	*Taking a motor vehicle without owner's consent*	*Aggravated vehicle taking*[1]	*Total*
1996	11	416	0	427
1997	9	453	0	462
1998	18	401	0	419
1999	2	294	0	296
2000	8	328	0	336
2001	9	348	0	357
2002	3	300	0	303
2003	3	351	0	354
2004	5	354	0	359
2005	3	303	4	310

[1] Data include the offences of 'aggravated vehicle taking causing injury', 'aggravated vehicle taking in which vehicle is driven dangerously' and 'aggravated vehicle taking causing damage to the vehicle'.

Rape

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many (*a*) reports, (*b*) charges and (*c*) convictions for rape there were in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [170460]

Paul Goggins: The following table shows the number of rape offences (including attempted rape) reported and cleared by the police by means of charge or summons from 2001-02 to 2006-07.

	Reported	*Number cleared by means of a charge or summons*
2002-03	357	46
2003-04	395	82
2004-05	380	67
2005-06	391	64
2006-07	457	54

The following table shows the number of people convicted of rape in the calendar years 2001-05, the last year for which data are available.

	Number of persons convicted of rape
2001	12
2002	8
2003	8
2004	15
2005	4

The Government are committed to improving the rates of successful prosecution in rape cases. Specialist police units, staffed by highly skilled personnel, are dedicated to enhancing the service to victims of rape and sexual assault. Both PSNI and the Public Prosecution Service are seeking to develop models of best investigative practice so that more cases can achieve the evidential threshold for prosecution. Government are also currently consulting on draft legislation which would provide enhanced levels of public protection, including the introduction of robust new sentences for dealing with dangerous sexual and violent offenders.

The Northern Ireland Office and the Department of Health and Social and Personal Services have also jointly developed, and consulted on, a draft regional strategy for addressing sexual violence in Northern Ireland which will specifically examine the factors which contribute to the attrition rate in relation to sexual offences. The strategy is scheduled to be published in early 2008. As part of that process we have already made significant progress, in partnership with the medical profession and voluntary sector, in developing proposals for a sexual assault referral centre (SARC) in Northern Ireland.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Wastes

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effect on farmers in Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency of the costs associated with meeting the slurry storage requirements under the proposals for nitrate vulnerable zones. [176735]

Mr. Woolas: The regulatory impact assessment (RIA)[1], which was circulated with the consultation document on the implementation of the Nitrates Directive in England, provides details of my Department's assessment of the potential cost to farmers of the proposed measures under the revised Action Programme options. The RIA includes an assessment of costs associated with meeting the slurry storage requirements.

I am currently considering the consultation responses received.

[1] Available via http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/waterpollution-nitrates/partialria-nitrates.pdf

Biodiversity

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of his Department's ability to meet its target under the EU commitment to halt biodiversity loss by 2010; and if he will make a statement. [170430]

Joan Ruddock: It is important to stress that this commitment is not for my Department to achieve alone. DEFRA continues to work in partnership with the devolved administrations, other Government Departments, country agencies and non-Government agencies to meet this important target.

It is too early to say whether the target will be met, but some very significant progress has been made. For example, 77 per cent. of England's Sites of Special Scientific Interest are in favourable or recovering condition compared with 50 per cent. in 2000. In June this year, assessments against a suite of 18 indicators were published on behalf of the UK Biodiversity Partnership. The publication 'Biodiversity Indicators in Your Pocket' showed that in all 12 areas where data were available, the situation was either stable or improving.

We have been active in shaping the European and global frameworks for assessing the 2010 targets, and have developed our own reporting framework to fit with these.

Birds: Conservation

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many convictions there were for offences involving illegal theft of protected bird species from the wild in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [168924]

Joan Ruddock: The number of convictions for offences relating to the protection of bird species in each year since 1997 are shown in the following table:

Number of defendants found guilty of part of section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006[1,2]

	Number
1997	28
1998	20
1999	20
2000	15
2001	17
2002	11
2003	20
2004	52
2005	24
2006	87

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

The figures include convictions for the illegal killing, taking and injuring of wild birds, disturbing the dependent young of birds listed in schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and the possession of live and dead wild birds. It is not possible to identify separately convictions for illegal taking.

Carbon Emissions: Heathrow Airport

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the planned extension of Heathrow airport will contribute towards his Department's emission reduction targets; and if he will make a statement. [174814]

Mr. Woolas: Government emissions reduction targets currently exclude international aviation emissions as there is no agreed way of allocating responsibility for these to individual countries.

However under the current proposal to include aviation in the EU ETS, emissions from the aviation sector would be capped at the level of average 2004-06 emissions, and carbon allowances would only be issued up to the level of this cap. Emissions over this cap will be covered either through mitigation within the sector or through the purchase of reductions that can be produced more cheaply and easily by other sectors. This would be the case regardless of whether this growth in emissions was from new airport capacity, the provision of new routes or extra services on existing routes. This approach means that growth in aviation (including Heathrow expansion) would be sustainable.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on the introduction of a flood risk management innovation fund. [171157]

Mr. Woolas: A £1.5 million fund has been set aside to support innovative flood risk management solutions. An open competition was launched in November 2005 and the six successful projects were announced in January 2007. These are being funded to:

develop an educational tool to improve public understanding of the difficult decisions that are sometimes required in the management of our coasts thereby assisting implementation of more sustainable long term management policies;

investigate the contribution of land management practices to flood management in the Staffordshire Washlands catchment of the Rivers Trent, Sow and Penk;

work with the farming community to provide tools to landowners to assist with adaptation to change on the Essex coast;

demonstrate and help communicate the benefits of floodplain woodland for flood management;

develop an innovative and sustainable community-based adaptation programme for the coast at Slapton in South Devon;

demonstrate the benefits of integrating flood mitigation and environmental approaches such as sustainability, zero carbon and zero waste within urban developments.

The projects are being undertaken by a variety of public and private organisations and further details are on the DEFRA website.

Floods: River Derwent

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the fluvial study of the lower Derwent to be published: [173448]

Mr. Woolas: A public consultation is planned for the draft lower Derwent strategy during the summer of 2008. The final strategy is expected to be published in the spring or summer of 2009, depending on the issues raised during the consultation.

However, more detailed hydraulic modelling for Derby is planned for the next financial year. If the preliminary results of this model are different from the information the Environment Agency currently has on the predicted flood risk, publication of the draft strategy will be delayed until the agency is confident that the results of the model accurately predict river levels. This could delay publication of the draft strategy by up to a year.

Fly Tipping: North East Region

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government have taken to reduce incidents of fly-tipping in the North East; and if he will make a statement. [173564]

Joan Ruddock: Tackling fly-tipping and wider waste crime is a priority for the Government. Our Waste Strategy for England, published in May 2007, makes clear that initiatives to boost waste prevention and recycling should be supported by fly-tipping strategies aimed at tackling the illegal dumping of waste.

The Strategy includes the Government's Illegal Waste Activity Action Plan, which sets out what action is being taken and proposed in this area. This includes:

(i) Reviewing the controls in place to deal with the management and carriage of waste. The review aims to reduce levels of fly-tipping by making it easier for businesses to understand and comply with the regulations and make them easier for local authorities to use.

(ii) Developing legislation that will give local authorities and the Environment Agency the powers to stop, search and instantly seize vehicles being used to commit fly-tipping offences.

(iii) Introducing mandatory Site Waste Management Plans for construction and demolition projects above a certain value.

(iv) Funding the Environment Agency's targeted campaigns to disseminate good practice to businesses and raise awareness of good waste management practices.

(v) Delivering Flycapture Enforcement, a training programme aimed at local authority officers and their legal teams to increase knowledge of the relevant legislation and develop skills in effective enforcement and prosecution of fly-tippers.

(vi) Work with stakeholders to consider how the Flycapture database can be enhanced or improved to help local authorities implement fly-tipping interventions.

DEFRA has also funded Environmental Campaigns (Encams) to deliver a programme of work on local environmental quality and fly-tipping issues in partnership with Government Offices. This work will support the poorest performing local authorities in each region through a combination of data analysis, best practice sharing and targeted seminars. It will also promote the introduction of fly-tipping targets within local area agreements.

In addition, DEFRA funded the Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science to produce research on fly-tipping—"Fly-tipping: Causes, Incentives and Solutions". This included good practice guidance on crime prevention techniques, including surveillance, and has been distributed to all local authorities in England.

Inland Waterways: Freight

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to incorporate provision for water-borne freight into his Department's climate change agreements. [176094]

Mr. Woolas: It is very unlikely that climate change agreements (CCAs) would be relevant to the water-borne freight sector. CCAs provide for a reduction in the climate change levy (CCL) when operators meet challenging energy efficiency targets. However, CCL is not charged on every kind of fuel: it only applies to commodities specified in schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2000 as taxable commodities (including electricity, gas of a kind supplied by a gas utility, liquid petroleum gas and solid fuels). Furthermore, where a taxable commodity is used in a ship operating in international waters it may be

eligible for exemption from CCL. Also, in order to qualify, the operator would have to engage in an eligible process, which is defined as either a process regulated under part A of the Pollution Prevention and Control (England and Wales) Regulations 2000 or meet specific energy intensity criteria. Water-borne freight is unlikely to meet either of these criteria.

Nitrate Sensitive Areas

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effect upon residents and visitors in nitrate vulnerable zones of the proposals to ban slurry-spreading over winter. [176734]

Mr. Woolas: The partial regulatory impact assessment (RIA), published in support of the consultation on the implementation of the Nitrates Directive in England, provides details of my Department's assessment of the impact, in terms of costs and benefits, of all of the proposed amendments to Action Programme measures that apply in nitrate-vulnerable zones (NVZs) in England, and how this impact would vary depending on the extent of NVZ designation.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the contribution the UK will make by 2020 to the EU target of 20 per cent. of energy to be derived from renewable sources. [173744]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

On the basis of measures set out in the Energy White Paper, we expect approximately 5 per cent. of the UK's energy to come from renewable sources by 2020. Agreement has not yet been reached on the contribution that each member state will make toward the EU's 2020 target.

Reptiles: Imports

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list imported reptiles by *(a)* wild caught, *(b)* captive bred and *(c)* ranched CITES listed categories imported into the EU in 2006. [172698]

Joan Ruddock: The number of:

(a) wild caught CITES listed reptiles imported into the EU in 2006 was 57,194;

(b) captive bred CITES listed reptiles imported into the EU in 2006 was 188,924;

(c) ranched CITES listed reptiles imported into the EU in 2006 was 68,764.

This leaves 95,059 reptiles from other sources of which by far the largest proportion was those where the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) database shows no source code.

The UK does not hold records on imports of non-CITES species into the EU.

Sustainable Development: Heathrow Airport

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* staff were invited to participate in the project for the sustainable development of Heathrow; whether they participated; and if he will make a statement. [176958]

Mr. Woolas: Both Ministers and officials in DEFRA engage regularly with colleagues at the Department for Transport on matters relating to Heathrow which affect DEFRA lead policy responsibilities: notably on air quality, noise and climate change impacts.

Thames and Severn Canal

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to help residents whose property has been affected by the proposed Thames and Severn canal scheme. [172703]

Mr. Woolas: This is a matter for the local authority (LA). LA development plan policies for this canal seek to protect its line while allowing for piecemeal restoration. There are no specific proposals for full restoration at present. Once a planning application has been made, local authorities have set procedures for handling individuals or businesses affected by it.

Waste Disposal: Finance

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his latest estimate is of the funding for the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) programme in each of the next three financial years; what funding the BREW programme has had in 2007-08; and what funding was provided in each of the last two financial years. [173767]

Joan Ruddock: The Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) programme was set up to give £284 million additional landfill taxes back to business over three years (from April 2005 to March 2008) through funding for resource efficiency and waste projects. Funding allocated for each of the last three years is as follows:

	£ million
2005-06	33
2006-07	100.7
2007-08	125

Subsequent funding of the BREW programme will be subject to future spending decisions, which will be carefully balanced with other departmental priorities in tackling waste and climate change.

Waste Disposal: Greater London

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste Programme's campaign on waste crime in London cost; how long the campaign lasted; how many incidents of fly-tipping

there were in each London borough targeted by the campaign in each month since 12 months before the campaign began; what the total cost of clean-up of fly tipping was in that period in each borough; what assessment he has made of the campaign's effectiveness; and whether he plans to extend the *(a)* duration and *(b)* geographic reach of the campaign. [173783]

Joan Ruddock: The campaign funded by the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) programme is targeting waste crime across 16 local authorities in the South and East of London and North Kent. The campaign began in August 2006 and is due to close in December 2007 at a cost of £265,000.

The analysis of the campaign is currently taking place, including the impact on both the numbers of fly-tips recorded and the ongoing awareness of businesses to waste crime.

The BREW programme was set up to give £284 million additional landfill taxes back to business over three years (from April 2005 to March 2008) through funding for resource efficiency and waste projects. Future funding of the BREW programme will be subject to future spending decisions, which will be carefully balanced in line with departmental priorities.

I have arranged for the statistics requested to be placed in the Library of the House. The figures show the incident numbers and estimated clearance costs for each month from 12 months before the London and Kent BREW campaign started, until March 2007.

Incident numbers and clearance costs have been obtained from local authority entries to Flycapture, the national fly-tipping database. Clearance costs are estimates based on a national average cost assigned to each size of fly-tip.

Data for 2007-08 are not yet available.

Waste Management: Regional Development Agencies

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to bring forward proposals for regional development agency waste performance targets. [174311]

Joan Ruddock: The Government do not intend to set Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) detailed targets on waste performance. The Report of the Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration made clear that in future, RDAs will play a more strategic role within the regions. In meeting their overall objective of regional economic growth, they will be required to adhere to the cross-cutting principle of sustainable development, setting out in their Corporate Plans how they intend to apply this to all their business to achieve their growth objective.

Waste Management: Standards

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* targets for and *(b)* outputs of each organisation in the business resource efficiency and waste partnership were for (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07. [175406]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 18 December 2007]*: The Business Resource Efficiency and Waste Programme (BREW) was established in order to return £284 million of landfill tax back to business between 2005 and 2008. It provides this through a range of free advice and support aimed at increasing business resource efficiency and reducing the amounts of waste sent unnecessarily to landfill. While work is under way to plan for the goals in any future programme, there were no specific targets set for 2005-07.

The aggregated 2005-06 short-term outputs for the delivery bodies are shown in the following table. These show the impact of £18.5 million of the total £33 million funding for that year. Some savings will result from these interventions in future years, which are not counted here.

Metric	*In-year result*
Virgin raw material savings	682,000 tonnes
Carbon savings	320,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide
Water savings	5,630,000 cubic metres
Waste diverted from landfill	675,000 tonnes
Hazardous waste savings	120,000 tonnes
Cost savings to business	£88 million
Increased sales	£14.7 million

DEFRA has not yet released individual delivery body results for 2005-06. These include some selected long term results, which are not included in the table. Similarly, work is currently under way to verify BREW Programme results for 2006-07. I will deposit both sets of results in the House Library when they are available.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Occupational Pensions

14. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to provide further assistance to people who have lost their occupational pensions. [175879]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: My announcement of 17 December extended the FAS to guarantee members of qualifying schemes 90 per cent. of their accrued pension at the date of commencement of wind-up, revalued to their retirement date, but subject to a cap of £26,000 a year.

22. **Lynda Waltho:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to increase access to occupational pensions for those on low incomes. [175887]

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to assist low income employees to gain access to occupational pensions. [175872]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Pensions Bill, having its Second Reading today, would introduce a new simple, low cost personal accounts pension scheme to give those currently without access to a good quality pension scheme—in particular, low to moderate earners—the opportunity to save.

Independent Living

16. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Government are taking to assist disabled people to live independently. [175881]

Mrs. McGuire: The Government will shortly be publishing a five year cross-Government strategy for independent living. The strategy will set out a five year plan for making progress on the Government's aim that all disabled people (including older disabled people) should be able to live autonomous lives, and to have the same choice, freedom, dignity and control over their lives as non-disabled people.

Pensioners: East Anglia

17. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he next plans to meet pensioner groups from East Anglia to discuss payments of pensions and related benefits. [175882]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In advance of introduction of the Pensions Bill we have been engaging with stakeholders to discuss pensions reforms, and continue to do so. Currently there are no plans to meet pensioner groups from East Anglia.

Financial Assistance Scheme

18. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Financial Assistance Scheme. [175883]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A review was carried out this year by Mercers Human Resource Consulting which reported in August that the process of gathering data to operate the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) is fit for purpose and is managed in a satisfactory manner.

They also concluded that delays in obtaining high enough quality data are often caused by trustees' administrators and insurance firms rather than FAS operational unit processes. Regulatory changes agreed on 11 December will mitigate these delays.

Housing Benefit

19. **Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department plans to take to improve the administration of housing benefit by local authorities. [175884]

Mr. Plaskitt: Administration has improved significantly. The average processing time on a new claim has dropped from 56 days four years ago, to 33 in 2006-07. The improvement is even more marked in what were previously the worst performing authorities.

We are continually taking steps to simplify the system to make it easier for local authorities to administer the scheme.

Barriers to Employment

20. **Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the barriers to employment facing families in temporary accommodation. [175885]

Mr. Plaskitt: Working on reducing barriers to employment is central to the Department's programme of welfare reform. In relation to those in temporary accommodation we support the intentions of the Working Futures pilot being carried out by the Greater London Authority and the East Thames Group.

We believe that the pilot will help inform future housing benefit policy, including our proposals for a new regime for temporary accommodation from April 2009.

Incapacity Benefits

21. **Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of long-term claimants of incapacity benefit. [175886]

Caroline Flint: In May 2007 the number of working age people claiming incapacity benefit for more than five years was 1.5 million.

Claimant numbers more than trebled between the late 1970s and mid 1990s but new claims to incapacity benefits have dropped by more than a third since the mid 1990s and the caseload is at its lowest for almost eight years.

Child Support Agency

23. **Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made in replacing the Child Support Agency; and if he will make a statement. [175888]

Mr. Plaskitt: The first concrete steps have been taken in creating the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission with the appointment of the chair designate, Janet Paraskeva, which was announced on 15 November.

Subject to parliamentary approval, the Commission will become operational and take responsibility for the child maintenance system in 2008.

Provision for Retirement

24. **Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people not saving for retirement; and what steps his Department is taking in response. [175889]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DWP estimates suggest that approximately 7,000,000 people are currently not saving enough to meet their retirement aspirations.

The Pensions Bill, having its Second Reading today, would introduce a requirement on all employers to automatically enrol workers who are eligible into a qualifying workplace pension scheme and to contribute to that scheme. Our estimates indicate this would result in between 6,000,000 and 9,000,000 people newly participating or saving more in workplace pensions.

Lone Parents

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to support lone parents in finding work; and what plans he has for further assistance. [175878]

Caroline Flint: The New Deal for lone parents has supported over half a million people into work.

Our recent document "Ready for Work" sets out how we will expect more lone parents with school age children to actively find work along with a package of measures to provide lone parents with the skills, confidence and financial support to both find and stay in work.

Voluntary Organisations

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the role played by voluntary organisations in securing benefits for individuals. [175890]

Caroline Flint: Intermediaries play a valuable role in helping some of our customers to claim benefits, whether by providing them with advice or information, helping them complete claim forms, helping them communicate with us, or advocating on their behalf.

Pensions: Financial Assistance Scheme

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when his Department plans to publish the final report on the Financial Assistance Scheme: Review of Assets; and if he will make a statement. [175519]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made to the House on 17 December 2007.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Labour Turnover

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Prime Minister what the percentage turnover of staff was in his Office in *(a)* the last 12-month period and *(b)* the last 24-month period for which figures are available. [169026]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron) on 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1343W.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Harper: To ask the Prime Minister how many staff work in his Office's parliamentary branch; and what proportion of their time is spent on dealing with *(a)* Parliamentary Questions and *(b)* correspondence from hon. Members and Peers. [174967]

The Prime Minister: There are currently three people in my parliamentary team. They deal with all my parliamentary business, including correspondence and questions from hon. Members and peers.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Prime Minister whether the standard terms and conditions of purchase used by his Office in the procurement of goods and services from the private sector prohibit the assignment of debt. [172432]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron) today.

Departmental Secondment

Mrs. May: To ask the Prime Minister how many secondments of staff were made *(a)* to and *(b)* from his Office in each year since 1997; which organisations' staff were seconded (i) to and (ii) from; how many staff were seconded in each year; for how long each secondment lasted; and what the cost was of each secondment in each year. [167237]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron) on 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1343W.

Local Government

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Prime Minister whether he has had meetings in the last 30 days with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and *(b)* the Boundary Committee to discuss local government restructuring in (i) Ipswich and (ii) across the rest of England. [176500]

The Prime Minister: I have regular meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues and others on a wide range of subjects.

Ministers: National Lottery

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Prime Minister how many complaints there have been of breaches of section 4.8 of the Ministerial Code of Practice, on ministerial support for National Lottery bids, in the last 12 months. [175993]

The Prime Minister: A revised "Ministerial Code" was published on 3 July 2007, copies of which are in the Libraries of the House. Guidance on ministerial support for individual applications for lottery funding is set out in section 6 of the Code. Section 1 sets out the process for handling alleged breaches of the "Ministerial Code".

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment she has made of the likely impact of the 2012 Olympic Games on UK economic growth over the next five years; and if she will make a statement. [174908]

Tessa Jowell: We expect that the 2012 games will have a positive impact on UK economic growth over the next five years.

The 2012 games provide a wide range of opportunities for business growth across the UK, both in terms of direct games related contracts, but also in terms of delivering fitter more innovative businesses able to compete for wider procurement opportunities. Economic growth will also be boosted by the job creation arising from the games, strategies to drive up the skills base, not just in East London but across the UK, and a reduction in worklessness. The games also provide an opportunity to increase inward investment into the UK. Our aim is to ensure these benefits will be spread around the whole of the UK, not concentrated in London.

The forthcoming Legacy Action Plan will set out the programmes that are being developed to boost the contribution of the games to the UK economic growth rate.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what levels of EU funding will be available in relation to the 2012 Olympics. [174911]

Tessa Jowell: The £9.325 million public sector funding provision for the Olympics announced on 15 March 2007, further details of which I gave in my statement on 10 December, does not include any funding from the EU.

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of the existing contingency fund within the Olympic budget; and if she will make a statement. [174021]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to my written statement of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 9WS; and also to the response I provided to the hon. Member for Maldon and East Chelmsford (Mr. Whittingdale) on 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 19.

As I said in my written statement,

"the programme-wide risks, and other risks outside the ODA's control, have been assessed and quantified and the contingency available has been confirmed as sufficient to cover such risks."

Olympic Review Group

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics (1) what the date was of each meeting of the Cost Review Group at which updates to financial estimates were made after 25 April 2006; [173737]

(2) what the date was of each meeting of the Cost Review Group at which updates to financial estimates were made before 26 January 2006. [173740]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to him of 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1178W; which clarifies the dates of the meetings of the Cost Review Group, which were held between 26 January and 25 April 2006.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics (1) in what form financial estimates were presented to the meeting of the Cost Review Group of *(a)* 26 January and *(b)* 25 April 2006; [173738]

(2) what material was used at the meetings of the Cost Review Groups of 26 January 2006 and 25 April 2006 to discuss financial estimates; [173741]

(3) if she will place copies in the Library of the written financial estimates presented to the meetings of the Cost Review Group of 26 January 2006 and 25 April 2006. [173743]

Tessa Jowell: Meetings of the Cost Review Group were held between 26 January 2006 and 25 April 2006. Throughout this period, the group considered financial estimates in the form of oral presentations and updates. There were no formal papers tabled but oral presentations were delivered using written notes and material to support agenda discussions.

The Cost Review Group presented the savings they identified in the form of oral presentations and updates to financial estimates. The savings identified were incorporated into the Olympic Park Masterplan announced on 7 June 2006, and continuing work on the development of the funding package which I announced to the House on 15 March.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what records have been retained of the meetings of the Cost Review Groups of 26 January 2006 and 25 April 2006. [173739]

Tessa Jowell: Agendas for the Cost Review Group meetings of 26 January 2006 and 25 April 2006 are available in the House Library.

Minutes taken of the Cost Review Group meetings of 26 January 2006 and 25 April 2006 have been retained. These will not be placed in the House Library as they are being used to inform the development of our ongoing policy for managing the Olympic project.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Construction

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many apprentices were registered in each construction trade in the last year for which figures are available. [170202]

Mr. Lammy: Apprentice numbers have been published today by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) in the Statistical First Release Further

Education, Work Based Learning, Train to Gain and Adult and Community Learning—Learner Numbers in England—2006/07.

We will provide a response on the number of apprentices in each construction trade in the new year when data will be available for the further analysis required.

Sign Language: Education

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* lip reading and *(b)* sign language courses are offered by each local authority in England; and what the average cost is for participants. [175547]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested is not readily available and can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Students: Engineering

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what percentage of people who took up engineering courses were *(a)* male and *(b)* female in each of the last 10 years. [173257]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is given in the table. Figures for 2006/07 will be available in January 2008.

A new classification for recording subject of study was introduced in 2002/03 and so figures from 2002/03 onwards are not comparable to earlier years.

Latest figures from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) show that the number of accepted applicants to undergraduate engineering courses in 2007/08 has risen by 4 per cent. following the fall in 2006/07, and is now near to the level of 2005/06.

Entrants to engineering and technology undergraduate courses, by gender, English higher education institutions[1], academic years 1996/97 to 2005/06

	Number			Of which	
Academic year	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*	*Female (%)*	*Male (%)*
1996/97	4,565	29,245	33,810	13.5	86.5
1997/98	4,525	29,725	34,250	13.2	86.8
1998/99	4,330	27,805	32,135	13.5	86.5
1999/2000[2]	4,445	26,070	30,520	14.6	85.4
2000/01	4,605	25,345	29,950	15.4	84.6
2001/02	4,180	25,605	29,785	14.0	86.0
2002/03[2]	4,055	23,870	27,930	14.5	85.5
2003/04	4,095	22,615	26,715	15.3	84.7
2004/05	4,235	24,400	28,635	14.8	85.2
2005/06	4,275	24,435	28,710	14.9	85.1

[1] Students from the Open university are excluded from the analysis.
[2] In 2002/03 the methodology for recording subject of study was changed on the student record. Aside from the introduction of a new coding frame, JACS (previously a system called HESACODE was used), students were apportioned between their subjects of study rather than being assigned on a headcount basis to their major subject. As such, comparisons between figures for 2001/02 and earlier and for 2002/03 onwards cannot be made.

Notes:
1. Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December excluding those writing up, on sabbatical or dormant.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record.

Students: Grants

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) with reference to his written statement of 11 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 39WS, on higher education students' loans, grants and fees, if he will list the 100 constituencies which have the highest number of eligible students entitled to a *(a)* full maintenance grant and *(b)* partial maintenance grant; and if he will make a statement; [166624]

(2) which 20 constituencies have the *(a)* largest proportion of families who qualify for a full university grant, *(b)* largest (i) proportion and (ii) number of families qualifying for a full or partial university grant and *(c)* lowest proportion of young people attending university. [167155]

Bill Rammell: Question 166624 refers to the higher education maintenance grant, which will be worth up to £2,835 in academic year 2008-09. Information on the numbers of students in each parliamentary constituency who will be eligible for a full or partial grant in 2008-09 is not available. However, information on grants in 2006-07 show which areas have higher proportions of students receiving full and partial grants. The available data on grants at local authority level are given in the following table; this information is not available at constituency level. The family income threshold for full maintenance grant of £2,700 in 2006-07 was £17,500, with a partial grant available to students with a family income of up to £37,425. In 2008-09 the thresholds will be raised to £25,000 for a full grant and £60,005 for a partial grant. This very large increase in the thresholds mean that 2006-07 figures can not be used as an indication of 2008-09 full and partial grant proportions.

The main measure for tracking progress on increasing participation is currently the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR). This is the sum of the HE initial participation rates for individual ages between 17 and 30 inclusive. The

latest available figure is 42.8 per cent. for 2005-06. The 2005-06 figure for the young 17-20 age group is 34.0 per cent. The HEIPR is not disaggregated below national level.

Distribution of maintenance grants[1] in academic year 2006-07: English domiciled students studying in the UK. Local authority ordered by percentage receiving a full grant[2]

	Students[3]				Percentage		
Local authority	*Full*	*Part*	*Nil*	*Total*	*Full*	*Part*	*Nil*
Tower Hamlets	1,270	130	240	1,640	78	8	15
Newham	1,460	300	590	2,350	62	13	25
Manchester	1,690	420	660	2,770	61	15	24
Camden	700	140	350	1,180	59	12	29
Lambeth	1,130	320	490	1,940	59	16	25
Islington	720	160	360	1,240	58	13	29
Westminster	550	100	290	940	58	11	31
Barking and Dagenham	480	150	240	870	55	17	27
Kensington and Chelsea	390	70	260	710	54	10	36
Hammersmith and Fulham	480	120	340	940	51	12	36
Birmingham	3,160	1,300	1,900	6,360	50	20	30
Blackpool	400	210	200	800	50	26	24
Bradford	1,520	640	890	3,060	50	21	29
Leicester	1,140	580	570	2,290	50	25	25
Lewisham	990	370	610	1,980	50	19	31
Nottingham	670	280	390	1,340	50	21	29
Haringey	910	250	690	1,840	49	13	37
Greenwich	750	280	530	1,550	48	18	34
Waltham forest	900	340	620	1,860	48	19	33
Oldham	650	330	400	1,370	47	24	29
Torbay	330	180	200	710	47	25	28
Wandsworth	730	270	550	1,550	47	17	36
Kingston upon Hull	550	290	360	1,190	46	25	30
Liverpool	1,240	600	850	2,690	46	22	32
Luton	580	250	440	1,260	46	19	35
Derby	630	310	500	1,440	44	21	35
Brighton and Hove	600	310	500	1,410	43	22	36
Bristol	830	420	690	1,940	43	22	35
Ealing	1,110	490	990	2,580	43	19	38
Knowsley	350	220	250	820	43	26	31
Rochdale	550	280	440	1,260	43	22	34
Sandwell	590	400	370	1,360	43	29	27
Bournemouth	380	200	330	910	42	22	36
Sheffield	1,100	630	980	2,700	41	23	36
Wolverhampton	630	450	470	1,550	41	29	30
Bolton	720	390	680	1,790	40	22	38
Kirklees	1,010	590	910	2,510	40	23	36
Salford	390	210	380	970	40	21	39
Tameside	420	270	360	1,050	40	26	34
Enfield	890	450	930	2,280	39	20	41
North East Lincolnshire	340	230	290	860	39	27	34
Southampton	400	220	390	1,010	39	22	39
Cornwall	1,190	990	940	3,130	38	32	30
Middlesbrough	350	200	370	930	38	22	40
Newcastle upon Tyne	600	340	630	1,570	38	22	40
Plymouth	550	350	520	1,420	38	25	37
Walsall	480	330	450	1,260	38	26	35
Coventry	670	480	630	1,780	37	27	35
Halton	270	190	260	710	37	26	36
SFD processing unit[4]	5,450	2,840	6,350	14,640	37	19	43
Barnet	1,010	430	1,360	2,800	36	15	49
Calderdale	460	300	520	1,280	36	24	40
Croydon	880	530	1,040	2,450	36	22	42
Lancashire	3,110	2,110	3,420	8,650	36	24	40
Redbridge	890	460	1,100	2,450	36	19	45
Sunderland	570	420	580	1,570	36	27	37
Devon	1,360	1,040	1,500	3,910	35	27	38

Distribution of maintenance grants[1] in academic year 2006-07 English domiciled students studying in the UK. Local authority ordered by percentage receiving a full grant[2]

	Students[3]				Percentage		
Local authority	*Full*	*Part*	*Nil*	*Total*	*Full*	*Part*	*Nil*
Gateshead	350	290	350	990	35	30	35
Slough	270	180	330	780	35	23	42
Bury	410	310	510	1,230	34	25	41
Hounslow	530	320	720	1,570	34	20	46
Merton	430	250	600	1,280	34	20	47
Poole	230	170	270	670	34	25	41
Sefton	660	500	790	1,940	34	26	41
Harrow	750	470	1,030	2,260	33	21	46
Leeds	1,280	960	1,610	3,860	33	25	42
Trafford	560	360	770	1,680	33	21	46
Wirral	700	500	910	2,100	33	24	43
Barnsley	300	320	310	930	32	34	34
Bath and North East Somerset	300	230	410	940	32	24	44
North Lincolnshire	280	270	310	860	32	31	36
Reading	200	170	260	640	32	27	41
Doncaster	400	400	470	1,280	31	32	37
St Helens	320	330	380	1,020	31	32	37
Staffordshire	1,750	1,710	2,210	5,670	31	30	39
Derbyshire	1,090	1,020	1,560	3,670	30	28	42
Dudley	450	490	570	1,510	30	32	38
Durham	810	810	1,050	2,670	30	30	39
East Sussex	770	580	1,230	2,580	30	22	48
Isle of Wight	190	190	250	620	30	30	40
Milton Keynes	390	250	670	1,310	30	19	51
Rotherham	340	360	450	1,150	30	31	39
Wigan	500	500	650	1,650	30	31	39
Bexley	360	300	590	1,260	29	24	47
Cumbria	760	750	1,130	2,640	29	28	43
Lincolnshire	1,030	990	1,500	3,510	29	28	43
Medway	370	360	570	1,290	29	28	44
Norfolk	1,000	950	1,550	3,500	29	27	44
Stockport	540	430	910	1,870	29	23	49
Suffolk	1,000	920	1,580	3,500	29	26	45
Swindon	270	220	420	900	29	24	47
Thurrock	160	120	270	560	29	22	49
West Sussex	1,400	1,140	2,340	4,890	29	23	48
Hillingdon	470	320	870	1,660	28	19	52
Dorset	530	530	890	1,950	27	27	46
Gloucestershire	830	820	1,470	3,120	27	26	47
North Tyneside	320	290	570	1,170	27	25	48
Richmond upon Thames	320	200	680	1,200	27	17	57
Shropshire	670	700	1,070	2,450	27	29	44
Worcestershire	1,180	1,200	1,940	4,320	27	28	45
Cambridgeshire	980	950	1,800	3,720	26	25	48
East Riding of Yorkshire	540	570	970	2,080	26	28	47
Kent	1,980	1,760	3,780	7,520	26	23	50
Kingston upon Thames	280	230	550	1,070	26	22	52
North Somerset	270	250	530	1,050	26	24	51
Nottinghamshire	1,040	1,080	1,850	3,970	26	27	47
Wakefield	370	440	600	1,410	26	31	42
Havering	280	250	590	1,120	25	22	53
Northamptonshire	880	820	1,820	3,520	25	23	52
Somerset	690	780	1,250	2,720	25	29	46
Warrington	310	330	590	1,230	25	27	48
Bromley	460	330	1,120	1,910	24	17	59
Cheshire	950	1,000	2,260	4,210	23	24	54
Essex	1,440	1,440	3,350	6,230	23	23	54
Leicestershire	870	1,060	1,830	3,750	23	28	49
Northumberland	400	480	860	1,740	23	28	49
Oxfordshire	820	710	2,050	3,580	23	20	57

Distribution of maintenance grants[1] in academic year 2006-07: English domiciled students studying in the UK. Local authority ordered by percentage receiving a full grant

	Students[2]				Percentage		
Local authority	*Full*	*Part*	*Nil*	*Total*	*Full*	*Part*	*Nil*
Sutton	260	240	630	1,130	23	21	55
Hertfordshire	1,410	1,360	3,640	6,410	22	21	57
Solihull	290	360	680	1,330	22	27	51
South Gloucestershire	270	300	640	1,200	22	25	53
Warwickshire	680	800	1,580	3,060	22	26	51
Wiltshire	530	580	1,230	2,350	22	25	53
Bedfordshire	480	490	1,300	2,270	21	21	57
Buckinghamshire	690	610	1,940	3,250	21	19	60
Hampshire	1,380	1,600	3,870	6,840	20	23	56
Windsor and Maidenhead	160	150	570	870	19	17	65
Bracknell Forest	100	110	350	560	18	20	62
Surrey	1,140	1,090	3,970	6,200	18	18	64
West Berkshire	130	160	570	860	16	18	66
Wokingham	160	200	710	1,070	15	18	67
England	97,900	67,820	126,580	292,290	33	23	43

[1] The table covers the Maintenance Grant and Special Support Grant available to new students from 2006-07.
[2] The table covers those who apply to the Student Loans Company for support. This includes awards to students who subsequently withdrew from their course or suspended study during the academic year. It excludes those who are not eligible for a grant because they are receiving an NHS bursary.
[3] Student numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
[4] The Student Finance Direct processing unit covers applications from Brent, Darlington, Hackney, Hartlepool, North Yorkshire, Redcar and Cleveland, South Tyneside, Southend-on-Sea, Southward Stockton-on-Tees, and York.
Source:
Student Loans Company

UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) if he will place in the Library copies of the contracts relating to the sale of the British Library site on which it is proposed to establish the UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation; [174371]

(2) what the value is of the British Library site on which it is proposed to establish the UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation. [174372]

Ian Pearson: The UKCMRI consortium have acquired Brill Place as the site for the proposed centre for £85 million through a competitive exercise run by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. The contracts for the sale of the land to the consortium are being finalised between the parties. I will not be able to place copies of the contracts in the Libraries as they will be commercial in confidence between parties.

Vocational Training: Complaints

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many formal complaints have been received by his Department about skills brokers. [174369]

Mr. Lammy: No formal complaints have been received by this Department about skills brokers. Employer satisfaction with brokerage remains high with 86 per cent. of employers being very satisfied with the service they received.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Catering

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the expenditure by the Deputy Prime Minister's Office on food and drink was in 2006-07. [176508]

Gillian Merron: In financial year 2006-07 expenditure by the Deputy Prime Minister's Office on food and drink was £6,984.94.

All DPMO expenditure on official hospitality was made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in "Government Accounting" and the Treasury handbook on "Regularity and Propriety".

Communication: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the annual Number 10 digital communications budget is, broken down by main headings. [173193]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Prime Minister to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 17 October, 2007 *Official Report*, columns 1134-35W.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the standard terms and conditions of purchase used by his Department in procurement of goods and services from the private sector prohibits the assignment of debt. [172351]

Gillian Merron: The Cabinet Office's standard terms and conditions are based on the model terms and conditions issued by the Office of Government Commerce for contracting authorities in central civil Government. Although these do not specifically prohibit the assignment of debt, they do require the contractor to obtain Cabinet Office prior approval to assign debt.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the Winter Supplementary Estimates (HC 29), if he will break down his Department's (*a*) main estimate and (*b*) winter supplementary estimate provision by subhead in (i) near cash and (ii) non-cash terms. [174996]

Gillian Merron: The Department's estimate provision in "Part II: Subhead detail" is broken down as follows:

(*a*) *Main estimate*

(*i*) *Near cash*

£219.882 million near cash is included in Cabinet Office administration resource provision of £264.636 million at row A, column 1.

£4.422 million near cash is included in Office of the Third Sector resource provision of £4.518 million at row B, column 1.

£0.869 million near cash is included in Social Exclusion Task Force resource provision of £0.880 million at row C, column 1.

Amounts in all other columns reported in "Part II: Sub head detail" are near cash.

(*ii*) *Non-Cash*

Total non-cash of £44.861 million is reported as follows:

£44.754 million non-cash is included in Cabinet Office administration resource provision at row A, column 1.

£0.096 million non-cash is included in Office of the Third Sector resource provision at row B, column 1.

£0.011 million non-cash is included in Social Exclusion Task Force resource provision at row C, column 1.

There are no non-cash amounts reported on all other rows and columns in "Part II-Subhead detail".

(*b*) *Winter Supplementary Estimate*

(*i*) *Near Cash*

£202.342 million near cash is included in Cabinet Office administration resource provision of £247.350 million at row A, column 1.

£3.658 million near cash is included in Office of the Third Sector resource provision of £3.754 million at row B, column 1.

£0.869 million near cash is included in Social Exclusion Task Force resource provision of £0.880 million at row C, column 1.

Amounts in all other columns reported in "Part II: Subhead detail" are near cash.

(*ii*) *Non-Cash*

Total non-cash of £45.115 million is reported as follows:

£45.008 million non-cash is included in Cabinet Office administration resource provision at row A, column 1.

£0.096 million non-cash is included in Office of the Third Sector resource provisiqn at row B, column 1.

£0.011 million non-cash is included in Social Exclusion Task Force resource provision at row C, column 1.

There are no non-cash amounts reported on all other rows and columns in "Part II: Subhead detail".

Departmental Publicity

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much his Department and its agencies spent on managing their corporate identities in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167354]

Gillian Merron: In the period from 1 November 2006 to 31 October 2007 the Cabinet Office spent an estimated £52,000 on developing and implementing a more cohesive corporate identity, following changes to the Department's remit and the findings of its capability review. This figure includes the cost of sub-brands for the Office of the Third Sector and the Social Exclusion Taskforce, both of which joined Cabinet Office during 2006.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recycling scheme is in operation in each building operated by the Cabinet Office. [176513]

Gillian Merron: Recycling facilities are provided in our central London offices for the disposal of paper, cardboard, cans, tins, rigid plastic containers and batteries. An aerosol recycling bin is provided in the staff gym. Glass, CDs and DVDs, mobile phones, fluorescent tubes, toner cartridges and furniture are collected and held in secure locations before being sent for recycling. Waste cooking oil is supplied to the bio-diesel market or for technical use. We have installed wormeries in those buildings where we have restaurants to allow us to compost some food waste. Similar recycling schemes are in operation at our Basingstoke and York offices.

Licensing

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which buildings for which his Department is responsible have premises licences under the Licensing Act 2003. [175167]

Gillian Merron: The Cabinet Office has a premises licence for the Emergency Planning college.

Minimum Wage

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many London-based staff are employed by his Department on the national minimum wage? [175976]

Gillian Merron: As at 31 November 2007 the Cabinet Office had no London-based staff on the minimum wage.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the statement by the Prime Minister of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 304, on Afghanistan, what plans his Department has to recruit and deploy specialists who speak Afghan languages and understand tribal dynamics. [175461]

Dr. Howells: Officials are examining a variety of options for recruiting and deploying such specialists, particularly in support of the government of Afghanistan's work on reconciliation.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the statement by the Prime Minister of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 304, on Afghanistan, how many of his Department's personnel serve in the collocated headquarters. [175465]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK employs a broad range of staff in support of the government of Afghanistan to help develop a stable and secure Afghanistan. Over 100 civilian staff in Kabul and over 30 staff in the southern provinces of Helmand and Kandahar are employed from across the Government, including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department for International Development and the Afghanistan Drugs Inter-Departmental Unit. Their roles include work in governance, reconstruction and development, and counter narcotics. The work of Task Force Helmand and of the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Lashkar Gah are co-ordinated through the combined civil-military Helmand Executive Group.

Afghanistan: Frontiers

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the United Kingdom recognises the 1893 Durand Line as the international border between Afghanistan and Pakistan; and if he will make a statement. [175450]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 7 January 2008]*: We regard the treaties establishing the Durand Line as an international border as valid. However, it has a complicated history and there are sensitivities in the region surrounding its status. It is therefore for the sovereign parties concerned to determine their territorial border and any related disputes.

Chernobyl: Children

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent *(a)* discussions he has held with and *(b)* representations he has received from (i) ministerial colleagues, (ii) the Belarus ambassador and (iii) charities on Chernobyl-affected children being able to enter the UK; and if he will make a statement. [174198]

Dr. Howells: We appreciate the important work being undertaken by United Kingdom charities to provide respite care and medical treatment for children affected by the Chernobyl disaster. We have held no recent discussions with the Belarus ambassador to London in respect of Chernobyl children. We have, however, recently received correspondence from hon. Members and Peers, from the Belarus ambassador to London, and from charities concerning the visa processes for visits to the United Kingdom by Chernobyl-affected children. UKvisas continues to work with the Chernobyl charities with regard to the visa procedures and the collection of biometrics from visa applicants.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Chernobyl-affected children received visas to visit the UK in 2007 *(a)* prior to 31 August and *(b)* since 1 September; what his assessment is of the reasons for any difference; and if he will make a statement. [174199]

Mr. Jim Murphy: 3,167 gratis visas were issued to Chernobyl-affected children prior to 31 August 2007, while 111 visas have been issued in the subsequent period to 13 December 2007. The autumn is, historically, a slow period for such applications, 292 such visas being issued in the final four months of 2006. The Chernobyl charities advise that the Christmas holiday period is a busy period and UKvisas anticipated an upsurge in applications at this time. Application rates during this period may have been further affected by the collection of biometric data in Minsk. Furthermore, one charity was, temporarily, asked not to submit applications while investigations concerning one of its former hosts were ongoing. This charity has now been advised that it may resume submission of such applications.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has held with *(a)* the Belarus ambassador to London and *(b)* directly with the Belarus Government on the establishment of a seasonal visa application centre in Gomel Oblast, Belarus. [174200]

Dr. Howells: We have held no recent discussions with the Belarus ambassador to London in respect of Chernobyl children. It was intended that a seasonal biometrics collection facility in Gomel Oblast specifically for children wishing to come to the UK for respite care would be offered. This would have been in addition to the service offered in our embassy in Minsk. However, the Government of Belarus would not allow the delivery of this visa service, including the collection of biometrics, through our commercial partnerships in the country and the embassy was compelled to adjust its plans. Correspondence with the Belarus embassy in London is ongoing. Given the lack of agreement with the Belarus authorities in respect to our commercial partnerships in Belarus, it has now been agreed that a seasonal mobile biometrics data collection service will operate on a pilot basis outside Minsk in the summer of 2008 for children in need of recuperative holidays. The pilot will involve the use of mobile biometric collection equipment in one or more regional locations between April and July. UKvisas are prepared to receive applications in Kiev, in Ukraine, where that proves to be more convenient.

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received from *(a)* charities and *(b)* others on the effects of changes to visa arrangements and charges on numbers of children able to visit the UK from the Chernobyl-affected parts of Belarus. [174576]

Dr. Howells: We appreciate the important work being undertaken by United Kingdom charities to provide respite care and medical treatment for children affected by the Chernobyl disaster. We have recently received correspondence from hon. Members and Peers, from the Belarus ambassador to London, and from charities, concerning the visa processes for visits to the United Kingdom by Chernobyl-affected children. UKvisas continues to work with the Chernobyl charities with regard to the visa procedures and the collection of biometrics from visa applicants. Up to 4,000 visas a year are issued to children travelling to the United Kingdom from Belarus under the auspices of the Chernobyl charities and these visas are all issued gratis. There are no plans to change this arrangement

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 19 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1375-76W, on Chernobyl: children, at what level in Belarus the UK Government application was made; and how that refusal was conveyed. [174643]

Dr. Howells: The Deputy Head of Mission, Entry Clearance Officer and Regional Deputy Director of Visa Services at our embassy in Minsk held a meeting in June 2007 with the Deputy Head of the Consular Department and other officials of the Belarusian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). The embassy asked whether they could open Visa Application Centres (VACs) operated by their commercial partner in Belarus. The MFA said that if the embassy did open such premises they would be subject to frequent searches and/or closures by the Belarus authorities. The embassy therefore considered that they would not be able to protect the data of visa customers satisfactorily and decided not to open VACs in Belarus.

Given the lack of agreement with the Belarus authorities in respect of our commercial partner in Belarus, UKvisas and our embassy in Minsk have now agreed to invest additional resources in a seasonal mobile biometric pilot project in the summer of 2008 for Chernobyl children in need of recuperative holidays. The pilot will involve visits by embassy officials, with a mobile biometric kit, to the region where the largest number of such children live. UKvisas are also prepared to receive applications in Kiev, in Ukraine, where that proves to be more convenient.

Cyprus: Diplomatic Relations

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the duties and responsibilities are of the Government's Special Representative to Cyprus, the hon. Member for Enfield North. [171122]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Member for Enfield, North (Joan Ryan), the UK's special representative to Cyprus, is responsible for developing and strengthening links between the Government and the British Cypriot community. Her role is to work with the Cypriot diaspora and explore how they can help to promote a settlement in Cyprus. She acts as an additional channel of communication between British Cypriots and Ministers, and maintains strong links with senior figures within Cyprus involved in issues such as the UN process and the UK/Cyprus bilateral relationship. In this capacity, and following her first official visit in October, she will visit Cyprus occasionally to reinforce these contacts and deepen further her knowledge of all relevant issues.

Defence: Private Sector

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the regulatory impact assessment carried out by his Department pursuant to the February 2002 Green Paper on Private Military Companies. [173686]

David Miliband: When the Government have reached a decision on the regulation of private military and security companies, the impact assessment will be published as part of any public consultation process. Copies will be made available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department and its agencies spent on end-of-year bonus payments in each of the last five years. [171541]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) paid the following amounts in bonuses to staff in the last five years.

	Total bonus payments (£)
2007	6,553,288
2006	5,989,100
2005	5,705,800
2004	5,567,100
2003	4,027,100

The FCO uses non-consolidated, non-pensionable, performance-related bonuses to encourage high performance. We pay annual bonuses to staff in the delegated grades (all except senior managers) based on appraisal evidence of annual performance. The highest individual bonus for these grades is £1,850 in 2007.

Bonus arrangements for staff in the senior management structure (SMS/senior civil service equivalent) follow a framework set for Whitehall Departments by the Cabinet Office. We use SMS bonuses to reward excellent performance and achievement during the year. The bonuses are based on a judgment by pay committees of what an individual has achieved in comparison with peers. Those who have delivered the best results, and shown real leadership in doing so, receive the biggest bonuses. Those who have delivered least receive nothing. Whitehall Departments were authorised to spend a sum equivalent to 7.6 per cent. of their SMS pay budget on non-consolidated bonuses for senior staff in 2007.

Diplomatic Service

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what changes have been made in the geographic distribution of British diplomatic posts overseas in the last 10 years; what policy objectives these changes reflect; and if he will make a statement. [174793]

David Miliband: The following changes have been made in the geographic distribution of British diplomatic posts, including embassies, high commissions, consulate-generals and consulates overseas in the last 10 years.

Americas: a net reduction of 12 posts (includes two posts due to shut in 2007-08);

Europe: a net reduction of three posts;

Asia and Pacific: a net reduction of four posts;

Africa: a net reduction of four posts;

Middle East and North Africa (including Iraq): a net gain of two posts;

Russia, South Caucasus and Central Asia: a net gain of two posts; and

South Asia and Afghanistan: a net gain of one post.

This answer does not include offices of lesser status such as trade offices, British commercial offices and business information centres.

Embassies

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 159W, on embassies, which countries no longer have a resident British Ambassador, Consul General or High Commissioner. [174843]

David Miliband: There is no resident British diplomatic representation in American Samoa, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo (Republic of the), Djibouti, Dominica, East Timor, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Nauru, Nicaragua, Niger, Palau, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, Suriname, Swaziland, Togo, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Posts in Côte d'Ivoire and Haiti are temporarily closed for security reasons.

In countries where there is no British resident presence, an accredited ambassador resident in a neighbouring country represents the UK.

EU-Africa Lisbon Summit

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what waiving of EU sanctions was required in order to permit the attendance of a Zimbabwean delegation, including President Mugabe, at the EU-AU Summit in Lisbon; and if he will make a statement. [174180]

David Miliband: Article 4(5) of the EU Common Position (2004/161/Common Foreign and Security Policy) stipulates that an exemption to the restrictions on any one of the 131 persons on the EU visa ban list preventing them from travelling to the EU can be made when the meeting they attend is intergovernmental and includes a political dialogue that directly promotes democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Zimbabwe. The EU Africa summit in Lisbon included such a discussion.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what formal discussions of the human rights situation in Zimbabwe took place during the EU-AU summit in Lisbon; and what conclusions were reached. [174181]

David Miliband: Several discussions on the human rights situation in Zimbabwe were held during the EU/Africa summit. My noble Friend the right hon. Baroness Amos raised Zimbabwe and the appalling human rights situation caused by President Mugabe during her intervention on behalf of the UK. Other EU member states (Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden) also raised the issue, specifically criticising the human rights situation in Zimbabwe. As high representative for the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana delivered a statement on behalf of the EU underlining member states' collective concern at the deteriorating human rights situation and condemning all acts of violent repression.

European Gendarmerie Force

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to raise at the European Council with colleagues from member states contributing to the European Gendarmerie Force the prospects for its future deployment; and if he will make a statement. [174807]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The European Gendarmerie Force (EGF) is not an EU proposal or agency. The primary purpose of the EGF is to assist in crisis management operations in post-conflict situations. The UK does not have a Gendarmerie style paramilitary police force and therefore does not participate in the EGF.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will raise with colleagues at the European Council the conditions that will be applied to any use of the European Gendarmerie Force if placed at the disposal of the European Union, in relation to its *(a)* uniforms and emblems, *(b)* recruitment, *(c)* training and *(d)* weaponry; and if he will make a statement. [174808]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The primary purpose of the European Gendarmerie Force (EGF) is to assist in crisis management operations in post-conflict situations. The UK does not have a Gendarmerie style paramilitary police force and therefore does not participate in the EGF.

The EGF is not an EU proposal or agency. While it may be put at the disposal of the EU, it has been established outside of EU structures, and may equally be made available to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, the UN, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and other international organisations or an ad hoc coalition. It would be for each respective organisation or coalition and the requesting state to determine which conditions, if any, they thought most appropriate for the requested mission.

In addition, Article 16 of the Treaty Establishing the EGF states:

1. EUROGENDFOR Personnel shall wear their uniform in accordance with their respective national rules. The EGF Commander may establish specific procedures where appropriate.

2. EUROGENDFOR Personnel may possess, carry and transport arms, ammunitions, other weapon systems and explosives on the conditions that they are authorised to do so by their orders and that they do so in accordance with the laws of the Host State and the Receiving State.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to those governments contributing to the European Gendarmerie Force that it should not be deployed on the territory of another member state of the European Union. [174809]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The European Gendarmerie Force (EGF) is not an EU proposal or agency. The primary purpose of the EGF is to assist in crisis management operations in post-conflict situations and it is therefore extremely unlikely to deploy in an EU country. Deployment of the force is a matter between the governments contributing to the EGF and the requesting state in need of assistance.

The UK does not have a Gendarmerie style paramilitary police force and therefore does not participate in the EGF.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the next report of the Director-General on Iran's co-operation under the August 2007 Work Plan is due; and if he will make a statement. [174176]

David Miliband: We expect that the next report from the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Dr. Mohammed El Baradei, on Iran's co-operation with the agency under the Work Plan, will be released before the IAEA board in March 2008.

If Iran implements the Work Plan in full, it will be a step towards restoring trust in Iran's nuclear intentions. But addressing the outstanding issues is only one of the steps the international community requires Iran to take in order to restore confidence in its intentions. Iran needs to suspend enrichment, enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, as requested by the IAEA Board of Governors and required by UN Security Council Resolutions 1696, 1737, and 1747. Iran also needs to implement fully the additional protocol and additional measures that the IAEA has requested. Until Iran meets these obligations we will continue to follow the dual track strategy agreed with our partners in the "E3+3" (China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States), and to discuss further measures aimed at persuading Iran to fulfil all its international obligations.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the proliferation risk posed by Iran's heavy water nuclear research reactor at Arak; and when the reactor is expected to be operational. [174178]

David Miliband: We are concerned about the proliferation risk that would be posed if Iran completes construction of a heavy water reactor. This type of reactor is particularly well suited for producing plutonium, which could be reprocessed and used in a nuclear weapon. This is reflected by the demands in UN Security Council resolutions 1737 and 1747, which require that Iran suspends work on heavy water-related projects, including the construction of a research reactor moderated by heavy water. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has repeatedly reported that construction of the reactor has nevertheless been continuing. The February 2006 IAEA Director-General's report noted the Iranians saying that the commissioning date for the reactor was likely to be postponed until 2011.

Iraq: Documents

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the differences between the draft Iraq dossier written by Mr. John Williams dated 9 September 2002 and Mr. John Scarlett's draft of 10 September 2002. [175522]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* As I told the House on 13 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 293WH, John Williams' draft was his personal attempt to explain the threat which Saddam Hussein and his regime posed. It was not specifically commissioned as part of the formal drafting process and was not used as the basis for the dossier the Government subsequently published.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 26 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1470-1W, on Iraq: documents, whether the copy of the draft sent to Lord Hutton's inquiry was redacted. [175520]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* The copy of the John Williams draft sent to the Hutton inquiry was not redacted.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 26 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1470-1W, on Iraq: documents, whether the Government requested the Hutton inquiry not to publish *(a)* all or *(b)* part of the draft Iraq dossier. [175521]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 7 January 2008]*: As I told the House on 13 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 296WH, all decisions on which documents were published on the Hutton inquiry website were taken by Lord Hutton.

Languages

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in his Department received language training in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [172534]

David Miliband: At present the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has around 900 overseas jobs requiring specific levels of language skills, although this number will fluctuate to reflect business need. These posts will be filled by officers undergoing new training or using existing skills.

The level of language training has remained broadly constant over the past 10 years, at between 250 and 400 officers per year. This reflects the needs of the business at any one time and the availability of staff who already speak the relevant languages (e.g. at recruitment level, or from previous postings). The numbers of staff receiving full-time language training in the last three years was:

	Staff
2006-07	252
2005-06	386
2004-05	405

To provide specific information on how many staff have been trained in previous years would incur disproportionate cost.

Lisbon Treaty

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he proposes to deposit the UK's instruments of ratification of the Lisbon Treaty with the relevant body. [175586]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 7 January 2008]*: The Government introduced a Bill to give effect to the EU Reform Treaty in UK law on 17 December.

As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said in his Post European Council statement of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 598:

"We will ensure that there is sufficient time for debate on the Floor of the House, so that the Bill can be examined in the fullest detail and all points of view can be heard".

The Government will ratify the Treaty after the Bill has been approved by Parliament and received Royal Assent.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what mechanism will be put in place to monitor the implementation of both sides of the performance-based road map to a permanent two-state solution, as set out in the Annapolis Joint Understanding of 27 November; and if he will make a statement. [172382]

David Miliband: At Annapolis the parties agreed to form a United States, Palestinian and Israeli mechanism led by the United States to follow up on the implementation of the Roadmap. We do not yet know what form the mechanism will take. The US, Israelis and Palestinians are still working out the details. The UK has consistently supported the principle of a mechanism as provided for in the Roadmap.

Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe: Finance

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the UK contribution has been to the budget of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in every year since 1992; and what percentage of the OSCE's overall budget this has constituted. [172387]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 7 January 2008]*: The contribution of each participating state to the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's (OSCE) unified budget is determined by a decision of the 56 participating states including the OSCE's Permanent Council. The United States of America makes the largest contribution, followed by Germany. The UK contribution to the unified budget is equal to that of France and Italy.

In the years 1992-2006 it was as follows:

	Amount (€)	*Percentage of overall OSCE unified budget for year*
1992	243,000	9.0
1993	261,000	9.0
1994	1,889,190	9.0
1995	2,128,500	9.0
1996	3,505,050	9.0
1997	4,281,120	9.0
1998	14,441,965	10.1
1999	14,590,100	10.0
2000	20,433,613	10.0
2001	19,901,891	10.2
2002	17,257,691	10.3
2003	16,933,565	10.2
2004	17,266,417	10.2
2005	16,474,408	10.6
2006	17,137,827	10.8

Russia: British Council

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Russian government against the closure of British Council offices in Russia. [175476]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 56WS, about Russia's threat to close the British Council's regional offices in Russia on 1 January 2008. The Government are urging the Russian authorities to reconsider their decision, which would be detrimental to the development of cultural links; severely affect the Russian population who benefit from the British Council's presence; and damage the Russian Government's reputation.

This is not just a bilateral issue. It strikes at the heart of the EU-Russia relationship, given the prominence of culture, education and science in the EU-Russia Partnership and Co-operation Agreement. As such, the Government have successfully engaged European partners to show support for the British Council. The president of the EU National Institutes for Culture wrote to the Minister of Culture for the Russian Federation on 12 December 2007, condemning Russia's threats and voicing strong concern for all national institutes for culture from EU countries working in Russia. On behalf of EU member states, he described the threat as a continuation of a series of obstacles which some of these institutes have to face and urged Russia to reconsider its decision.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has committed to keeping the House fully informed of developments.

Serbia: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of levels of observance of human rights of disabled people in Serbia; and if he will make a statement. [175015]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The conditions described in the report of Mental Disability Rights International are disturbing. While the Serbian authorities questioned the legitimacy of some of the reports, they also expressed their concern and promised prompt action. The Minister for Labour Employment and Social Policy, Mr. Rasim Ljajic, responded quickly by launching an investigation and promising to immediately improve the situation of children in special institutions. We welcome this swift response.

The Government are working on a number of projects in this area in Serbia, in conjunction with the Oxford Policy Management Team (a UK partner), to raise standards in the Serbian authorities. The projects aim to build the capacity of the Serbian authorities in a wide range of areas including: the co-ordination and implementation of social development strategy and social protection law; the supporting of standards, inspection and accreditation (including institutions); social innovation (including funding and long term planning); and dissemination of best practice throughout the system. In addition, our embassy in Belgrade is in touch with Save the Children in Serbia, who are also working alongside the Serbian authorities on alternatives to institutional care for children.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to co-ordinate communication between the UN-African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur and the UN-EU Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad; and if he will make a statement. [173699]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK led on UN Security Council Resolution 1769 which mandated the UN-African Union mission in Darfur (UNAMID), and we co-sponsored Security Council Resolution 1778 establishing the UN-EU mission in Chad/Central African Republic (CAR). We ensured that Resolution 1778 called for the force in Chad/CAR to liaise closely with UNAMID to exchange information on potential threats to humanitarian activities. We continue to underline the importance of co-operation between the two missions in Security Council consultations and in our discussions with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of whether the Government of Sudan is co-operating fully with efforts to deploy the UNAMIS force to Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [174179]

David Miliband: We have had a close dialogue over several months, at ministerial and official level, with the UN and other partners on deployment of the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). UN Under-Secretary-General Guehenno, Head of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), told the UN Security Council on 27 November that the Government of Sudan was not co-operating on a range of issues over UNAMID deployment, including force composition, night flying rights, and the Status of Forces Agreement. Since then, representatives of the DPKO and the Government of Sudan have discussed these issues in Lisbon on 8 December, followed by further talks in Khartoum. We are awaiting further reports on progress that has come about as a result of those discussions.

I spoke with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on 7 December about the delays to UNAMID's deployment. In our contacts with the Government of Sudan, we are pressing them to co-operate fully with the DPKO and the African Union. We also continue to lobby other governments to support the deployment of UNAMID.

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made recent representations to the Sudanese government to expedite the deployment of a joint UN-African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur. [175515]

Dr. Howells: We have pressed the Sudanese government to co-operate fully with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) over the deployment of the UN-African Union peacekeeping force for Darfur (UNAMID) in various contacts in the last two weeks.

On 27 November 2007, the UN Under-Secretary-General Guehenno, head of the DPKO, told the UN Security Council that the government of Sudan was not co-operating on a range of issues over UNAMID deployment. Since then, representatives of the DPKO and the government of Sudan discussed these issues in Lisbon on 8 December, followed by further talks in Khartoum. We are awaiting a report on the outcome of these discussions. We have made clear that the Sudanese government should fulfil its commitments and reach agreement with the UN on the remaining issues.

Turkey: Armenia

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Turkey on the closure of its border with Armenia. [175499]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government have raised this issue at various levels with members of the Turkish Government and we continue to call for steps to be taken towards the normalisation of Turkey's relations with Armenia. Furthermore, we continue to encourage both the Governments of Armenia and Turkey to look to the future and build a better relationship between their countries.

In preparing for EU accession, Turkey must have demonstrated its commitment to good neighbourly relations and have undertaken to resolve outstanding border disputes.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effect on the people of Armenia of the closure of its border with Turkey. [175500]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Turkey closed its border with Armenia in 1992 as a consequence of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno Karabakh. The closure of the border has inevitably inhibited the economic development of Armenia by limiting trade prospects. An open border between Turkey and Armenia is desirable and would bring benefits for both countries. We hope that the political situation in the region develops in such a way as to allow this. We encourage the Governments of Armenia and Turkey to look to the future and build a better relationship between their countries. In the meantime, we will continue to work for peace, security and mutual understanding in the region.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the statement by the Prime Minister of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 305, on Afghanistan, how much of the cost of the reconstruction programme announced for Musa Qala will be funded from the £450 million in development and stabilisation assistance to Afghanistan. [175480]

Dr. Howells: I have been asked to reply.

The £450 million in development and stabilisation assistance outlined in the statement to the House by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 303-07, is for the period 2009-12. The initial reconstruction programme for Musa Qala—estimated at £1.9 million—is being funded through Quick Impact Projects, which have a budget this financial year of £9 million.

Overseas Aid

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the role of diaspora communities in the UK in helping to alleviate poverty in the developing world; and what steps his Department is taking to co-ordinate contributions from these communities. [175289]

Mr. Malik: DFID recognises the contribution that diaspora communities in the UK can make to poverty alleviation. This recognition is reflected in DFID's first White Paper, and more recently in its migration and development policy paper, "Moving out of poverty: Making Migration work for poor people".

To enhance this contribution we have engaged with diaspora communities in several ways. For example, we have consulted diaspora communities when developing country assistance plans and relevant policies. We have also facilitated the transfer of formal remittances by supporting the creation of the "sendmoneyhome.org" website and the creation of the UK remittances taskforce. These seek to reduce remittance transfer costs and tackle barriers to remittance flows from diaspora communities to their countries of origin.

Since 2003, DFID has sought to help diaspora organisations co-ordinate their contribution to international development by supporting the formation of the network organisation, Connections For Development (CfD) through a strategic grant agreement (SGA) - value approximately £980,000. CfD engages in the development of policy and country programmes, as well as building awareness and understanding of development in the UK.

In 2006 DFID announced a new volunteering initiative designed to engage diaspora communities in development. DFID will launch a new £3 million diaspora volunteering scheme in early 2008. The objective of the programme is to give people from these communities the opportunity to make a personal contribution to development and pass on their learning through a range of development awareness activities on return to the UK.

HEALTH

Ambulance Services: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his answer of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 493-94W, on ambulance services: Hampshire, how he monitors ambulance trusts' performance against response time targets; and if he will make a statement. [175409]

Mr. Bradshaw: National health service ambulance trusts are required to meet the following response times:

Category A (presenting conditions which may be immediately life threatening): calls should be responded to within eight minutes irrespective of location, in 75 per cent. of cases. A fully equipped ambulance should also attend incidents classified as category A within 19 minutes of a request being made for transport, 95 per cent. of the time.

Category B (presenting conditions which though serious are not immediately life threatening): calls should be responded to within 19 minutes in 95 per cent. of cases.

Response time data are collected by ambulance trusts and published annually. The latest statistical bulletin, Ambulance Services, England, 2006-07 was published in June 2007. A copy is available in the Library.

Since 1 October 2004 local NHS organisations have had responsibility for managing and monitoring the ways in which local services respond to Category C (presenting conditions which are not immediately serious or life threatening) calls.

Autism

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance he has issued to NHS trusts on the minimum level of care which should be available to people with autism; [162507]

(2) what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned, and *(b)* evaluated on the level of NHS care available to people with autism in Portsmouth; and if he will make a statement. [162508]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have not issued any guidance to national health service trusts nor have we commissioned or evaluated any research on the level of care which should be available to people with autism in Portsmouth. "Better Services for People with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder: A Note Clarifying Current Government Policy and Describing Good Practice" (published on 16 November 2006) clarifies the nature and intent of existing Government policy as it relates to adults with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). A copy is available in the Library. It is for NHS trusts to manage their priorities and decide how resources should be attributed, taking into consideration individual assessment of need.

Broadmoor Hospital: Suicide

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many deaths recorded as suicide there have been at Broadmoor Hospital in each year since 1997. [170343]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not held centrally. However, Broadmoor hospital has supplied the following data in the following table.

Deaths in Broadmoor since 1997 from West London Mental Health NHS Trust

	Number of suicides (suspected or with inquest verdict)	*Other deaths (natural causes)*	*Total deaths*
1997	1	5	6
1998	2	1	3
1999	6	6	12
2000	1	3	4
2001	0	2	2
2002	2	4	6
2003	0	1	1
2004	0	[1]4	4
2005	3	2	3
2006	0	3	3
2007[2]	3	2	5

[1] This includes one homicide.
[2] To 30 November 2007.

Cancer: Mortality Rate

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the statement in paragraph 1.4 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy on the fall in cancer mortality in under 75s between 1996 and 2005, what the drop in cancer mortality in people under 75 years was in the equivalent period before 1996; and how many lives were saved by the reduction in cancer mortality over this period. [174778]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* "Lives saved" is an assessment of the cumulative effect of year on year reductions to the numbers of deaths in a specific age group and from a specific cause of death. In this case, it relates to deaths from cancer at ages under 75. It is calculated by subtracting from the number of deaths that occurred in the first year of the period, the number of deaths registered in each subsequent year, and then totalling the differences.

The cancer mortality target rate is calculated using three-year moving averages. In order to make concise statements, the three-year periods are sometimes referred to by the middle year of the period. This convention has been used in the first bullet point in paragraph 1.4 of the Cancer Reform Strategy. From the baseline in 1995-96-97 to the most recent period, 2004-05-06, the cancer mortality rate in people aged under 75 in England has fallen by over 17 per cent.

Lives saved are calculated using single year data. The middle year of the baseline period, 1996, is used as the baseline. Using single year data, to the most recent period, 2006, there were approximately 60,000 lives saved, compared to 1996.

The equivalent period before 1996 is 1985 to 1995. From 1984-85-86 to 1993-94-95 cancer mortality in people under age 75 in England fell by almost 10 per cent. With 1985 as the baseline, this equates to approximately 35,000 lives saved between 1985 and 1995.

Cancer: Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to monitor the proposed extension of the 31-day waiting time standard to cover all cancer treatments as described in his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy. [175126]

Ann Keen: We will monitor national health service progress towards delivery of the extended cancer waiting times standards, and achievement of the standards by NHS organisations. The mechanism for monitoring progress is currently under consideration by a Department/NHS expert group.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he intends to establish the national audit in primary care of all patients diagnosed with cancer as described in paragraph 3.61 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy. [175129]

Ann Keen: The national audit in primary care of patients newly diagnosed with cancer will be undertaken in collaboration with the Royal College of General Practitioners and the National Patient Safety

Agency. The National Cancer Director is working with those organisations to establish the details of the audit, and will then establish how soon the audit can begin.

Care Homes: Fees and Charges

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether the consultation on the level of personal expenses allowance contained within the Charging for Residential Accommodation Guide consultation 2008 will follow Cabinet Office guidance regarding a minimum consultation period of 12 weeks; on what date the consultation period will commence; and if he will make a statement; [169942],

(2) over what period the consultation on the level of personal expenses allowance contained within the Charging for Residential Accommodation Guide consultation 2008 will occur; and on what date the consultation period will commence. [170028]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department will undertake public consultation early in 2008 on the recommendations of a group of key stakeholders on changes to the Charging for Residential Accommodation Guide. This will include consultation on the stakeholders' recommendations on the level of the personal expenses allowance. The consultation will be in accordance with Cabinet Office guidance, allowing 12 weeks for comments to be submitted.

Children: Greater London

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the risks to the health of children in London from the level of performance of the Child Health Interim Application system. [171818]

Mr. Bradshaw: BT's provision of an interim child health system pending delivery of a long-term solution reduced the risks arising from the 10 primary care trusts (PCTs) concerned being left with no system following the decision by the previous commercial child health system supplier to withdraw its product from the market.

In the period following implementation of the Child Health Interim Application (CHIA) system, figures generated for the Health Protection Agency's Cover of Vaccination Evaluated Rapidly (COVER) reports indicated that the uptake of immunisations had dropped. However, there is no evidence of any causal relationship with the CHIA implementation.

To mitigate any risks arising from this drop, an immunisation uptake audit was undertaken across the 10 PCTs who were using CHIA in London. The initial findings from the audit show that a significant number of children who appeared in the system as unimmunised had actually received their immunisations. There were also a number of children who had not been immunised, but the audit revealed a number of reasons, unconnected with the computer system changes, why this was the case.

Each of the 10 PCTs is now undertaking an immunisation catch-up programme which aims to complete by March 2008.

Chiropody: Elderly

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of levels of provision of chiropody services for older people in *(a)* Uxbridge constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Hillingdon; and if he will make a statement. [173848]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is the responsibility of primary care trusts to ensure that the services they commission meet the needs of the populations that they serve, including chiropody services.

Commission for Social Care Inspection: Surveys

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will make a statement on the results of the Commission for Social Care Inspection's 2007 employee survey; [172113]

(2) what equality impact assessments have been carried out by the Commission for Social Care Inspection of *(a)* its estates strategy and *(b)* the restructuring and headcount reduction programme for 2007-08; what the main findings were of those assessments; and what steps have been taken by the Commission for Social Care Inspection management in response; [172114]

(3) how much and what proportion of the Commission for Social Care Inspection's payroll budget was spent on agency staff in the last 12 months; and what proportion of the Commission's spending on agency staff was accounted for by agency fees. [172117]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have been informed that the chief inspector of the Commission for Social Care Inspection has replied in writing to my hon. Friend. A copy of the reply has been placed in the Library

Departmental Christmas

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is on the selection of *(a)* real and *(b)* artificial Christmas trees for his Department's festive decorations; and how real trees are disposed of. [173527]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department purchases two real Christmas trees for its festive decorations. The sustainable supplier removes the trees from site and the trees are chipped and used as mulch.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent by his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by his Department for this purpose. [173841]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has a continuing commitment to equality and diversity, which conforms to all statutory duties and supports the Cabinet Office Diversity 10 Point Plan. There is a small equality and diversity team, which is responsible for strategy and policy development. However, the delivery of the diversity agenda is mainstreamed across all functions

and roles—both in the Human Resources Branch and the wider organisation. Because considerations of equality and diversity have become, over the years, integral components of the business and hence a very wide range of staff activities it is not possible to separately identify and report on costs for those components without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental Land

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what land surplus to his Department's requirements it is *(a)* selling, *(b)* leasing and *(c)* intending to (i) sell and (ii) lease; and what the size and name of each relevant site is. [168853]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information in the following tables shows the detail of the more substantial properties in the ownership of the Secretary of State, that the Department is either selling or leasing or intending to sell or lease.

The following table shows the sites the Department is selling:

Property	*Area (hectares)*
Queen Elizabeth hospital, Hackney	0.63
332 High Road, Tottenham	0.10
Dog Kennel Wood, Maidstone	2.15
10 Woodside, Plymouth	0.05
22-38 Princes Road, Redhill	0.16
Land at South Elmsall, Wakefield	1.38
Land at Morton Banks, Keighley	2.33
Part Little Plumstead hospital, Norwich	24.71
Northern View, Bradford	2.89
Land at Victoria hospital, Worksop	0.44
Warwick Cottage, Melton Mowbray	0.1
30 Paul Road, Bodmin	0.05
35 Higher Kingston, Yeovil	0.05
Houses in Surrey	1.00
St James' Court, Balham	0.24

There are no sites which the Department is Leasing.

The following are sites that the Department is intending to sell:

Property	*Area (hectares)*
Land at Napsbury, St Albans	8.49
Part Park Prewett hospital, Basingstoke	1.66
Land at Woodside, Plymouth	0.11
Lakeview Close, Walsall	1.40
Part Royal Shrewsbury hospital, Shrewsbury	[1]
Part Harperbury hospital, Radlett	36.8
Land at Harwich hospital, Harwich	0.76
Harp Close Meadow, Sudbury	1.31
Primrose Lane, Huntington	0.72
Horton House, Epsom	0.44
White Hart, Harrogate	0.33
Hazel Court, Battersea	0.22
Eagle Cottage, Jarrow	0.05
63/65 Bardsley Drive, Farnham	0.05
Land at Crone Hills Health Centre, West Bromwich	0.05
Land at Wellington hospital, Telford	0.10
Garrett Lane, Wandsworth	0.05

[1] To be determined

There are no sites which the Department intends to lease.

Departmental Publicity

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidelines issued to staff maintaining his Department's and its agencies' corporate identity; and what the estimated annual cost is of *(a)* producing and *(b)* complying with such guidelines. [170233]

Mr. Bradshaw: A copy of the departmental and core NHS Identity Guidelines has been placed in the Library.

The Department's guidelines are also available via its website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4108132

The full range of NHS Identity Guidelines is available via the NHS Identity website at:

www.nhsidentity.nhs.uk/main.HTM

Over the last five years, the Department has spent an average of £291,885 per year managing the NHS and the Department's corporate identities.

This figure includes developing and producing guidelines, providing logo artwork to NHS organisations, supporting the Department, NHS and third parties in correctly applying the Department and NHS brands and protecting the Department and NHS brands from misuse.

NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency uses the Department and NHS Identity Guidelines so there are no additional guidelines to be placed in the Library and no annual costs involved in producing and developing guidelines.

A copy of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency's identity guidelines has been placed in the Library. These guidelines were produced several years ago and there is therefore no annual cost.

We are unable to identify how much staff time is spent on complying with the corporate guidelines without incurring disproportionate costs.

Drugs: Olympic Games 2012

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that members of teams competing in the 2012 Olympics *(a)* do not bring proscribed drugs or medicines into the UK prior to competition, *(b)* do not dispose of unused drugs or medicines on the UK market during competition and *(c)* remove all unused imported drugs and medicines from the UK on departure; and if he will make a statement. [175559]

Dawn Primarolo: The import and export of controlled drugs is prohibited under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, except under licence from the Home Office.

Medicines for human use are controlled in the United Kingdom by the 1968 Medicines Act and supporting regulations. Under the provisions of the Medicines Act, prescription-only medicines may be imported or exported to or from the UK by an individual for their personal use.

Any medicinal product which is brought into the UK by an individual for his or her own use or that of a member of his/her family is not 'placed on the market'. Accordingly, it is not subject to the controls of medicines legislation. Any onward sale or supply by an individual however, would place the product on the market and bring it within the scope of regulatory control. The Medicines Act contains provisions to enforce the legislative requirements. Offences are criminal and prosecutions may be brought through the criminal courts.

Health Services: Armed Forces

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what continuing obligations his Department has for the medical care of servicemen and women injured in the course of service after they have been discharged; and if he will make a statement. [172892]

Mr. Bradshaw: The national health service is responsible for the health care of service personnel on leaving the armed forces provided the individual is entitled to residency in the United Kingdom. The Department provides funding to primary care trusts to meet this responsibility.

Health Services: Hertfordshire

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much in financial savings made by Hertfordshire's acute trusts in (*a*) the 2007-08, (*b*) the 2005-06 and (*c*) the 2006-07 financial year; and what the savings were in each year in (i) monetary and (ii) percentage value of the budget. [162906]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally.

Health Services: North West Region

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on (*a*) the procurement process and (*b*) compensation payments for the nationally procured clinical assessment and treatment service in Cumbria and Lancashire to date; from which budget it was planned to meet further such expenditure; which budget will fund the locally procured service; and what further budget adjustments will be made as a consequence of the change from a nationally to a locally procured service. [175374]

Mr. Bradshaw: The total cost of the procurement of Phase 2 of the independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) programme at the end of October 2007 was approximately £84 million; this figure includes all assessment, scoping, procurement, and associated management, professional advisory and support costs. The ISTC programme comprises central resources which work across all schemes and the programme in general. These resources are not disaggregated by individual scheme.

To date, no compensation payments have been made in relation to the proposed Phase 2 clinical assessment, treatment and support scheme in Cumbria and Lancashire. The Department will work with preferred bidders in a systematic way to consider any compensation claims that may be brought on a case-by-case basis, with regard to withdrawn schemes. No specific funds are allocated for this, however the overall budget does include general contingencies for unforeseen events.

The local procurement of independent sector services is a matter for local national health service commissioners.

Health Services: Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on which dates the monthly meetings held between the 13 trusts that will be early achievers of his Department's 18-week target were held; and if he will place copies of the (*a*) agenda and (*b*) minutes of each meeting in the Library. [170190]

Mr. Bradshaw: Dates of the 18-week early achievers meetings are shown as follows. Copies of the agendas and meeting notes from these meetings have been placed in the Library. Some sections have been redacted as they either relate to the current formulation of Government policy or their disclosure would otherwise prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs.

22 February 2007
3 April 2007
1 May 2007
5 June 2007
17 July 2007
25 July 2007
7 August 2007
4 September 2007
2 October 2007
30 October 2007

Health: Children

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what manual systems are being used by primary care trusts (PCTs) to support the Child Health Interim Applications (CHIA) system; and whether PCTs using the CHIA system are able to issue COVER reports; [171770]

(2) with reference to the answer of 8 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 24W, on the Child Health Interim Application, what software was provided to enable primary care trusts to generate COVER reports from the live system; and when it was provided; [171984]

(3) with reference to the answer of 25 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1202W, on child health interim application (CHIA), for what reasons Connecting for Health and the London Strategic Health Authority have not produced reports from the raw data within CHIA for the COVER quarterly and annual returns. [171885]

Mr. Bradshaw: Since May 2006 reports have been produced for the Cover of Vaccination Evaluated Rapidly (COVER) quarterly and annual returns from an extract of the raw data taken directly from the child health interim application (CHIA). The data required to submit COVER returns, which is a primary care trust (PCT) responsibility, are provided to the PCTs which use the CHIA system by BT, the system supplier. The data are taken from the live system and therefore reflect the information stored on CHIA at the point the data are extracted. Each PCT will use different manual systems dependent on their current business processes.

While all parties recognise that this situation is not ideal, the PCTs have indicated that they are satisfied with this approach as an interim solution. On migration to the RiO system, PCTs will be able to generate reports themselves. All PCTs using CHIA are expected to migrate to RiO by the end of 2008.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts (PCTs) in London use the Child Health Interim Applications system; and what other systems are used for the same purpose in each other London PCT. [171809]

Mr. Bradshaw: 22 of London's primary care trusts (PCTs) use a child health system delivered by the London programme for information technology (LPfIT). The following 10 PCTs use the child health interim application (CHIA) system: Barking and Dagenham, Camden, City and Hackney, Haringey, Havering, Islington, Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forrest.

The following PCTs use the child health functionality of CSE Servelec's RiO system, also delivered by LPfIT: Barnet; Ealing; Enfield; Greenwich; Hammersmith and Fulham; Hounslow; Lambeth; Lewisham, Richmond; Westminster; Southwark; Sutton and Merton.

Currently, the remaining PCTs in London use the following systems to support child health services: Bexley McKesson; Brent Continuum; Bromley Totalcare; Croydon EPEX (Ascribe); Harrow Health Solutions Wales Community Child Health 2000 System; Hillingdon Health Solutions Wales Community Child Health 2000 System; Kensington and Chelsea Continuum; Kingston McKesson child health; and Wandsworth Comwise.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) for what reasons the Richs system was replaced by the Child Health Interim Application (CHIA) system; what functionality the CHIA system has that the Richs system did not; and what additional functionality the RiO system will have in comparison with to *(a)* the CHIA system and *(b)* the Richs system; [171811]

(2) for what reasons London primary care trusts were not able to move directly from the Richs system to the RiO system; [171813]

(3) what the status is of the Child Health Interim Application; and if he will make a statement. [172301]

Mr. Bradshaw: The child health interim application (CHIA) was introduced in response to a decision in early 2005 to withdraw support for the ageing Regional Interactive Child Health System (RICHS) from 10 primary care trusts (PCTs) in London taken by its commercial supplier. CHIA was delivered to these PCTs at short notice by BT, the London local service provider under the national programme for information technology, as an interim measure at the request of the local national health service. At the same time NHS Connecting for Health, PCTs and BT were working together on a longer-term solution. The PCTs chose CSE Servelec's RiO system to be their strategic system, and all CHIA trusts will eventually migrate to RiO, which began roll-out in London in 2006.

CHIA was always intended as a rapidly-produced like-for-like replacement for the RICHS system. There was no intention to provide an enhanced product.

PCTs have been heavily involved in the development of the strategic system including the specification of criteria deemed essential by the PCTs using CHIA. They identified the automatic making of appointments and scheduling, and an electronic link with Great Ormond Street's newborn blood spot screening programme, as vital components of the new system. These functions will be present when the first trusts migrate from CHIA to RiO early next year.

Unlike CHIA and RICHS, RiO is an evolving product with capacity for continuing development over time.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts use manual processes alongside their child health applications; and what those processes are. [171825]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Healthcare Commission: Complaints

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints the Healthcare Commission and its predecessor bodies received in each year since 1997. [175091]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 18 December 2007]*: The Healthcare Commission has had responsibility for the second, independent review, stage of the national health service complaints process since the end of July 2004.

Information about the number of complaints the Commission has received is set out as follows:

	Number
2004-05	[1]5,867
2005-06	7,644
2006-07	7,696
2007-08	[2]5,515

[1] Part year only
[2] To 14 December

The following information refers to cases processed at second stage by the NHS prior to July 2004, on cases requesting independent review, and cases referred to independent review panels:

	Requests	Referred to review panel
2002-03	3,600	450
2003-04	3,739	416

Not all requests would have been referred to an independent panel, but they would all have undergone some degree of second stage process in order to determine whether consideration by an independent review panel would be appropriate.

Information for earlier years is not available in the form requested.

Henderson Hospital: Closures

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the (*a*) services funded by the Henderson hospital and (*b*) proposals to provide those services via alternate means. [176860]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The provision of health services, including mental health services, is a matter for the local national health service.

Home Care Services: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many households received domiciliary care in Eastbourne in (*a*) 1987, (*b*) 1992, (*c*) 1997, (*d*) 2002 and (*e*) at the most recent date for which figures are available. [165313]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The following table shows the number of households receiving home care during a sample week in September in East Sussex, which includes Eastbourne, for the years 1992, 1997, 2002 and 2006. Data for 1987 are not available. Separate data for Eastbourne are not collected centrally.

Number of households[1] receiving home care in East Sussex, England: survey week in September

	1992[2,3]	1997[3]	2002	2006
East Sussex[4]	5,950	6,300	2,490	2,560
Brighton and Hove	n/a	2,160	3,050	2,140
Total	5,950	8,450	5,540	4,700

n/a = Data not available.

[1] Households receiving home care purchased with a direct payment are excluded.

[2] First year of collection was 1992; therefore data may not be as robust as following years.

[3] Information on the number of households prior to 2000 included some double counting due to some households receiving home care from both the independent sector and from their local authority. From 2000 the collection was amended to remove the issue around double counting.

[4] The regional boundary of East Sussex changed in 1996 to not include Brighton and Hove within its area in subsequent years. Data for Brighton and Hove have been provided for consistent time series.

Source:
HH1 return.

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether dispensing contractors will be allowed to contract out a full dispensing service of appliances to other organisations under proposed amendments to the Regulatory Terms of Service of Pharmacy and Appliance Contractors in relation to dispensing items listed in Part IX of the Drug Tariff. [176932]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Annex B of the consultation "Arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances and related services to Primary Care. Revised Proposals" sets out a number of proposals relating to essential services provided by dispensing appliance contractors and pharmacy contractors.

One of these proposals states that both dispensing appliance and pharmacy contractors should if they cannot dispense the prescription item be able to pass a prescription form to another dispensing contractor with the patient's consent provided that they do not receive either a gift or a reward from the other dispensing contractor.

This does not preclude dispensing contractors working together in a commercial manner in order to provide a full dispensing service to patients in relation to Part IXA (catheter), Part IXB (incontinence related) or Part IXC (stoma) prescription items.

Independent Sector Procurement Forum

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the role is of the independent sector procurement forum; what funds were allocated to it for 2007-08; who is on the forum; and what remuneration each member receives. [171395]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Independent Sector Procurement Forum will advise the Department on policies and practice in local procurement of clinical services. The forum, the membership of which is still being finalised, will draw on a range of expertise and experience. Forum members will not be paid but will be entitled to claim expenses in line with departmental guidance. Secretariat and any other costs of the forum will be met from existing resources for 2007-08.

Industrial Diseases

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of industrial disease prevalence in determining resource allocation in the NHS. [174655]

Mr. Bradshaw: There is no specific consideration made for industrial disease prevalence in determining resource allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) but industrial disease will be picked up in the models of utilisation of health care in the additional need element of the formula.

A weighted capitation formula is used to determine PCTs' target shares of available resources, to enable them to commission similar levels of health services for populations in similar need.

The components of the formula are used to weight each PCT's 'crude' population according to their relative need (age, and additional need) for health care and the unavoidable geographical differences in the cost of providing health care (market forces factor).

The additional need element of the formula is intended to reflect the relative need for health care over and above that accounted for by age. The need weighting takes the form of indices from two broad service areas:

acute and maternity;

mental health.

The indices are based on models of utilisation of health care and comprise a number of socio-economic and health related variables. There are two different groups of variables included in these models:

standard variables derived from small area statistical modelling of utilisation, and

additional morbidity variables designed to capture some of the effect of unmet need where ethnic minority groups and low income groups do not receive healthcare services to the same level as that of others with similar health characteristics.

For further information on the weighted-capitation formula, please refer to 'Resource Allocation: Weighted Capitation Formula (Fifth edition)'. A copy is available in the Library, and can also be accessed at:

www.dh.gov.uk/allocations

Information Centre for Health and Social Care

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the Information Centre for Health and Social Care to commence development of a dataset for urgent and emergency care, as described on page four of his Department's document Urgent care update: Key areas highlighted by the Direction of Travel consultation and other work; and which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals he expects the Information Centre to consult on the matter. [175032]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Information Centre for health and social care (IC) are working towards developing a dataset for urgent and emergency care. The IC will follow their usual processes of wide engagement with relevant professional bodies, and may also include an open consultation period.

Living Wills

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued to members of the public on living wills; and what plans he has to revise such advice. [175732]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Mental Capacity Act 2005 sets out the statutory rules governing advance decisions to refuse treatment, which were sometimes previously known as 'living wills'. The Government issued the Mental Capacity Act Code of Practice in April 2007, which includes guidance on advance decisions, and a range of information booklets for the public and professionals, which summarise the provisions that relate to advance decisions. The Department has issued information on the transitional provisions for advance decisions to refuse life-sustaining treatment made before the Act came into force. The Code of Practice and other information will be updated as necessary.

Medical Records

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the full implementation of the Summary Care Record is expected to take place; and if he will make a statement. [175030]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are no current plans to implement the summary care record (SCR) beyond the existing early adopter programme. The Department is working with both the Summary Care Record Advisory Group and the independent evaluators based at University College London to ensure that all significant learning from the early adopters is taken into account as soon as it is available. The evaluation will draw from extensive fieldwork done to capture the views and experiences of general practitioners, practice managers, nurses, other national health service clinical and management staff, and patients. The results of the evaluation will be incorporated into future deployment plans for the SCR.

Medical Records: Databases

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which categories of NHS staff working outside GP surgeries will have direct access to information in detailed care records created by clinicians working in a GP surgery; and which of those staff categories will be authorised to override patients' wishes expressed through sealed envelope software. [169022]

Mr. Bradshaw: Individuals from outside the general practitioner's practice will only be able to access a patient's detailed care record, where they are working within a local health community where patient records are managed through a shared detailed record system and where they have a smartcard and role profile that enables access to patient records and also have a legitimate relationship with the patient – for example, because they are providing healthcare or treatment in a different setting, or they have express consent from the patient for other reasons, such as clinical research, or there is a statutory basis or court order supporting disclosure.

Patients may also request that a flag within the system be set to prevent information being accessed by anyone outside of the practice without their express consent other than where there is a legal requirement to do so, or an overriding public interest such as serious crime.

A patient's wishes regarding a sealed envelope can only be overridden exceptionally by staff who have been specifically granted the ability to do so by their employing organisations as part of their assigned role profile. When they do override a seal they must record whether their action is justified by express patient consent, a legal requirement, or an overriding public interest, and this will subsequently be checked by the employing body.

Mental Health Services: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the Health Commission star rating is for each London mental health trust; and if he will make a statement. [176001]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The star rating system is no longer used by the Healthcare Commission. The rating system is now shown through scores of 'weak', 'fair', 'good' and 'excellent'. The information requested can be found in the following table:

	2006-07	
Name of Trust	*Use of Resources*	*Quality of Services*
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust	Fair	Good
Camden and Islington Mental Health Trust	Good	Excellent
Central and North West London Mental Health Trust	Good	Excellent
East London and The City Mental Health Trust	Good	Excellent
North East London Mental Health Trust	Fair	Good
Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust	Excellent	Good
South London and Maudesly NHS Foundation Trust	Excellent	Good
South West London and St. George's Mental Health Trust	Fair	Fair
Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust	Good	Excellent
West London Mental Health NHS Trust	Good	Excellent

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been detained involuntarily for treatment under the Mental Health Act in each London mental health trust in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [176029]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for talk therapies in each London mental health trust in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [176030]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information relating to average waiting times for talking therapies is not held centrally. However, this can be obtained directly from the national health service trusts concerned.

Currently, there are no national waiting times targets for access to psychological therapies in primary care. Waiting times standards are being developed which will be tested in the new Pathfinder Sites for improving access to psychological therapies in 2007-08. These sites will test out proposed standards including appropriate access times for different stages of treatment as detailed in the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Guidelines.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for a first appointment with a mental health professional following referral by a GP in the last five years, broken down by London mental health trust; and if he will make a statement. [176031]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information is not available in the format requested. Waiting times can only be calculated back to 2005 as prior to this, data were only collected for waits over 13 weeks. The available information has been set out in the tables.

Waiting time data are collected for consultant led out-patient appointments, but recently more work is being done by multi-disciplinary teams. Therefore waiting lists have fallen for mental health specialties. Furthermore, as numbers are small, data for average waits cannot be calculated for all trusts.

Furthermore, in-patient psychiatric activity has fallen over time as we have established more than 700 new mental health teams providing community based care as an alternative to acute in-patient care.

Out-patient waiting list statistics for mental health specialties for London provider trusts

			Not yet seen at the end of the month who are still waiting				
Time period month ending	*Name*	*Total only 13 week out-patient waiters not seen after 1st out-patient appointment for mental health specialties*	*Not seen 13<17 weeks*	*Not seen 17<21 weeks*	*Not seen 21+ weeks*	*Not seen 21<26 weeks*	*Not seen 26+ weeks*
March 2003	Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	8	5	3	0	0	0
March 2003	North East London Mental Health NHS Trust	15	10	5	0	0	0
March 2003	West London Mental Health NHS Trust	9	5	4	0	0	0
March 2003	Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust	3	2	1	0	0	0
March 2003	South West London and St. George's NHS Trust	10	4	5	1	1	0

Out-patient waiting list statistics for mental health specialties for London provider trusts

			Not yet seen at the end of the month who are still waiting				
Time period - month ending	*Name*	*Total over 13 week out-patient waiters not seen after 1st out-patient appointment for mental health specialties*	*Not seen 13<17 weeks*	*Not seen 17<21 weeks*	*Not seen 21+ weeks*	*Not seen 21<26 weeks*	*Not seen 26+ weeks*
March 2003	Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	32	17	15	0	0	0
March 2003	University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2	2	0	0	0	0
March 2003	Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust	4	4	0	0	0	0
March 2003	South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust	81	33	47	1	0	1
March 2003	East London and The City Mental Health NHS Trust	18	13	5	0	0	0
March 2003	Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust	5	5	0	0	0	0

			Not yet seen at the end of the timebands not seen				
Time period - month ending	*Name*	*Total over 13 week out-patient waiters not seen after 1st out-patient appointment for mental health specialties*	*Not seen 13<17 weeks*	*Not seen 17<21 weeks*	*Not seen 21 +weeks*	*Not seen 21<26weeks*	*Not seen 26+weeks*
March 2004	North East London Mental Health NHS Trust	1	1	0	0	0	0
March 2004	West London Mental Health NHS Trust	9	9	0	0	0	0
March 2004	Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust	2	2	0	0	0	0
March 2004	Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust	43	43	0	0	0	0
March 2004	South West London and St George's NHS Trust	1	1	0	0	0	0
March 2004	East London and The City Mental Health NHS Trust	9	9	0	0	0	0
March 2004	Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust	1	1	0	0	0	0

Note
Previous to June 2004, the out-patients not seen were only collected for patients not seen who were waiting 13 weeks and above. Therefore no average could be calculated.
Source
QM08NS

Out-patient waiting list statistics for mental health specialties for London provider trusts - patients still waiting at the end of the month

Time period - month ending	*Name*	*Median waiting time of patients still waiting for a 1st out-patient appointment for mental health specialties (in weeks)*
March 2005	Bromley PCT	n/a
March 2005	Hillingdon PCT	n/a
March 2005	Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	n/a
March 2005	North East London Mental Health NHS Trust	5.6
March 2005	West London Mental Health NHS Trust	4.7
March 2005	Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust	3.7
March 2005	Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust	n/a
March 2005	Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust	5.9
March 2005	South West London and St. George's NHS Trust	4.9
March 2005	University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	n/a
March 2005	Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust	3.8

Out-patient waiting list statistics for mental health specialties for London provider trusts—patients still waiting at the end of the month

Time period—month ending	*Name*	*Median waiting time of patients still waiting for a 1st out-patient appointment for mental health specialties (in weeks)*
March 2005	East London and The City Mental Health NHS Trust	4.7
March 2005	Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust	7.9
March 2006	Bromley PCT	n/a
March 2006	Barnet PCT	n/a
March 2006	Hillingdon PCT	n/a
March 2006	Brent PCT	n/a
March 2006	West London Mental Health NHS Trust	4.4
March 2006	Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust	3.4
March 2006	Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust	n/a
March 2006	Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust	4.0
March 2006	South West London and St. George's NHS Trust	3.4
March 2006	University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	n/a
March 2006	Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust	3.3
March 2006	North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	3.8
March 2006	East London and The City Mental Health NHS Trust	4.2
March 2006	Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust	n/a
March 2007	Bromley PCT	n/a
March 2007	Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	n/a
March 2007	West London Mental Health NHS Trust	3.1
March 2007	Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust	3.3
March 2007	Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust	n/a
March 2007	Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust	6.6
March 2007	South West London and St. George's NHS Trust	3.6
March 2007	University College London NHS Foundation Trust	n/a
March 2007	Central and North West London Mental Health NHS Trust	3.9
March 2007	East London and The City Mental Health NHS Trust	4.3
March 2007	Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust	n/a
September 2007	Bromley PCT	n/a
September 2007	Croydon PCT	n/a
September 2007	King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	n/a
September 2007	West London Mental Health NHS Trust	2.9
September 2007	Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust	n/a
September 2007	South West London and St. George's NHS Trust	2.5
September 2007	University College London NHS Foundation Trust	n/a
September 2007	Central and North West London Mental Health NHS Trust	2.9
September 2007	East London and The City Mental Health NHS Trust	6.9
September 2007	Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust	n/a

n/a = not applicable.

Notes:

1. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits. In particular, specialties with low numbers waiting are prone to fluctuations in the median. This should be taken into account when interpreting the data.
2. Medians are provided for out-patients not seen with total of less than 50 because this population is too small for a statistically meaningful median to be calculated so a n/a shown in that case.

Source:

QM08NS

Mental Health Services: Standards

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government have taken to improve the quality of services for mental health patients since 1997. [175592]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Mental health was identified as a key clinical priority in "Saving Lives: Our Healthier Nation", in 1998, which set out a target to reduce suicides by one fifth by 2010. This target is included in the Department's public service agreement.

We published the first ever National Service Framework (NSF) in England for adult mental health services in 1999. It laid down models of treatment and care which people would be entitled to expect in every part of the country and was a deliberate move to raise the profile of mental health. Since then, mental health services have been working to implement a radical programme of modernisation to improve access to effective treatment and care, raise standards and provide quicker and more convenient services.

The "NHS Plan" 2000, aimed to strengthen community care and in doing so, take pressure off acute beds. It provided an extra annual investment of over £300 million by 2003-04 to fast forward the NSF.

From 2001-02 to 2006-07, real terms investment in adult mental health services increased by 31 per cent. (or £1.2 billion)—that is £1.9 billion in cash terms. The

national health service spent over £5.1 billion on adult mental health services in 2006-07 compared to £3.9 billion in 2001-02.

Key targets were set for service delivery on early intervention, crisis resolution and assertive outreach services and, due to the NSF and increased funding, we now have over 700 new mental health teams working in the community.

During 2006-07, crisis and home treatment teams provided 95,000 episodes of home treatment against 84,000 in 2005-06 for people who would otherwise have been admitted to hospital.

The Government have allocated an extra £130 million in 2006-07 to provide more appropriate 'places of safety' for people detained under the Mental Health Act by the police.

We now have 55 per cent. more consultant psychiatrists, almost 70 per cent. more clinical psychologists and at least 20 per cent. more mental health nurses than we had in 1997.

Because of the NSF and increased funding, we now have over 700 new mental health teams working in the community (that includes assertive outreach, early intervention, crisis resolution teams).

A five-year action plan is in place to address inequalities in the experience Black and minority ethnic people have in accessing services.

We are also committed to expanding access to psychological therapies as a positive alternative to medication. By 2010-11, the NHS will spend £170 million per year on psychological therapies, with £33 million in 2008-09, £103 million in 2009-10 and £173 million in 2010-11. This investment will mean:

900,000 more people will be treated for depression and anxiety, many of whom will be completely cured;

450,000 achieving measurable recovery;

all GP practices will have access to psychological therapies as the programme rolls out; and

the average waiting time for psychological treatments will reduce from the current 18 months to a few weeks.

Mental Health Services: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dedicated beds were available for mental health patients in Suffolk in each year since 1997. [175235]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not available prior to 2005-06. Due to trust mergers and demergers, data are not comparable. The number of beds available at Suffolk Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust in 2005-06 was 205 and in 2006-07 it was 258.

The reduction in mental health bed numbers reflects the increasing provision by the national health service in England of treatment for patients with mental health conditions in primary care and community settings, without the need for hospital admissions.

Mental Health Services: Young People

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many under 18-year-olds were admitted to adult mental health wards in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [174759]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not available in either the format or time frame requested. However, the number of bed days on adult psychiatric wards of patients aged 16 or 17 and those children under 16 is in the following table for the two years for which figures are available.

	2005-06	*2006-07*
Patients aged under 16	353	201
Patients age 16 or 17	29,306	19,988

Due to the statistical basis for collecting this information changing between the two years, the figures are not directly comparable.

The Mental Health Act 2007 contains a provision (section 31) that ensures that patients aged under 18 are treated in an environment in hospital, which is suitable having regard to their age (subject to their needs). The NHS operating framework which was published recently also reinforces this commitment.

The Government have made a commitment to commence this provision in England by April 2010. Capital funding of £31 million has been provided in 2007-08 for 17 projects specifically designed to help eliminate the inappropriate use of adult psychiatric wards for children and young people.

Midwives: Higher Education

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwifery academics there were in each year since 1997. [172148]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of midwifery academics in each year since 1997 is not held by this Department. The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills holds data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency on the number of academic staff.

NHS Treatment Centres: Private Sector

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the performance of Independent Sector Treatment Centres (ISTCs); what mechanisms are in place to monitor the undertaking of operations paid for by primary care trusts; how many complaints he has received of ISTCs not carrying out paid for operations; and if he will make a statement. [171396]

Mr. Bradshaw: Around 839,000 national health service patients have been treated through the various independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) programmes to date.

The utilisation of ISTC contracts (the levels of update of services provided) is monitored by the Central Contracts Monitoring Unit of the Department's Commercial Directorate.

The Department works with sponsors and providers to ensure optimum utilisation of the contracts through the total contract period. This includes changing the case-mix to respond to local needs, and working with providers and primary care trusts to recover previous under-utilised activity where possible.

The Department does not routinely collect information on the number of complaints made in respect of ISTCs. However, the Department, the NHS and providers meet quarterly for a Joint Service Review to discuss a range of operational issues and to ensure that the services offered deliver a high-quality effective service to the NHS patients that they serve.

NHS: EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the total cost incurred by hospital trusts in relation to the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. [175984]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not collected centrally.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data are being recorded under the RiO patient care records system. [172896]

Mr. Bradshaw: RiO is an information system designed for use across the community health sector. Data are recorded to support the key functions of providing secure access to patients' care records, to allocate, share and reassign cases, to record treatments, and to book appointments. As well as recording clinical information it provides clinical and administrative functionality to support care professionals, working in teams, with features such as diary, referral and caseload management, progress notes and care plans. Child health functionality includes the scheduling, recording and outcome of immunisations, health reviews and development checks, registration of birth details, screening tests and special needs.

RiO is the strategic community health information solution for London. Its features and functionality will continue to be developed with the input of national health service staff in London.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue expenditure there has been on the National Programme for IT and Connecting for Health in each year since the programme began; and how much (i) capital and (ii) revenue spending has been budgeted for each remaining year of the programme. [172897]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's NHS Connecting for Health Agency is responsible both for ensuring delivery of the information technology (IT) systems under the national programme for IT (NPfIT), and for maintaining the critical business systems previously provided to the national health service by the former NHS Information Authority. Information covering all the agency's responsibilities is in the tables.

£ million

	Actual expenditure			Forecast outturn
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Capital	360.0	429.0	589.0	826.0
Revenue	260.0	539.0	528.0	500.0

£ million

	Planned expenditure		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Capital	826.0	1,049.7	835.8
Revenue	703.5	786.9	785.9

Notes

1. All sums exclude capital charges.
2. The amounts include the original costs of NPfIT contracts, which have not changed, but also include new and additional requirements that have been added, supported by separate business cases and funding, as reported by the National Audit Office.
3. With the exception of planned revenue expenditure in 2008-09, figures for 2008-09 to 2010-11 are those used to inform the comprehensive spending review and are subject to revision in light of the evolving IT needs of the NHS.
4. Budgets for years beyond 2010-11 are dependent on the outcome of future spending reviews.

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which hospital trusts have installed Cerner's Millennium system; on what date it was installed; which hospital trusts are expected to install the system and when; what the name is of the senior clinician on each hospital IT board; which Minister is responsible for the system roll out; what representations he has received from clinicians in hospitals using the system on their experience of using it; if he will ask a chief medical officer to consult clinicians using the system in *(a)* Kent, *(b)* Sussex, *(c)* Cheshire and *(d)* Buckinghamshire; and if he will update the figures provided previously in the answer of 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 823-4W. [173426]

Mr. Bradshaw: Cerner is the chosen subcontractor of two of the local service providers (LSPs) under the national programme for information technology (NPfIT) for the provision of health care IT systems, Fujitsu in the south of England and BT in London.

Nine health communities have to date gone live with the Cerner Millennium system provided through the national programme. Each health community typically comprises an acute national health service trust and the associated primary care trust sites in its area. Details are provided in the following table.

Trust	Total users	Peak users	Average users	Go live date
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	880	700	450	25 September 2006
Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Trust	2,000	980	420	24 February 2007
Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust	900	170	130	22 December 2005
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	2,875	620	400	20 April 2007
Weston Area Health NHS Trust	1,700	1,400	450	29 July 2006
Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	1,820	980	360	10 February 2007
Worthing and Southlands Hospitals	3,750	300	180	29 September 2007

Trust	Total users	Peak users	Average users	Go live date
Barnet and Chase Farm NHS Trust	4,580	410	110	24 July 2007
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	2,050	170	50	29 October 2007
Total	20,555	5,730	2,550	—

In addition two London NHS hospital trusts, the Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, and Newham University Hospital Trust, had initiated procurements of the Millennium system before the national programme.

To date, some 2.7 million patient records have been entered in the systems currently in use.

Four further trusts are currently expected to go live with the existing release (release 0) of the Millennium system by the early part of 2008. These are Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust in 2007, and the Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust, the Royal West Sussex Hospital Trust, and Barts and the London NHS Trust in 2008. Thereafter, release 1 of the system will form the basis for other implementations across both LSP areas in 2008-09 and beyond. Specific go-live dates in each strategic health authority area will be determined by local agreement with the NHS bodies concerned.

All matters to do with the national programme fall within my portfolio of departmental responsibilities as the Minister of State.

Details of clinical representation on bodies responsible for overseeing local implementation of NPfIT systems are not held centrally.

While Ministers have not received any direct representations, we are aware that users in the early deployments expressed some concerns about the system's management and statutory reporting functionality, and some of its usability features, for example the number of key strokes required for certain functions. Action has been taken to address these concerns and to enhance these areas. This is making a positive impact. Many users who have become familiar with Millennium over time have expressed satisfaction with the system.

From the inception of the IT programme relevant and experienced clinicians have contributed to the effective identification of requirements, design and testing of all systems wherever across the NHS these are being delivered. This continues to be the case. NHS Connecting for Health has appointed a chief clinical officer to lead the clinical engagement and clinical contribution to the programme.

NHS: Inflation

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rate of *(a)* inflation and *(b)* wage inflation was in the NHS in each year since 1995. [164592]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table reports, from 1995-96 to 2005-06, Hospital and Community Health Service (HCHS) wage inflation and total national health service inflation.

	HCHS Pay Inflation	Percentage Total NHS Inflation
1995-96	4.4	3.7
1996-97	3.3	2.9
1997-98	2.5	2.1
1998-99	4.9	3.9
1999-2000	6.9	4.6
2000-01	7.2	4.2
2001-02	8.3	4.8
2002-03	5.0	3.5
2003-04	7.3	4.9
2004-05	4.5	n/a
2005-06	4.7	n/a

Notes:
1. Wage inflation is measured using the HCHS pay cost index, which is a measure of the average paybill per head of those employed within the HCHS.
2. The total NHS inflation index is no longer available from 2004-05 as it relies on the General Medical Service (GMS)/Personal Medical Service data series, which has discontinued since the introduction of the new GMS contract in 2004-05.

NHS: Pay

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many individuals in senior administrative roles in all NHS bodies in the East of England were paid *(a)* over £100,000 and *(b)* over £150,000 in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2007. [175273]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not collect details on the pay of individuals across the whole national health service.

Very senior managers (chief executives and board level directors) in strategic and special health authorities, primary care trusts and ambulance trusts are paid under the "Pay Framework for very senior managers in strategic and special health authorities, primary care trusts and ambulance trusts", published in July 2006, a copy of which is available in the Library. This does not apply to other NHS trusts (acute, mental health, care and foundation trusts), but they are free to adopt the principles of the arrangements.

Under the Framework, senior executives are paid a spot rate salary (£55,838 to £196,704), with the provision of payments of recruitment and retention premia (of up to 30 per cent. of the spot rate salary) and additional duties (up to 10 per cent. of the spot rate salary) where appropriate.

NHS organisations are public bodies and as such, the pay of their senior executive teams is a matter of public record, published in their annual accounts.

NHS: Procurement

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the terms of reference are of the joint Office of Government Commerce and NHS Purchasing Supply Review; when the review will be completed; and whether the results of the review will be published. [172920]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Office of Government Commerce's programme of Procurement Capability Reviews was announced for all Government Departments in January 2007 as a key enabler of the Transforming Government Procurement report.

The review of the Department is being coordinated for the Department by the commercial directorate and the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency. The terms of reference will be agreed in early 2008. The intensive interview stage of the review is scheduled to begin in March 2008 and last three-four weeks. The review team's report on the Department will be published in the autumn.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the result of the Strategic Review of Collaborative Procurement in the NHS was; and if he will publish the report of the review. [172921]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Strategic Review of Collaborative Procurement in the national health service is not yet complete. The Department will consult on its findings before making them available to interested parties shortly.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what expected NHS expenditure on medical supplies and equipment is for 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [172923]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available centrally in the exact format requested. Expenditure on clinical supplies and services is collected on an historical basis from strategic health authorities (SHAs), primary care trusts (PCTs) and national health service trusts. The latest year for which information is available is 2006-07 when the total expenditure on clinical supplies and services was £5,043,371,000. This figure contains the purchase of low value medical and surgical equipment but not items over £5,000. Information on the expenditure on medical equipment costing more than £5,000 is not available. Information for 2007-08 will be available next autumn.

The information is from the annual financial returns of SHAs, PCTs and NHS trusts. No information is available for NHS foundation trusts.

Primary Care Trusts

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the support and development framework for primary care trusts, supporting his Department's proposals for world class commissioning, to be made available. [175098]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is planned that the support and development framework will begin to be made available from spring 2008. The support and development framework will be built upon and iterated during the year to reflect the changing needs of primary care trusts.

Private Finance Unit

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which projects under the private finance initiative his Department's Private Finance Unit has categorised as having not established clear requirements before getting under way; [174489]

(2) which NHS buildings constructed under the private finance initiative his Department's Private Finance Unit assessed as not fitting *(a)* the departmental vision, *(b)* the needs of the NHS and *(c)* the needs of patients and the public. [175356]

Mr. Bradshaw: At all stages of the approval process for a private finance initiative (PFI) scheme, the business case must include clear evidence that the scheme supports all local and national service and clinical targets. Output specifications supplied to bidders by the trust explicitly state the scope of clinical services and functional content that they require from their new facility.

Clinicians and local commissioners must be represented on a trust's PFI project board and provide written endorsement of the level and type of services being provided in the final PFI proposals. This must be evidenced in the final full business case as a condition of formal approval by the relevant strategic health authority, the Department and for larger cases HM Treasury. Guidance also requires local people, staff and their representatives to be consulted on the proposals and to be able to respond.

Prosthetics: Ex-servicemen

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what provision is made for the continuing care of armed forces veterans with C-leg limb prostheses; [175344]

(2) what assessment he has made of the consistency of ongoing limb prosthetic services available to veterans on the NHS. [175345]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No assessment of ongoing prosthetic services has been carried out centrally. It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local stakeholders to assess the needs of their local population and to commission services accordingly. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community including the provision of prosthetic services for veterans.

Continuing national health service health care is provided over an extended period of time to meet physical or mental health needs that have arisen as a result of disability, an accident or illness. It is available to anyone who has been assessed as having a high level of need for ongoing health care.

Psychiatry

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of Human Givens as a form of psychotherapy; whether Human Givens treatment may be provided by the NHS; and what clinical trials of the effectiveness of Human Givens his Department plans to consider. [174647]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has not assessed Human Givens as a form of psychotherapy and has no plans to do so at this time.

Psychiatry: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many psychiatrists were employed by each London mental health trust in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [175999]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested can be found in the following table.

In-patient psychiatric activity has fallen over time as we have established more than 700 new mental health teams providing community based care as an alternative to acute in-patient care.

Hospital and Community Health Services: medical and dental staff working within the psychiatry group of specialties in London strategic health authority (SHA) area, showing mental heath trusts: As at 30 September each year

Numbers (headcount) and full-time equivalent

		2002		2003		2004	
		All staff[1]	Of which Consultant	All staff[1]	Of which Consultant	All staff[1]	Of which Consultant
London SHA Area		1,870	736	1,970	800	2,203	896
of which							
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	RRP	166	60	180	64	214	80
Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust	TAF	103	30	138	50	146	46
Central and North West London Mental Health NHS Trust	RV3	204	76	217	82	232	96
East London and the City Mental Health NHS Trust	RWK	155	61	174	70	214	77
North East London Mental Health NHS Trust	RAT	96	49	71	34	122	50
Oxleas NHS Trust	RPG	102	39	94	43	105	43
South London and Maudsley NHS Trust	RV5	464	193	502	208	510	226
South West London and St. George's Mental Health NHS Trust	RQY	249	94	261	102	273	108
West London Mental Health NHS Trust	RKL	201	78	208	85	236	96

		2005		2006	
		All staff[1]	Of which Consultant	All staff[1]	Of which Consultant
London SHA Area		2,306	931	2,388	947
of which					
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	RRP	241	87	240	98
Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust	TAF	156	50	156	57
Central and North West London Mental Health NHS Trust	RV3	257	100	293	110
East London and the City Mental Health NHS Trust	RWK	176	83	233	90
North East London Mental Health NHS Trust	RAT	140	51	140	48
Oxleas NHS Trust	RPG	102	47	129	56
South London and Maudsley NHS Trust	RV5	542	227	533	213
South West London and St. George's Mental Health NHS Trust	RQY	274	105	262	106
West London Mental Health NHS Trust	RKL	242	96	252	104

[1] All staff denotes qualified medical staff who work in the psychiatry group of specialties within the specified organisations.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many psychiatrist nurses were employed by each London mental health trust in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [176000]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested can be found in the following table.

In-patient psychiatric activity has fallen over time as we have established more than 700 new mental health teams providing community based care as an alternative to acute in-patient care.

National health service hospital and community health services: Qualified psychiatric nurses in the London strategic health authority (SHA) area showing mental health trusts: As at September each year

						Headcount
		2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
London SHA area		8,501	9,902	10,266	10,264	10,251
of which						
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	RRP	863	788	974	1,070	1,029
Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust	TAF	434	615	679	691	748
Central and North West London Mental Health NHS Trust	RV3	1,161	1,062	1,140	1,237	1,456
East London and the City Mental Health NHS Trust	RWK	781	950	980	913	902
North East London Mental Health NHS Trust	RAT	522	846	804	538	692
Oxleas NHS Trust	RPG	649	719	622	637	635
South London and Maudsley NHS Trust	RV5	1,808	2,246	2,572	2,635	2,488
South West London & St. George's Mental Health NHS Trust	RQY	697	828	825	838	812
West London Mental Health NHS Trust	RKL	1,336	1,316	1,423	1,422	1,446

Notes:
1. Psychiatric nurses includes community psychiatric nurses.
2. More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total workforce figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than 1 per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures (and negligible for full-time equivalents). This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends over time.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce census.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many vacant psychiatric posts there are in each London mental health trust; and if he will make a statement. [176034]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested can be found in the following table.

In-patient psychiatric activity has fallen over time as we have established more than 700 new mental health teams providing community based care as an alternative to acute in-patient care.

The three month vacancy number for all qualified nurses and doctors (excluding doctors in training) working within the psychiatry group of specialties in London strategic health authority area, showing mental health trusts as 31 March 2007

			Three month vacancy numbers
		Qualified nurses	*Doctors (excluding doctors in training)*
London Strategic Health Authority Area		1	9
of which			
Barnet, Enfield And Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	RRP	0	6
Camden and Islington Mental Health And Social Care Trust	TAF	0	0
Central And North West London Mental Health NHS Trust	RV3	0	0
East London And The City Mental Health NHS Trust	RWK	0	0
North East London Mental Health NHS Trust	RAT	0	0
Oxleas NHS Trust	RPG	0	0
South London and Maudsley NHS Trust	RV5	1	1
South West London and St. George's Mental Health NHS Trust	RQY	0	3
West London Mental Health NHS Trust	RKL	0	0

Notes:
1. Three month vacancies are vacancies which trusts are actively trying to fill, which had lasted for three months or more (whole time equivalents).
2. Vacancy numbers are rounded to the nearest whole number.
3. Psychiatric nurses are Community Psychiatric nurses and Other Psychiatric nurses.
4. Vacancy numbers are rounded to the nearest whole number.
5. Strategic health authority figures are based on trusts, and do not necessarily reflect the geographical provision of health care.

Source:
The Information Centre Medical and Dental and Non-Medical Workforce Census, Vacancies Survey.

Richard Granger

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what effect the resignation of Mr. Richard Granger had on the renegotiation of the Department's Connecting for Health contract with BT. [175348]

Mr. Bradshaw: The decision of the Director General of NHS Connecting for Health to step down from his role in the Department was unrelated to, and had no impact on, the recent resetting of contracts let under the national programme for information technology, including that with BT.

Sheep: Disease Control

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he last reviewed scientific advice on the removal of specified risk material from sheep over 12 months old or with permanent incisors erupted; and what plans he has to change his policy on this matter. [175955]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Food Standards Agency keeps the possible human health risks from Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) in sheep and the specified risk material (SRM) controls under continual review. The Agency has advised that on the basis of the current scientific evidence they have no immediate plans to put forward to the European Commission any proposals to change the policy on the removal of SRM from sheep over 12 months of age. Controls on the removal of SRM are set out in Community regulations which are applicable in all member states. The European Commission published its TSE Road Map on the future of TSE controls in July 2005. This indicated that SRM controls, including in sheep, would be reviewed in the short-medium term (2005-09) in the light of scientific opinion.

Spinal Muscular Atrophy

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ensure that electrically powered indoor and outdoor wheelchairs are made available to children with spinal muscular atrophy on the basis of clinical need. [175293]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: All national health service wheelchair services are funded out of general allocation funding to primary care trusts (PCTs). It is up to individual PCTs to set their own eligibility criteria for their service. Decisions about the type of wheelchair provided to an individual will be based on an individual assessment of their needs and the PCTs eligibility criteria. This includes wheelchairs for children with spinal muscular atrophy.

Vaccination: Children

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are used by GPs to identify children who are due for immunisation and who have not received it. [171808]

Mr. Bradshaw: There is a requirement under the new General Medical Services contract and the Primary Medical Services (Directed Enhanced Services) (England) Directions 2006, that the general practitioner:

> develops and maintains a register (its "Childhood Immunisation Scheme Register", which may comprise electronically tagged entries in a wider computer database) of all the children for whom the contractor has a contractual duty to provide childhood immunisation and pre-school booster services (who may already have been immunised, by the contractor or otherwise, or to whom the contractor has offered or needs to offer immunisations).

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what responsibility general practitioners have to inform parents and guardians that children are due for vaccination. [171817]

Mr. Bradshaw: There is a requirement under the new General Medical Services and Personal Medical Services contract and Primary Medical Services (Directed Enhanced Services) (England) Directions 2006 that the general practitioner:

> (i) develops a strategy for liaising with and informing parents or guardians of children on its Childhood Immunisation Scheme Register about its immunisation programme with the aim of improving uptake; and
>
> (ii) provides information on request to those parents or guardians about immunisation.

Waiting Lists

Mr. Horam: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what targets he has set for reducing waiting times between a patient being placed on a consultant's list and the operation taking place; and what his policy is on these matters. [175276]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 18 December 2007]:* The operational standard in place for the national health service is a maximum wait of 26 weeks for an operation from the time the decision to admit was made.

By December 2008, patients can expect to wait a maximum of 18 weeks from the time they are referred to a consultant to the start of their treatment, unless it is clinically appropriate for them to wait longer or they choose to do so. This includes time spent waiting for out-patient appointments and diagnostic tests as well as for any operation or other treatment if appropriate.

Walnuttree Hospital: Hospital Wards

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many wards at the Walnuttree hospital, Sudbury are not in use. [175582]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally. This is a matter for the national health service locally. However, hospital wards are regularly opened and closed to meet fluctuating demands.

West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust: Heart Disease Nurses

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many heart failure nurses are *(a)* employed and *(b)* on maternity leave in West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust; and if he will make a statement. [164105]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally.

JUSTICE

Association of Electoral Administrators

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the recent meeting between his Department's officials and the Association of Electoral Administrators at which holding a general election in the autumn was discussed. [176763]

Bridget Prentice: My officials hold regular meetings on an ongoing basis with the Association of Electoral Administrators at which a range of electoral issues are discussed. Such a meeting, which was pre-planned, took place in September. Issues surrounding the administration of elections were discussed at the meeting along with a variety of other issues. These meetings are informal in nature and minutes are not taken.

Chelmsford Crown Court: Facilities

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what facilities are available at Chelmsford Crown court for (*a*) defendants, (*b*) families of defendants and (*c*) victims of crime; what such facilities were available in (i) 1996, (ii) 1998, (iii) 2001, (iv) 2005 and (v) 2006; what plans he has to improve facilities; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [174070]

Maria Eagle: Facilities available at Chelmsford Crown court are as follows:

(*a*) Since March 2006, there has been a dedicated suite available for defendants on bail.

(*b*) Rooms are not normally provided for families of defendants. However, where there are special circumstances, a lockable interview room is available and can be allocated for use by the families of defendants.

(*c*) Since 1996, there have been three rooms available for victims of crime; the normal witness assembly room plus two other dedicated rooms for vulnerable witnesses or families of murder victims.

Separately, during 2007, there have been representations on proposed new magistrates court buildings in Chelmsford both from a local Councillor and an MP.

There are currently no plans to improve facilities at the Crown court.

Chelmsford Prison

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many (*a*) adults and (*b*) young offenders there are in Chelmsford Prison. [174982]

Mr. Hanson: At the end of October 2007, there were an estimated 370 adult offenders (aged 21 and over) and 180 young adult offenders (aged 18 to 20) detained in Chelmsford prison. These figures exclude individuals on remand awaiting trial.

Information on the total number of prisoners in all prison establishments in England and Wales can be found at the website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/population-in-custody-oct07.pdf

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Christmas

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether it is his Department's policy to use (*a*) incandescent light bulbs and (*b*) LED lights for festive decorations on departmental premises. [173497]

Maria Eagle: The information is as follows:

Ministry of Justice Headquarters Estate:

The Corporate HQ Facilities M&E Contractor (ASEL) purchases lights for festive decoration across the CHQ Estate. The only festive lights ASEL have purchased are lights for the Christmas tree and there is currently no policy in place with regards to light bulb type. The overriding decision making process is governed by Health and Safety policy.

In respect of the delivery Agencies of the Ministry of Justice (including NOMS, HMPS, HMCS and tribunals), these are matters that are left to local management, who are best placed to judge what is most appropriate for local circumstances.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his Department's policy is on the selection of (*a*) real and (*b*) artificial Christmas trees for his Department's festive decorations; and how real trees are disposed of. [173513]

Maria Eagle: There is currently no written policy in place for the selection of Christmas trees for the Corporate HQ Estate. However, the Corporate HQ Estate Christmas trees are sustainably sourced and recycled after use.

The Corporate HQ Facilities Team organise for MJ Ferguson to purchase the trees from www.pinesandneedles.com. The trees are recycled at Cringle Dock Waste Management, which comes under Western Riverside Waste Authority (www.wrwa.gov.uk). Cringle Dock Waste Management has a special section for Christmas tree recycling.

In respect of the delivery agencies of MoJ (including NOMS, HMPS, HMCS and tribunals), these are matters that are left to local management, who are best placed to judge what is most appropriate for local circumstances. They are, however, being advised to take advantage of the Woodland Trust's scheme for the sustainable disposal of Christmas trees.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on (*a*) Christmas cards and (*b*) postage of Christmas cards in 2007. [176917]

Maria Eagle: This is the first year that an MoJ Christmas card has been produced by our print room. To date, 6,000 have been ordered at a cost of 34 pence each, totalling £2,040. These cards are not centrally funded, and each business area will cover the costs of the cards they have ordered from their stationery budgets.

It is not possible to ascertain the specific postage costs relating to these Christmas cards, as all postage is accounted for as a whole, rather than broken down into separate components.

The Department has a general policy where all post is sent out second class unless it is stated otherwise.

Constituencies

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the timetable is for *(a)* interim reviews of parliamentary boundaries in particular parts of England and Wales and *(b)* the ratification of parliamentary boundaries for Northern Ireland constituencies. [176670]

Bridget Prentice: The decision to hold interim reviews of parliamentary constituencies in England and Wales, and the timing of such reviews, rests with the Boundary Commissions for England and Wales respectively, which are independent of Government. The Boundary Commissions for England and Wales will give notice of any interim reviews that they intend to carry out.

The Boundary Commission for England is currently conducting an interim review of certain constituencies in Northamptonshire and Somerset. Local inquiries have recently been held in relation to the constituencies that are the subject of the review, and the Assistant Commissioners who conducted the inquiries will now prepare their reports for consideration by the Boundary Commission. I understand that the Boundary Commission has decided to suspend the interim review it had previously announced in Northumberland and Wiltshire.

The Boundary Commission for Wales is currently carrying out an interim review of the parliamentary constituencies of Neath and Brecon and Radnorshire and I understand that it is expected to be completed shortly.

The Boundary Commissions, once they have completed an interim review, will submit a report of their recommendations to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor, who will lay the report before Parliament together with a draft Order to give effect to the new boundaries, having allowed a reasonable period for consideration of the report, and, in particular, any representations that may be made to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor in respect of specific recommendations. If agreed by Parliament, the report's recommendations will come into force at the next general election.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland proposes to lay the recent report of the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland before Parliament at the earliest opportunity with a draft of an Order in Council giving effect without modifications to the recommendations contained in the report. Again, if agreed by Parliament, the report's recommendations will come into force at the next general election.

Courts: Buildings

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to provide new court buildings in London; and if he will make a statement. [175360]

Maria Eagle: There are plans to provide new and renovated court buildings at four sites in the London region. Of these, the new Rolls Building in Fetter Lane, which will provide new court facilities for High Court work, the Supreme Court in Parliament Square and an extension to the Crown Court at Isleworth are in construction. A project to provide a new 10-courtroom magistrates court for the City of Westminster in Marylebone Road is in procurement.

Courts: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent progress has been made on the private finance initiative project for a new courthouse in Colchester; and if he will make a statement. [175427]

Maria Eagle: Work to finalise the outline business case for the Essex magistrates courts scheme, of which Colchester is a part, is being progressed as one of the priorities within the court building programme. This involves the evaluation of procurement routes, including private finance initiative, to ensure the selected route represents best value for money for the taxpayer. The outline business case is due to be completed early in 2008 and submitted for approval to proceed by the end of the financial year.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of successful claims from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme have been awarded to *(a)* private and *(b)* public sector workers in each of the last 10 years. [176120]

Mr. Straw: The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) records the occupation of claimants, when provided, under 18 broad categories of occupational type e.g. professional/managerial, clerical, skilled worker, student, unemployed, miscellaneous etc. But it does not ask or record whether they work in the private or public sector, since this information is not necessary for the purposes of determining claims. It is not possible therefore for CICA to provide the information requested.

Crown Courts: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to establish a Crown court in Milton Keynes. [174581]

Maria Eagle: There are currently no plans to establish a Crown court in Milton Keynes. However, in June 2007, the then Lord Chancellor, Lord Falconer, announced a major investment in building six new courts, of which a Crown court at Aylesbury was one.

Data Protection

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the terms of reference are of the review into the way that personal information is shared between and protected by the public and private sector. [176523]

Mr. Wills: The terms of reference for the independent data sharing review being led by Richard Thomas and Dr. Mark Walport are:

The review will consider whether there should be any changes to the way the Data Protection Act 1998 operates in the UK and the options for implementing any such changes. It will include recommendations on the powers and sanctions available to the regulator and courts in the legislation governing data sharing and data protection. It will also make recommendations on how data sharing policy should be developed in a way that ensures proper transparency, scrutiny and accountability. To inform its recommendations, the review panel will consult with:

(a) the devolved Administrations

(b) the European Commission

(c) the academic and legal community and the media

(d) representatives of the IT community and the private sector

(e) a representative sample of Government departments and agencies with an interest in data sharing and privacy

(f) other parties identified by the review team

The recommendations will seek to take account of technological advances and strike a balance that ensures appropriate privacy and other safeguards for individuals and society, while enabling sharing information to protect the public, increasing transparency, enhancing public service delivery as well as taking into account the need to minimise the burden on business.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what reviews have been undertaken of his Department's rules on data protection in the last two years; if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the last review of his Department's compliance with data protection laws; and if *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies will undertake a review of their compliance with data protection laws. [168078]

Mr. Wills: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review. An interim progress report on the review was published on 17 December by the Cabinet Office through a written ministerial statement, column 98WS.

My Department is reviewing the way it handles data alongside the work being carried out by the Cabinet Secretary which will be published in due course.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies confidential data have been downloaded on to compact discs (i) without and (ii) with encryption in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; how many of those discs have been posted without using recorded or registered delivery; what procedures his Department has in place for the (A) transport, (B) exchange and (C) delivery of confidential or sensitive data; what records are kept of information held by his Department being sent outside the Department; what changes have been made to his Department's rules and procedures on data protection in the last two years; on how many occasions his Department's procedures and rules on data protection have been breached in the last five years; what those breaches were; what procedures his Department has in place on downloading confidential data on to computer discs before its transfer; what technical protections there are in his Department's computer systems to prevent access to information held on those systems which is not in accordance with departmental procedures; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each of his Department's rules and procedures on the protection of confidential data on individuals, businesses and other organisations. [168259]

Mr. Wills: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review. An interim progress report on the review was published on 17 December by the Cabinet Office through a written ministerial statement, column 98WS.

No information is available on the number of times that confidential data has been downloaded onto compact discs. Downloading, transport, exchange and delivery of sensitive data, and the recording of these actions, is governed by agreed procedures in line with HM Government standards. My Department's main information systems have been designed to operate at a level of security that covers the requirements for handling personal information.

There is no standard set of rules and procedures required for compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998. What is appropriate will depend on the circumstances and the nature of the personal data itself. Accordingly, data protection measures are specific to location, type and sensitivity of the data in question. There is no overarching set of rules and the Department follows HM Government procedures for assessing risks and establishing controls. Therefore the information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The definition of 'breach' in data protection rules and procedures can be broad. Depending on their nature, breaches by Government Departments of the Data Protection Act can be dealt with by the information commissioner, the courts or by Departments at an informal local level. The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many employees of each grade in his Department *(a)* have access to confidential or sensitive data and *(b)* are authorised to download such data to disk; how many of his Department's employees have undergone data protection training in the last 12 months; what the average length of time is that each employee of (i) his Department and (ii) his Department's agencies has spent on data protection training; how many investigations of employees of his Department for improperly accessing confidential information have taken place in the last 12 months; how many such investigations resulted in cases of disciplinary action; and what the circumstances of each of those cases were. [168279]

Mr. Wills: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review. An interim progress report on the review was published on 17 December by the Cabinet Office through a written ministerial statement, column 98WS.

Like all Government Departments, mine provides training to members of staff. It is included in induction for new staff and ad hoc training events where a specific need exists. The information requested on data protection training at (i) and (ii), and for parts *(a)* and *(b)* of this question is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

There are no recorded instances of employees in my Department being investigated for improperly accessing confidential information in the last 12 months.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what procedures are in place in his Department to ensure that personal information relating to members of the public is *(a)* stored and *(b)* transported securely. [168471]

Mr. Wills: I refer my right hon. Friend to the statement made by right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review. An interim progress report on the review was published by the Cabinet Office through a written ministerial statement on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS.

Our new DISC contract, which covers the main HQ, court and tribunal systems, covers security requirements, referring to HMG standards and ISO 17799 (and updates to both) and includes operating procedures covering the carriage of bulky protectively marked assets.

Paper records, when no longer current, are stored in a secure archive. After no later than 30 years, they are reviewed and either transferred under controlled transport arrangements to the National Archive or destroyed.

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department's information technology and data management systems are BS7799 compliant. [168743]

Mr. Wills: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review. An interim progress report on the review was published by the Cabinet Office through a written ministerial statement on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS.

All Government Departments are required to ensure that their information technology and data management systems meet the Government standard (known as HMG Infosec Standard 2) which is aligned to BS7799. All MoJ systems comply with the government standard, and are therefore BS7799 compliant.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions the Information Commissioner was contacted by his Department to report breaches of data protection security in each of the last five years. [168815]

Mr. Wills: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review. An interim progress report on the review was published by the Cabinet Office through a written ministerial statement on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS.

My Department does not maintain a central record of breaches of data protection security reported to the Information Commissioner. However, in the last year, I can say that my Department has reported three potential breaches to his office.

The Information Commissioner's office does not keep records of referrals referenced by Department.

The information requested about the last five years is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many breaches of data protection security there were in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies in each of the last five years; and if he will provide details of each breach. [168839]

Mr. Wills: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review. An interim progress report on the review was published by the Cabinet Office through a written ministerial statement on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS.

Depending on their nature, breaches by my Department of the Data Protection Act 1998 can be dealt with by the Information Commissioner, the courts or by my Department at an informal local level. The information requested about the last five years is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, in the last year, I can say that my Department has reported three potential breaches to the Information Commissioner's office.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he proposes to review how his Department transports data; and whether his Department uses TNT to transport data. [169219]

Mr. Wills: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review. An interim progress report on the review was published by the Cabinet Office through a written ministerial statement on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS.

The review will include data transport arrangements.

We use TNT as the provider of an archive service for paper records. This is an MoD contract that provides a secure storage facility and is used by MoJ Headquarters, the courts, some tribunals and the prison service. After no later than 30 years, records are reviewed and either transferred under controlled arrangements to the National Archive or destroyed.

Business units select a delivery firm to take records to the Archive and there is a tight security control to ensure all records are accounted for. TNT are only involved in transport if business units have requested old records back or when they are being returned to our Records Management Service for review.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many confirmed security breaches of databases controlled by his Department occurred in each of the last five years; whether the breach resulted from internal or external action in each case; how many records were compromised on each occasion; and what estimate was made of the total number of records accessible to the individuals concerned. [173710]

Mr. Wills: A small number of incidents have been investigated and no security breach involving loss of information from the Department was found to have occurred.

Departmental Employment Agencies

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff aged between 16 and 18 were employed by his Department and its predecessor *(a)* directly and *(b)* through an employment agency in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of these were given time off work to undertake some form of training; and what proportion were provided with some form of training (i) wholly and (ii) partially funded by his Department. [171270]

Maria Eagle: There are no central figures available based on the age of staff undertaking training and figures could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The Ministry of Justice promotes a range of further education and skills development for all our staff, irrespective of age, and is committed to equality of opportunity for all.

Departmental Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff work in his Department's parliamentary branch; and what proportion of their time is spent on dealing with *(a)* parliamentary questions and *(b)* correspondence from hon. Members and peers. [174956]

Maria Eagle: Within the Ministry of Justice there are eight members of staff in the parliamentary branch of which four work solely on parliamentary questions. The correspondence from hon. Members and peers is dealt with by the Ministerial Correspondence Unit of which five work solely on their correspondence.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many items of post sent by his Department and its predecessor were reported missing by the intended recipient in each year since 1997. [171285]

Mr. Wills: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review. An interim progress report on the review was published on 17 December by the Cabinet Office through a written ministerial statement, column 98WS.

The Ministry of Justice and its predecessor have no record of any items of post having been reported missing since 1997.

Departmental Telephone Services

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which telephone contact centres are the responsibility of his Department; what mechanisms are in place to monitor their effectiveness; and how many people have been employed in each of those centres in each year since they were established. [166525]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice funds the following helpline and telephone contact centres, listed in the table, with staffing figures for the last two years:

	Last year (full-time equivalent)	*This year (full-time equivalent)*
Community Legal Advice (CLA)	100.5	179.4
National Debtline	62	88
Duty Solicitor Call Centre (DSCC) (headcount)	79	162
Criminal Defence Service Direct (CDS) (headcount)	40	46
National Mediation Helpline	5	5
Prisoners Abroad	4	4

	Last year (full-time equivalent)	This year (full-time equivalent)
NACRO Resettlement Helpline (National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders)	5	5
Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA)	3.95	4.25
The National Archives	n/a	4.6
Sentence Calculation	2	2
Home Detention and Curfew and Release on Temporary Licence	2.25	2.25
Family Mediation Helpline	2	2
Victims Helpline	0.2	0.2
The Information Commissioners Office Helplines (ICO)[1]	[2]22	[2]22

n/a - not available at this time.
[1] The Ministry of Justice provides a grant in aid for the ICO's Freedom of Information (FOI) responsibilities. The ICO maintains two helplines (which cover their data protection and FOI responsibilities), of which they are responsible for monitoring the performance and effectiveness. Performance figures are passed on to the Ministry of Justice for information. It was not possible to accurately separate staff figures specifically for the helplines.
[2] approx.
Note
Information that is not available at this time will be provided in due course.

In addition to these, the Department will be funding the Prisoners' Families Helpline for 2008-09 and also plans to launch the Mubarak Trust Helpline as a pilot scheme in Feltham next year.

There are a variety of mechanisms in place across the Department with which Ministers monitor the telephone contact centres' effectiveness. For example, CLA is operated by the Legal Services Commission which is established by the Access to Justice Act 1999. Others are operated by their policy teams under service level agreements.

We are currently surveying high level information on helplines funded by all Government Departments (as a distinct subset of contact centres), for the purpose of exploring the scope for greater co-ordination. We intend to publish aggregate information on the data collated and analysed in spring 2008.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department collects and monitors in relation to the telephone contact centres for which his Department is responsible. [166526]

Maria Eagle: At present, my Department collects a wide variety of information on the telephone contact centres it funds for the purpose of monitoring performance. Further information is given in answer to another question from the hon. Member.

The Ministry of Justice has recently launched an online survey for all publicly funded helplines across Government. This collects high level information such as annual cost, funding, staff numbers and pay, opening hours and co-ordination with other helplines. All helplines funded by the Department have completed the survey.

The Contact Council is also collecting more detailed information from all contact centres, measuring their performance and effectiveness against 26 set indicators.

These initiatives will result in increased standardisation in the information collected to monitor performance of telephone contact centres.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much each telephone contact centre for which his Department is responsible has *(a)* cost and *(b)* generated in income in each financial year since their establishment. [166527]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the cost of each helpline and telephone contact centre that the Ministry of Justice funds for the latest available years in each case:

	2005-06	£ 2006-07
Community Legal Advice (CLA)	5,439,163	9,562,564
National Debtline	3,539,432	3,972,448
Duty Solicitor Call Centre (DSCC)	2,818,000	3,096,136
Criminal Defence Service Direct (CDS)	534,000	1,369,943
National Mediation Helpline	75 998	43,147
Prisoners Abroad	1,009,000	1,009,000
NACRO Resettlement Helpline (National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders')	277,842	284,788
Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority	180,000	188,000
The National Archives	Not available at this time.	[2]40,388 (approx based on one quarter)
Sentence Calculation	[1]90,100	[1]90,100
Home Detention and Curfew and Release on Temporary Licence	[1]76,375	[1]76,375
Family Mediation Helpline	Not available at this time.	57,428
Victims Helpline	[1]3,325	[1]3,325
The Information Commissioners Office Helplines	[2]No direct information available	[2]No direct information available

[1] These costs relate to in-house telephone helplines and are therefore an estimate of staff costs.
[2] The Ministry of Justice provides a grant in aid for the ICO's Freedom of Information (FOI) responsibilities. The ICO maintains two helplines which cover the ICO's data protection and FOI responsibilities. It was not possible to separate cost figures specifically for the helplines.

The National Debtline and NACRO are the only telephone contact centres that have a generated income. The following table shows these figures:

	2005-06	£ 2006-07
National Debtline	323,548	592,432
NACRO Resettlement Helpline (National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders)	23,727	5,724

Detention Centres: Children

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the longest period is for which a child under 16 has been detained in *(a)* prison awaiting trial and *(b)* an immigration detention centre awaiting a decision on their asylum status in the last 10 years. [174156]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only by examining the time each child under 16 has spent on remand and in an immigration centre awaiting a decision on their asylum status at a disproportionate cost.

Domestic Violence

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government has taken to increase conviction rates for domestic violence. [173715]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

The National Delivery Plan for Domestic Violence has an objective to improve the criminal justice response to domestic violence. This objective includes actions to increase reporting, arrests and conviction rates for domestic violence. Specific actions undertaken to increase the conviction rates for domestic violence include:

The continued expansion of the Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC) Programme. From April this year, 64 SDVCs are operational, with more planned which will bring the total to over 100.

Guidance and training is being rolled out to all police officers and Crown prosecutors to improve investigations and increase successful prosecutions for domestic violence.

Domestic Violence Co-ordinators have been identified in all police force and Crown Prosecution Service areas to co-ordinate individual agencies' responses to domestic violence.

Funding has been made available for Independent Domestic Violence Advisers, whose involvement with victims of domestic violence has been shown to reduce the number of victims unwilling to support a prosecution.

These steps are having a positive effect: successful prosecutions for domestic violence cases rose from 46 per cent. in a December 2003 'snapshot' to 65 per cent. during the whole of 2006-07, exceeding the target of 64 per cent. By September 2007, successful prosecutions had reached 68 per cent.

Driving Under the Influence

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many road accidents in Copeland resulted in prosecutions for driving under the influence of alcohol in each year since 1997. [176640]

Maria Eagle: Information on road accidents is a matter for the Department for Transport.

The information on prosecutions held centrally by my Department does not identify the circumstances of cases and therefore, in the case of drink driving offences, whether an accident was involved. The only case information captured for such prosecutions, apart from the court results for individual offences, is the age and gender of the defendant.

Elections

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to undertake further electoral innovation pilot schemes in the 2008 *(a)* local and *(b)* Greater London Authority elections. [176668]

Mr. Wills: It is not intended to undertake electoral innovation pilot schemes in the 2008 *(a)* local and *(b)* Greater London Authority elections. However, the Government remain committed to exploring the use of technology to modernise aspects of the electoral process, including to make it more accessible.

Elections: Supermarkets

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment has been made of the consequences for retail competition policy of voting pilots in supermarkets. [176516]

Mr. Wills: Advance voting in retail venues was piloted in Swindon borough council at the May 2007 local elections. They were also used by three local authorities at the May 2006 local elections. These were in the London borough of Lewisham, Rushmoor borough council and Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council.

Voting however has not taken place inside supermarkets although mobile polling stations for advance voting were located in two supermarket car parks in the 2006 Lewisham pilot.

No assessment will be made of the consequences for retail competition policy of voting pilots in supermarkets until there is an intention to extend such pilots more widely.

Electoral Systems

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to publish the review of electoral systems; and if he will make a statement. [176697]

Mr. Wills: The Government have completed a review of the experience of the voting systems introduced in the United Kingdom since 1997 and are making the review ready for publication as soon as possible.

European Convention on Access to Official Documents

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what differences there are between the requirements of the Council of Europe's draft European Convention on Access to Official Documents and the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to public authorities in the UK. [175172]

Mr. Wills: The Government welcome the work that has been carried out by the Group of Specialists on Access to Official Documents in drawing up a draft convention. The Government are keen that there should be a robust convention along the lines of the Freedom of Information Act. The draft convention lays down principles relating to access, whereas the Freedom of Information Act 2000 sets out the detailed provisions of the access regime in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. In relation to coverage of public authorities the scope of the convention is broadly the same as the Freedom of Information Act, where it will be open to parties to the convention to broaden the definition of "public authorities" beyond an obligatory minimum standard. The Government are currently seeking views on whether to use the powers under section 5 of the Freedom of Information Act and extend the coverage of the Act and if so, which organisations it should consider.

The Group of Specialists will meet again in February 2008 to develop a draft Explanatory Memorandum.

Fixed Penalties

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many fixed penalty notices for disorder were issued by Humberside police in each year since their introduction, broken down by category. [176861]

Maria Eagle: Information on the number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued in Humberside, by offence, from 2004 to 2006 is provided in the following table. The PND scheme was extended to all 43 police forces in England and Wales in 2004.

Number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued to offenders ages 16 and over, Humberside police force area, 2004–06[1]

Offence description	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Higher tier offences			
Wasting police time	12	32	76
Misuse of public telecommunications system	5	2	22
Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	1	—	2
Causing harassment, alarm or distress	928	1,957	2,306
Throwing fireworks	2	5	14
Drunk and disorderly	604	679	1,003
Sale of alcohol to under 18[2]	2	45	48
Purchasing alcohol for under 18[2]	—	2	13
Purchasing alcohol for under 18 for consumption on premises	—	1	—
Delivery of alcohol to under 18[2]	—	1	4
Criminal Damage (under £500)[2]	16	182	719
Theft (retail under 200)[2]	14	329	1,221
Breach of fireworks curfew[3]	—	1	—
Possession of category 4 firework[3]	—	1	—
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework[3]	—	3	1
Sale of alcohol to drunken person[4]	n/a	—	—
Supply of alcohol to person under 18	n/a	—	1
Lower tier offences			
Trespass on a railway	—	1	—
Throwing stones at a train/railway	2	—	—
Drunk in a highway	1	5	13
Consumption of alcohol in public place	7	8	30
Depositing and leaving litter	2	6	15
Consumption of alcohol by under 18 on licensed premises[2]	—	4	—
Allowing consumption of alcohol for under 18[2]	—	—	—
Buying alcohol by under 18[4]	n/a	1	2
Total	1,596	3,265	5,490

n/a= Not applicable.

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[2] Offence added with effect from 1 November 2004.

[3] Offence added with effect from 11 October 2004.

[4] Offence added with effect from 4 April 2005.

Fraud: Elections

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the timetable is for the full implementation of provisions on requiring signatures in polling stations. [176332]

Bridget Prentice: The Government have previously explained that they intend to bring forward primary legislation to provide a clear requirement for electors in polling stations to sign for their ballot paper, and for the ballot paper to be withheld should an elector refuse to sign. We will bring forward such legislation when parliamentary time allows.

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department, or the former Department for Constitutional Affairs, provided on the

maximum amount of time a public authority can take to assess the public interest when responding to a validly constituted Freedom of Information request. [176671]

Mr. Wills: Guidance provided by my Department for Freedom of Information practitioners states that any additional time taken in responding to a request to assess the public interest must be "realistic and reasonable in the circumstances of the particular case". The guidance can be found in full in the Procedural guidance on our website:

http://www.foi.gov.uk/guidance/proguide/chap06.htm

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will use his powers to designate regional chambers as public authorities for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [176520]

Mr. Wills: The Government are currently consulting on extending the coverage of the Freedom of Information Act to those bodies that carry out the function of a public nature and to contractors who provide services which are a function of that public authority. This consultation paper can be found at http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/cp2707.htm

This consultation will conclude on 1 February 2008. Following analysis of the responses, the Government will decide whether to make a section 5 order and, if so which bodies to consult about whether they, or organisations they represent, should be brought within the ambit of the Act. My Department will consider the case for regional chambers as part of the consultation process.

High Court: Birmingham

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to reply to the letter of 3 November from the hon. Member for Beaconsfield on a permanent high court in Birmingham. [174128]

Mr. Straw: I replied to the hon. Member on 10 December.

Hollesley Bay Prison: Prisoners Escape

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how long on average prisoners who have absconded from HM Prison Hollesley Bay in the last six years have been at large. [169095]

Maria Eagle: Statistics are not available for the year 2002-03. The figures in the following table relate to the average number of days from abscond to recapture of those determinate sentence prisoners who absconded from Hollesley Bay in each of the past five years up to the end of September 2007. Averages such as these can be heavily skewed by one or two prisoners remaining at large for long periods. For example in 2003-04, four absconds were caught the day they absconded, and in total 28 were recaptured within a month.

	Average time at large
2003-04	43
2004-05	50
2005-06	78
2006-07	67
2007-08 (end September)[1]	18

[1] Figures recorded for 2007-08 are provisional and subject to change.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what records the Land Registry keeps of the number and location of zero carbon homes. [176373]

Mr. Wills: Her Majesty's Land Registry does not hold any records relating to zero carbon rating homes. The strategy to make all new homes zero carbon by 2016 comes under the jurisdiction of the Department for Communities and Local Government. Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs may collate statistics relating to homes qualifying for zero carbon tax relief through the monitoring of stamp duty land tax, following the introduction of the Stamp Duty Land Tax (Zero-Carbon Homes Relief) Regulations on 7 December 2007.

Immigration

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding has been allocated to Lord Goldsmith's citizenship review. [175016]

Mr. Wills: The allocated funding for Lord Goldsmith's citizenship review is £200,000 excluding staff costs. Lord Goldsmith is not receiving any remuneration for undertaking this review.

Land Registry

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons the Land Registry is introducing new triggers to require compulsory land registration. [176518]

Mr. Wills: Section 5 of the Land Registration Act 2002 confers power on the Lord Chancellor, exercisable by statutory instrument, to prescribe additional events that trigger compulsory first registration of title to land. Land Registry has recently issued a consultation paper, on behalf of the Lord Chancellor, seeking views on the introduction of two new trigger events, aimed at making further progress towards a comprehensive land register. The events proposed are the appointment of a new trustee and the partition of land among trust beneficiaries. The consultation period runs from 19 November 2007 to 29 February 2008. No decision will be made about the introduction of new triggers until all responses to the consultation have been evaluated.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Land Registry is taking to prevent the online register from being *(a)* abused and *(b)* accessed illegally. [176522]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry constantly keeps such matters under review and is continuously reviewing the security control and access restrictions in place for its

internal and external online systems. Land Registry withdrew access to documents available electronically via Land Registry Online on 5 November 2007 and believes this to be a positive step that will help to alleviate the risk of misuse. It would be inappropriate to give details of the specific measures Land Registry has in place to combat abuse and illegal access or those it is considering introducing. Land Registry does have in place a robust anti-fraud strategy and all measures in place are regularly reviewed and revised, with a view to strengthening the protection they provide. Land Registry is working with the police and other organisations to refine its strategy and to develop its expertise in this area.

Land Registry Direct

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs, *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency and *(c)* the Valuation and Lands Agency are business users of the Land Registry Direct service. [176331]

Mr. Wills: Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the Valuation Office Agency have business user accounts with Land Registry Direct. The Valuation and Lands Agency does not.

Legal Advice

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to increase funding allocated to legal advice for travellers on planning issues. [176502]

Maria Eagle: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) has no plans to do so.

Legal Aid Scheme: ICT

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the value is of the IT contract for a new online reporting system for legal aid claims by solicitors; [175636]

(2) which company was awarded the contract to supply a new online reporting system for legal aid claims by solicitors; [175637]

(3) whether the online reporting system for legal aid claims by solicitors is operational. [175638]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the replies I gave to the hon. Member for North-West Norfolk (Mr. Bellingham) on 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1260W.

Legal Aid: Hercules Aircraft

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) who informed the press that the Australian Government would be paying the legal expenses of Kellie Merritt at the forthcoming inquest into deaths of service personnel on the Hercules aircraft shot down in Iraq; [175285]

(2) if he will make it his policy to provide legal aid and assistance to the British families at the forthcoming inquest into the deaths of personnel on the Hercules aircraft shot down in Iraq. [175286]

Maria Eagle: Representation at inquests is outside of the usual scope of the legal aid scheme as set out in the Access to Justice Act 1999 and other documents laid before Parliament. However, it can be made available in exceptional circumstances. There are published criteria that help determine whether a case is exceptional. Applications for exceptional funding must first be made to the Legal Services Commission (LSC). The Ministry understands that applications, in relation to the inquests into the deaths of personnel on the Hercules XV179 shot down in Iraq in January 2005, are currently being considered by the LSC. Only where the LSC considers that the exceptional criteria are met will the applications be passed to the Ministry of Justice for final determination. The Government have not advised the press about any representation of other parties at those inquests.

Legal Services Commission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what payments have been made by *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* the Legal Services Commission to the Community Legal Partnership in each of the last four years. [176330]

Maria Eagle: The following table gives the payments made by the Legal Services Commission (LSC) to the Community Law Partnership. The LSC has no dealings with the Community Legal Partnership.

	£
2003-04	855,972
2004-05	786,335
2005-06	803,878
2006-07	1,049,085

Members' Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many letters his Department and its predecessors received from hon. Members and Peers in each session of Parliament since 1997. [174931]

Bridget Prentice: The information, which is also available in the Library of the House, is listed as follows.

Calendar year	*Number of letters received from MPs/Peers*
1997	2,458
1998	2,672
1999	2,038
2000	1,844
2001	1,737
2002	2,577
2003	2,746
2004	3,516
2005	3,179
2006	3,524

The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members' and Peers' correspondence. Information relating to 2007 will be published as soon as it has been collated.

Minimum Wage

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many London-based staff are employed by his Department on the national minimum wage. [175966]

Mr. Wills: No member of staff employed by the Ministry of Justice in London is paid on (or below) the national minimum wage.

Ministerial Duties: Public Sector

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which Minister has responsibility for public sector information. [176497]

Mr. Wills: I am the Minister responsible for the Office of Public Sector Information. The Department for Constitutional Affairs, the predecessor to the Ministry of Justice, took over responsibility for public sector information from the Cabinet Office on 31 October 2006.

New Hall Young Offenders Institution: Injuries

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what injuries were incurred by girls held in New Hall Young Offenders Institution during control and restraint in each month in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [173467]

Maria Eagle: There were two control and restraint incidents at New Hall that led to injuries, as follows:

January 2006 - sore right wrist; and

February 2007 - mark on left hand side of face.

Offenders: Crimes of Violence

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners are serving indeterminate sentences for public protection for *(a)* sexual assault, *(b)* sexual assault against a child, *(c)* sexual activity with a child and *(d)* arson. [175083]

Mr. Hanson: A research study into prisoners received into prisons in England and Wales under Indeterminate Sentences for Public Protection (IPP) between April 2005 and March 2006, showed that *(a)* 13 offenders were given an IPP for sexual assault, *(b)* 14 offenders were given an IPP for sexual assault of a child under 13, *(c)* 14 offenders were given an IPP for sexual activity with a child and *(d)* 44 offenders were given an IPP for arson. These figures were published in chapter 11 of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2005, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems and data returns from prison establishments which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Personal Records: Data Protection

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department has taken to protect the personal data on members of the public which it holds. [171415]

Mr. Wills: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review. An interim progress report on the review was published on 17 December by the Cabinet Office through a written ministerial statement, column 98WS.

The Ministry of Justice has procedures and guidance covering security, information security and data protection designed to identify and control the risk of the unauthorised release of personal data taking place. They include:

Ensuring our sites are physically secure and protected from unauthorised access;

Ensuring our employees are reliable through checks on background;

Providing guidance to staff on general security with separate guidance on IT security and data protection issues;

Procedures for assessing IT systems;

We also have systems for monitoring and checking compliance.

These policies and procedures extend to our contracted IT suppliers.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what meetings he has held on party funding with Mr. Peter Watt in the last 12 months. [174705]

Mr. Straw: In my capacity as Secretary of State for Justice I have not held any meetings in the last 12 months with Mr. Peter Watt on party funding.

I have furthermore met with Mr. Peter Watt several times in my capacity as one of my party's representatives at the cross party talks.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answers of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 515W, on political parties: finance, if he will place in the Library copies of the Inter-Party Talks' minutes and background papers which are classed as held by his Department for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act. [174818]

Mr. Straw: Some information, consisting of papers for the parties to the talks and minutes of the talks, was shared with the Ministry of Justice and is for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act held by my Department. I am not releasing this information at this time because it was provided in confidence.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 524W, on trade unions, whether the funding of political parties was discussed on any of the six occasions. [174819]

Mr. Straw: In my capacity as Secretary of State, I have not held any meetings with trade unions specifically to discuss the funding of political parties. I have furthermore had such meetings as one of my party's representatives on the cross party talks.

At the meetings referred to in my answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 524W, a variety of topics were discussed. Party funding was not on the agenda for any of these meetings but my recollection is that I did touch on the issue informally with representatives of trade unions affiliated to the Labour party at one or other of these meetings, as they were breaking up, and without officials.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what meetings and discussions he has had with Sir Hayden Phillips and his representatives on electoral law on donations to political parties. [175191]

Mr. Straw: I have met with Sir Hayden Phillips several times in my capacity as one of my party's representatives at the cross party talks led by Sir Hayden and spoken to him on the telephone from time to time though the right hon. Gentleman will appreciate that as Sir Hayden's review was established by Her Majesty's Government, it is not possible to wholly separate its role from that of the Secretary of State. I have not however had any meetings with Sir Hayden in either capacity since June 2007 other than at the cross party talks.

Prison Service

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many temporary promotions have been authorised by the Deputy Director General of HM Prison Service in each of the years since he took the appointment as *(a)* Deputy Director General and *(b)* Director of Operations; what the reasons for approving each were; and if he will make a statement. [175201]

Mr. Hanson: The Director of Operations authorised the following temporary promotions as set out in the table. He has not authorised any temporary promotions as Deputy Director General.

Temporary promotions authorised by the Director of Operations

Date	*Number of temporary promotions*	*Reason*
November 2003	One	New post pending permanent recruitment
January 2006	Two	To cover maternity leave
October 2006	One	New post pending permanent recruitment

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will reinstate purposeful activity as a key performance indicator in the Prison Service. [176003]

Maria Eagle: There are no current plans to reinstate purposeful activity as a key performance indicator (KPI). Purposeful activity ceased to be a KPI in 2004-05 because Ministers agreed that KPIs introduced in respect of education, rehabilitation and resettlement, provide a much better demonstration of the efforts to equip prisoners to be less likely to offend on release. Purposeful activity remains an establishment key performance target and performance is regularly monitored by operational managers.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many investigations by the prisons and probation ombudsman have been assisted by the lead investigator for the Tasker inquiry; and if he will make a statement. [175626]

Maria Eagle: The lead investigator for the Tasker inquiry has assisted in a total of 13 investigations by the prisons and probation ombudsman which were carried out during 2005 and 2006.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many inquiries into deaths in custody by the prisons and probation ombudsman have been *(a)* led and *(b)* assisted by the lead investigator for the Tasker inquiry since the inquiry was established; and if he will make a statement. [175627]

Maria Eagle: Since the Tasker inquiry was established, its lead investigator has been employed to complete an investigation into one death in custody on behalf of the prisons and probation ombudsman. The investigation had been started by one of the ombudsman's investigative staff who had subsequently had to take long-term sick leave. Additionally, the lead investigator to the Tasker inquiry has been involved in follow up work to some other investigations which took place prior to the Tasker inquiry being established.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether those conducting investigations for the prisons and probation ombudsman may also conduct investigations on behalf of HM Prison Service; and if he will make a statement. [175629]

Maria Eagle: Staff who are in the direct employment of the office of the prisons and probation ombudsman do not conduct investigations on behalf of HM Prison Service. A number of self-employed investigators are retained by the office and are occasionally called upon to carry out investigations in periods when staff resources are stretched. They are free to enter into other employment when they are not doing work for the office of the prisons and probation ombudsman.

Prison Service: Sick Leave

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 787W, on prison service: sick leave, how many staff are currently off work sick in HM Prison Service with stress; how many staff were off work sick with stress for a period of *(a)* less than one week, *(b)* between one and two weeks, *(c)* between two weeks and a month, *(d)* between one and two months, *(e)* between two and three months, *(f)* between three and four months, *(g)* between four and five months, *(h)* between five and six months and *(i)* more than six months in the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [173720]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is as follows:

Public Sector Prison Service

At the latest date that figures are available (30 November 2007) there were 465 staff absent from the public sector Prison Service for reasons classified as 'Mental and Behavioural Disorders' - predominately stress related. Information on the number of cases of 'Mental and Behavioural' absences by length of absence over the last two complete years is shown in the following table. The information refers to all stress related absences, whether they were work-related or not. The average total workforce during this period was 48,817 and therefore the current number absent due to 'Mental and Behavioural Disorders' is less than 1 per cent. of total workforce.

Mental and behavioural absences in the public sector prison service by length: April 2005 to March 2007

Length of absence	*Cases*
< 1 week	1,243
1 to 2 weeks	732
2 weeks to 1 month	1,532
1 to 2 months	1,238
2 to 3 months	707
3 to 4 months	433
4 to 5 months	320
5 to 6 months	243
More than 6 months	551

Contracted Prisons

HMP and YOI Parc has reported that no staff are currently absent due to stress. No other contracted establishments have reported information on the number of current absentees.

Information from the contracted estate is contained in the following table.

Absences due to stress at contracted prisons over the past two years

Length of Absence	*Cases*[1]
< 1 week	9
1 to 2 weeks	8
2 weeks to 1 month	15
1 to 2 months	11
2 to 3 months	10
3 to 4 months	0
4 to 5 months	0
5 to 6 months	1
More than 6 months	8

[1] Information has been provided for four contracted prisons: Parc, Altcourse, Rye Hill and Wolds. No information has been supplied for: Ashfield, Bronzefield, Dovegate, Doncaster, Forest Bank, Lowdham Grange and Peterborough.

Prisoner Escapes

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners absconded from each *(a)* prison and *(b)* young offender institution in London in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [175359]

Mr. Hanson: The number of incidents of prisoners absconding from prisons in the London area in each of the last 10 years is shown in the following table. This information is also available for all prisons at the Prison Service website

www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk

The number of incidents of prisoners absconding from prisons in the London area between 1997-98 and 2006-07

Establishment	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*Total*
HMP Belmarsh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HMP Brixton	0	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	5
HMP Bronzefield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HMYOI Feltham	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
HMP Holloway	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
HMP Latchmere House	2	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	6
HMP Pentonville	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
HMP Wandsworth	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	6
HMP Wormwood Scrubs	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Total	3	2	1	4	3	4	5	1	0	0	23

Prisoners

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of all released prisoners were reconvicted for further offences committed in the first 18 days after release in the last year for which data are available. [174907]

Mr. Hanson: Reoffending rates for 18 days following release from prison are not routinely calculated. Reoffending rates have historically been calculated over a two year period and the most recent figures for adults released from prison in England and Wales are shown in the table.

Two year reoffending rates of adults released from prison, based on the first quarter of each year

	Reoffending rate (percentage)
2000	64.8
2002	67.4
2003	65.8

	Reoffending rate (percentage)
2004	64.7

Reoffending rates by month of re-offence are illustrated in figure 3 of "Re-offending of Adults: results from the 2004 cohort" publication. This information is currently not available for prison discharges only. This publication be can be found online at

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb0607.pdf

Prisoners Transfers

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1259-60W, for what offences the 11 prisoners transferred to prisons in England and Wales from prisons in Northern Ireland since 2000 were serving sentences; and what the grounds for transfer were. [175770]

Mr. Hanson: The transfer of prisoners between UK jurisdictions is governed by schedule 1 to the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997. Each application is assessed on its individual merits, taking into consideration:

(i) the purpose for which the transfer is requested;

(ii) whether the prisoner was ordinarily resident in the jurisdiction to which transfer is sought prior to the imposition of the current sentence; or whether members of the prisoner's close family are resident in that jurisdiction and there are reasonable grounds for believing that the prisoner will receive regular visits from them; or whether the prisoner has demonstrated through preparations that he has made for his life following release from prison that he intends to reside in the receiving jurisdiction upon release and he is in the later stages of his sentence;

(iii) whether there are grounds for believing that the prisoner may disrupt or attempt to disrupt any prison establishment, or pose an unacceptable risk to security; and

(iv) any compelling or compassionate circumstances.

The application of each prisoner transferred from Northern Ireland since 2000 met one of the conditions for transfer set out.

Information on the offences committed by each of the prisoners is not centrally held. I will write to the hon. Member once the information is available.

Prisoners: Deportation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment his Department has made of the number of foreign national prisoners who will qualify under the exemptions contained in the UK Borders Act 2007 from automatic deportation expressed as a percentage of foreign national prisoners in the prison and immigration removal estate. [163782]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

I am advised that based on our experience of deportations appeals and immigration cases currently subject to the non-suspensive appeals process, we are confident that most individuals subject to the new legislation will not fall within one of the exemptions.

Prisoners: Diets

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will eliminate fast and convenience foods from the diets of those in custody in *(a)* prisons and *(b)* young offenders' institutions; and if he will provide supplements aimed at improving behaviour, concentration and health into such diets. [176077]

Maria Eagle: The 2006 National Audit Office report HM Prison Service Serving Time: Prisoner Diet and Exercise noted that on the whole food offered to prisoners is in line with the Government's recommendations on healthy eating. Research into the effect on behaviour of nutritional supplements is planned to take place in two young offender institutions.

Prisoners: Drugs

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people who have served jail sentences for drug related offences later re-offended in the latest period for which figures are available. [174739]

Mr. Hanson: Information is not available on re-offending by offenders released from prison having been convicted of drug offences. The most recently published adult re-offending figures ("Re-offending of Adults: Results from the 2004 Cohort") cover offenders released from prison and offenders commencing community sentences in England and Wales in the first quarter of 2004. Of those who were convicted of offences relating to the import, export, production or supply of drugs, 31.4 per cent. re-offended within two years. For drug possession and small scale supply offences this figure was 48.2 per cent.

These numbers relate to specific drugs offences only (including the possession and supply of drugs) and not to other offences (such as those involving acquisitive crime) which may be related to drugs issues of the offender.

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what proportion of those persons serving community service sentences are doing so for drug-related offences; [174741]

(2) how many people are serving community service sentences for drug-related offences. [174742]

Mr. Hanson: On 30 June 2007, there were 5,470 persons (rounded to nearest 10) being supervised by the probation service under community sentences given for drugs offences. This represents some 5 per cent. of all persons being supervised under community sentences on that date. These numbers relate to specific drugs offences only (including the possession and supply of drugs) and not to other offences (such as those involving acquisitive crime) which may be related to drugs issues of the offender.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what proportion of those persons on remand are on remand for drug-related offences; [174743]

(2) how many people are on remand for drug-related offences; [174744]

(3) what proportion of those persons serving jail sentences are doing so for drug-related offences; [174745]

(4) how many people are serving jail sentences for drug-related offences. [174746]

Mr. Hanson: At the end of October 2007 there were 12,996 prisoners being held on remand in all prison establishments in England and Wales, of which 1,874 were for drug offences, or 14 per cent.

At the end of October 2007 there were 66,477 prisoners serving sentences in all prison establishments in England and Wales of which 10,526 were for drug offences, or 16 per cent..

This information is obtainable from the Population in Custody Monthly Tables at the website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/population-in-custody-oct07.pdf

These numbers relate to specific drugs offences only (including the possession and supply of drugs) and not to other offences (such as those involving acquisitive crime) which may be related to drugs issues of the offender.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to combat the circulation and possession of illegal drugs in Chelmsford prison; and if he will make a statement. [174981]

Maria Eagle: HMP/YOI Chelmsford is taking many steps to tackle the supply of drugs including searching, perimeter security and close liaison with other agencies. It would not be appropriate for operational reasons to give details of the strategies currently in place.

Prisoners: Employment

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will introduce a key performance indicator target for prison establishments to provide a full working day for prisoners. [176004]

Maria Eagle: There are no plans to introduce a KPI to measure a full working day for prisoners. Currently, the Prison Service has KPIs for offending behaviour, drug treatment and employment and accommodation on release. These measures reflect the key work of the Prison Service in making prisoners less likely to reoffend.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection for an offence of rape or attempted rape have a tariff of *(a)* under two years, *(b)* two years or more but less than four years and *(c)* four years or more. [175080]

Mr. Hanson: A research study into prisoners received into prisons in England and Wales under Indeterminate Sentences for Public Protection (IPP) between April 2005 and March 2006 found that 46 IPPs had been given for rape or attempted rape. Of these 46, two had a tariff of under two years; 21 had a tariff of two years to less than four years; and 20 had a four year plus tariff (tariff details were not provided for the remaining three).

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems and data returns from prison establishments which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Mentoring

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans the Government have to expand the role of mentoring in helping prisoners develop employable skills. [175467]

Mr. Hanson: In December 2006, the Government set out in the document 'Reducing Re-offending through Skills and Employment: Next Steps' their plans for improving the skills and employment outcomes for all offenders in custody and in the community. A key element of this plan involves engaging employers to work with offenders and ex-offenders. Many employers offer training programmes which not only teach vocational skills but also involve mentoring in order to develop softer skills and improve employability. These softer skills include job searching, CV preparation, interview techniques and customer service.

Mentoring is also a vital service offered by voluntary and community sector organisations. There are several projects running across the country where these organisations work in partnership with Probation Boards, the Prison Service and the regional government offices to remove barriers to employment for offenders, including via mentoring on release from custody.

The Government's aim is to facilitate the sharing of good practice and lessons learnt from all the above examples of mentoring to encourage further and wider use of the methods which are proven to work best in improving skills and employability of offenders.

Prisoners: Police Custody

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were held in police cells in each police force area in each of the last five years; and at what estimated cost in each year. [172863][1]

Mr. Hanson: Prisoners are either held in police cells under Operation Safeguard or as ad-hoc "lockouts".

Operation Safeguard was used in 2006 and 2007. Table 1 shows the number of occasions on which prisoners have been held in police cells under Operation Safeguard in each police force area in England and Wales in 2006 and 2007. (One occasion is defined as one prisoner night spent in a police cell.)

Table 1: The number of occasions on which prisoners were held in police cells under Operation Safeguard

Police force area	2006	2007
Avon and Somerset	0	132
Bedfordshire	0	389
Cambridgeshire	212	1,157
Cheshire	103	4,038
Cleveland	0	4

1. *[Official Report, 20 February 2008, Vol. 472, c. 8MC.]*

Table 1: The number of occasions on which prisoners were held in police cells under Operation Safeguard

Police force area	*2006*	*2007*
Cumbria	0	318
Derbyshire	113	439
Devon and Cornwall	38	1,803
Dorset	71	355
Durham	42	1,090
Dyfed Powys	1	615
Essex	1,009	3,963
Gloucestershire	0	17
Greater Manchester	15	2,800
Gwent	0	839
Hampshire	65	1,384
Hertfordshire	40	1,170
Humberside	0	84
Kent	335	3,292
Lancashire	0	1,636
Leicestershire	0	2,689
Lincolnshire	168	1,446
Merseyside	196	165
Metropolitan	333	9,799
Norfolk	0	20
North Wales	14	1,619
North Yorkshire	0	39
Northamptonshire	219	1,187
Northumbria	0	1,113
Nottinghamshire	0	184
South Wales	81	1,254
South Yorkshire	0	935
Staffordshire	0	2
Suffolk	83	1,085
Surrey	0	107
Sussex	338	258
Thames Valley	433	2,627
Warwickshire	93	1,086
West Mercia	0	55
West Midlands	570	6,237
West Yorkshire	45	3,432
Wiltshire	0	89

The police forces involved in Operation Safeguard charge NOMS for the cost of making cells available to accommodate prisoners. As invoices are received in arrears and may be subject to variable costs dependent upon individual prisoner and other circumstances, cost per year by force cannot be accurately calculated. However, the average estimated cost of holding a prisoner in a police cell under Operation Safeguard is currently in the region of £385 per night.

Table 2 shows the total numbers of prisoners accommodated overnight in police cells as ad-hoc lockouts.

Ad-hoc lockout data are not available for individual police forces and are approximate due to diverse recording methods.

Table 2: The number of prisoners held in police cells as ad-hoc lockouts

	Number
2003	1,037
2004	682
2005	918

Table 2: The number of prisoners held in police cells as ad-hoc lockouts

	Number
2006	1,062
2007	126

The agreed basic charge for ad-hoc lockouts is £55 per prisoner per night. Police forces may invoice additional charges to cover weekend and bank holidays, medical charges and the need for additional staff. The average cost is therefore estimated to be £120 per prisoner per night.

Prisoners: Release

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in how many cases the current residential address of a *(a)* former convicted prisoner and *(b)* foreign national former prisoner subject to supervision following release is not known. [176304]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost as the data are retained in probation office files, and would have to be collated manually as there is no appropriate search function within the databases.

Prisons

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many existing prison places he plans to withdraw in each year until 2014. [176100]

Mr. Hanson: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor announced on 5 December 2007 in response to the review on prisons by Lord Carter an additional 10,500 prison places by 2014 including up to three large 'Titan' prisons, housing around 2,500 prisoners each.

The Carter Review proposed that this increase in capacity will allow the Government to close around 5,000 places in old, inefficient prisons by 2014. Decisions on and the timetable for which prisons should be closed or places removed from use will be made as the programme for these new prison places is developed.

In addition, there is a planned rolling programme of refurbishment of accommodation across the prison estate, which requires the temporary closure of prison places. This allows the critical maintenance of the estate to be undertaken whilst having no significant net change on the number of places in use.

Prisons: Education

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made in expanding the programme of business-led training of prisoners provided by National Grid Transco. [175185]

Mr. Hanson: I welcome the work that National Grid is doing to train prisoners and get them into work on release and would support any moves by them to expand their Offender Employment Programme.

In December 2006, the Government set out in the document "Reducing Re-offending through Skills and

Employment: Next Steps" their plans for increasing employer involvement in the delivery of skills and employment programmes for all offenders in custody and in the community. I am encouraged by the ever increasing number of employers engaging with offenders and ex-offenders to improve their skills and employment outcomes.

Many of these employers, from the public, private and voluntary sectors, are members of our Employer Reference Group which was established in January 2006 to work with the Government and help shape policy on this important area. National Grid is a member of the Group and contributes to the development of employer engagement activities for improving the employment of offenders.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have been released to take part in educational programmes in the community in 2007; and what plans he has to increase that number in future years. [175186]

Mr. Hanson: The latest available data on the numbers of releases on temporary licence for training and education relate to 2006, and are published in Offender Management Caseload Statistics (Tables 10.6 and 10.6a), a copy of which is available from the Library of the House and from the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

Prisoners will only be released on temporary licence if they meet the eligibility criteria and pass a risk assessment. Governors have an overriding duty, when considering any release, to ensure that both public safety and public confidence in the system are maintained.

Data show that numbers of offenders released to take part in educational programmes continues to increase and we will support the Prison Service in maintaining this, subject to the abovementioned concerns being satisfied. It is one of the Government's key objectives to improve the skills and employment outcomes of (ex) offenders as set out in our "Reducing Re-Offending Through Skills and Employment: Next Steps" action plan.

Prisons: Exercise

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will increase the prison rules targets of one hour minimum exercise per week for adult prisoners and two hours minimum for young offenders. [176002]

Maria Eagle: There are no current plans to change the minimum exercise requirements contained within Prison and Young Offender Institution Rules. The minimum requirement is, on average, exceeded by both adult prisoners who accept the opportunity for exercise and young offenders (i.e. those in the 15 to 17 and 18 to 20 age groups).

Prisons: Food

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost is of the daily food allowance for prisoners in *(a)* prison cells and *(b)* police station cells; and when they were last changed. [176305]

Maria Eagle: The public sector Prison Service does not set a daily food allowance. Each governor sets a food budget based on the establishment's requirements. The average daily food cost per prisoner in public sector prisons for 2006-07 was £1.97. In establishments operated by the contracted sector this figure ranged from £2.10 to £3.07.

Under the terms of Operation Safeguard, police forces may be reimbursed for the costs of food, at around £12 for each prisoner over a 24 hour period.

Prisoners are also held as ad-hoc lockouts (i.e. when the designated prison's reception will be closed before their arrival time). Basic charges for holding a prisoner per night includes an element for providing meals.

Prisons: Therapeutic Residential Units

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent on prison-based therapeutic residential units in each of the last five years; and how many beds are in each prison-based unit. [173547]

Maria Eagle: The number of therapeutic community places in prisons is as follows:

Therapeutic Community Places

Prison	*Number*
Grendon	235
Dovegate	200
Blundeston	40
Gartree	23
Send[1]	40

[1] Women

It is not possible to separate out the costs of the therapy units at these prisons without incurring considerable and disproportionate cost.

Probation Service

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for future levels of funding of the Probation Service. [175268]

Maria Eagle: Probation funding for the next three years, 2008-09 to 2010-11, is not yet confirmed by the Ministry of Justice. Provisional budget planning figures have recently been issued for probation boards' main grant only for 2008-09 which show an increase of over 2 per cent. for probation boards.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what was spent on central IT for the Probation Service in England and Wales for each financial year since 1997-98. [175384]

Maria Eagle: Expenditure on IT services managed centrally by the National Probation Directorate (NPD) and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is:

		£ million
	Resource	*Capital*
2006-07	37	0.8
2005-06	33	0.7
2004-05	46	0.5

	£million	
	Resource	*Capital*
2003-04	50	3.8
2002-03	30	9.5

The costs include the two centrally managed contracts to provide an IT infrastructure for the Probation Service. STEPS1 ran from 1 January 2002 until 31 December 2005; this was replaced by the OMNI contract which commenced on 1 January 2006 and associated replacement hardware and software. In addition other central IT costs are included[1].

The resource costs are mainly recharged to Probation boards.

For the period up to 31 December 2001 the National Probation Service Information System Strategy (NPSISS) framework enabling agreement (let in 1994) provided the core infrastructure and case management application; by the end of March 2001 49 of the then 54 probation areas were connected to the NPSISS network with the remaining areas existing via local arrangements. The full cost of the NPSISS programme over seven years to the end of 2001 was £118.038 million[2].

[1] Support and development of NFS legacy case management applications, GSI accreditation and half of the OASys and ViSOR costs (these jointly apply to the Prison Service) are included. NOMIS development costs are not included as NOMIS is not primarily a probation system.

[2] NAO report on NPSISS April 2001.

Probation Service: Expenditure

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the expenditure of the Probation Service in England and Wales was in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06 and *(d)* 2006-07 on (i) drug treatment and testing orders, (ii) work on multi-agency public protection arrangements, (iii) basic skills and (iv) victims. [173768]

Maria Eagle: Expenditure is not reported according to the categories requested. Probation boards meet the cost of managing and enforcing Drug Treatment and Testing Orders (DTTO) and Drug Rehabilitation Requirements (DRR) through their grant as they see fit to meet their statutory duties. The following table shows the total budget allocation to probation areas in England and Wales over the period in question:

Allocation to probation areas to fund DTTO/DRRs supervision and enforcement costs in England and full DTTO/DRR costs in Wales

	£ million
2003-04	24
2004-05	34
2005-06	39
2006-07	39

These figures include DTTO/DRR funding in Wales for the commissioning of drug treatment and testing directly from the treatment providers. In England, the treatment and testing components of the Drug Treatment and Testing Order (DTTO) and Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (DRR) are currently funded by a central contribution to the Department of Health Pooled Treatment Budget (PTB). The total contribution in 2003-04 was £29.7 million, rising to £42 million in each of the subsequent years, including 2006-07 as described in the following table below:

Amount paid to pooled treatment budget to fund DTTO/DRR treatment and testing in England

	£ million
2003-04	29.7
2004-05	42
2005-06	42
2006-07	42

The costs relating to basic skills and victims were not separately identified by probation boards before 2005-06 except in trial costing exercises in 2002-03 and 2003-04 when the data were not complete.

In both 2005-06 and 2006-07 probation boards spent £12.2 million on victims. In 2005-06, the only year in which data were available for basic skills, expenditure was £9.4 million. Expenditure on MAPPA is not identified separately.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on accredited programmes for the Probation Service in England and Wales in each financial year since 2003-04. [173802]

Maria Eagle: Probation boards meet the cost of delivering accredited programmes through their grant as they see fit to meet their statutory duties. Probation boards' spend on accredited programmes is as follows:

	£ million
2005-06	77
2006-07	85
2007-08	86.5

There is no information relating to expenditure for years leading up to 2005.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on central infrastructure, including IT, estates and approved premises, for the Probation Service in England and Wales in each year since 1997-98. [173803]

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what was spent on local infrastructure, including IT and estates, for the Probation Service in England and Wales for each financial year since 1997-98. [175380]

Maria Eagle: The 42 local probation boards are supported by a range of services provided at the centre of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and to varying extent recharged to the probation boards. The main items of infrastructure are Estate Management and Facilities Management for probation properties (including Approved Premises) and IT services. The gross cost of these services is as follows:

	£ million	
	Resource	*Capital*
2006-07	148	11
2005-06	174	3

	Resource	£ million Capital
2004-05	130	27
2003-04	133	19

Notes:
1. Figures are not provided before 2003-04 as not all these services were managed centrally; expenditure was mainly met directly by local probation boards and figures are not held centrally.
2. There may be further related expenditure met locally by probation boards which is not separately identifiable. Other costs met centrally are not considered to be "infrastructure".
3. From 2005-06 due to a classification of expenditure change, certain property expenditure previously treated as Capital is now treated as Resource.
4. IT expenditure may vary year-on-year according to the amount of one-off costs such as hardware upgrade.

Procurement

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many plastic bags his Department has procured, and at what cost, since it was created. [176673]

Mr. Wills: Information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only by contacting each division of my Department at a disproportionate cost.

The Ministry of Justice encourage recycling initiatives of which there are many and an increasing number across the estate, to minimise the impact of plastic bags in waste. Our procurement policy is also to ensure that purchasing is environmentally focussed and that our suppliers have their own sustainable strategies. Key elements of our own policy are to keep consumption to a minimum, to use only recycled and recyclable products and materials wherever possible, and to encourage local management and facilities managers to operate effective recycling schemes.

Prosecutions: Easington

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* convictions for and *(b)* prosecutions of drug-related offences took place in Easington constituency in each year since 2000. [172767]

Maria Eagle: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts and proceeded against for drug-related offences at Easington magistrates court and North Durham magistrates court for the years 2000 to 2006 can be found in the following table. In 2002, Easington magistrates court was amalgamated with Chester-le-street, Derwentside and Durham magistrates courts to make up North Durham magistrates court.

It is not possible to identify those offenders in the Easington constituency, as the data is not collected at this level of detail.

The number of defendants proceeded against and found guilty of drug offences in Easington magistrates court and North Durham magistrates court for the years 2000 to 2006[1,2,3,4]

	Easington magistrates court		North Durham magistrates court	
	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Proceeded against	Found guilty
2000	122	80	[5]	[5]
2001	151	147	[5]	[5]
2002	0	6	335	279
2003	[5]	[5]	314	288
2004	[5]	[5]	206	195
2005	[5]	[5]	242	221
2006	[5]	[5]	187	184

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] It is not possible to identify those prosecutions or convictions for other offences, e.g. murder, or manslaughter, which were due to drug-related offences as the circumstances surrounding offences are not held centrally.
[4] The found guilty column may exceed those proceeded against, as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in the preceding year and they were found guilty at the Crown court in the following year, or the defendants was found guilty for a different offence to the original offence proceeded against. It is also possible that some of those proceeded against were transferred to North Durham upon amalgamation of the four magistrates courts per caveat.
[5] In 2002 Easington magistrates court was amalgamated with the following three other magistrates courts to make up North Durham magistrates court: Chester le Street, Derwentside, and Durham.
Source:
Court proceedings database held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice.

Regulation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment *(a)* officials in his Department and *(b)* the Hayden Phillips review have made of trends in the average level of spending in real terms at a local level by parliamentary candidates during the general election periods regulated by the Representation of the People Act. [175174]

Mr. Straw: No such assessment has been made by officials in my Department.

Sir Hayden Phillips' Review of the Funding of Political Parties considered spending levels by parties and candidates. His publications can be found at:

http://www.partyfundingreview.gov.uk/

Schools

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of school buildings approved by his Department were built to the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method *(a)* very good and *(b)* excellent standard in each of the last five years; and what the construction cost of those buildings was. [172284]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice has built or approved no schools. However, the Department has completed 38 projects within the last five years or are in the final stages of completion. 26 have been assessed under the BREEAM assessment model.

(a) 15 have been assessed as "Excellent" (58 per cent.)

2004—3 projects (12 per cent.)

2007—12 projects (46 per cent.)

(*b*) 11 have been assessed as "Very Good" (42 per cent.)

2003—1 project (4 per cent.)

2004—1 project (4 per cent.)

2005—1 project (4 per cent.)

2006—2 projects (7 per cent.)

2007—6 projects (23 per cent.)

(*c*) 12 projects have still to be assessed.

The capital costs of the work are not known for projects where it was the Landlord who met the Capital cost of the works or the project was procured by the Lead local authority prior to the Courts Act 2005 or the project was a PFI scheme. The capital cost of the 14 projects where costs are known amounts to £190.2 million.

Security Breaches

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many confirmed data security breaches there have been in his Department in the last 36 months; and what action was taken after each occurrence. [170248]

Mr. Wills: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review. An interim progress report on the review was published by the Cabinet Office through a written ministerial statement on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS.

A small number of incidents involving breach of our data security controls have been reported and investigated. Three of these have been reported to the Information Commissioner as potential breaches.

Except in exceptional cases, when it is in the public interest, it has been the policy of successive Governments not to comment on particular breaches of security.

Sentencing

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young offenders have been given a custodial sentence in West Chelmsford constituency in each of the last five years. [174980]

Mr. Hanson: Numbers given immediate custody by criminal justice area are published in the Ministry of Justice statistical bulletin, 'Sentencing Statistics 2006'. The total number sentenced and the percentage given immediate custody for Essex can be found in Table 5.1.

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/sentencing-stats2006.pdf

Please note that these figures are for all ages and are not limited to young offenders.

The information is also in the table as follows.

Number of young offenders[1] sentenced to immediate custody at Chelmsford courts[2], 2002-06

Defendants

Court.	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Aged 10-17					
Chelmsford magistrates court	26	23	41	28	21
Chelmsford Crown court	12	7	12	14	9
Aged 18-20					
Chelmsford magistrates court	61	52	70	53	57
Chelmsford Crown court	75	81	76	97	98
Total for Chelmsford	174	163	199	192	185

[1] Young offenders are aged 18-20.

[2] Magistrates courts in Chelmsford and the Crown court if committed by magistrates in Chelmsford.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice

Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the timetable is for consultation on and implementation of Schedule 12 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 in relation to the role of enforcement agents to secure payment of council tax. [176517]

Bridget Prentice: The enforcement law reforms contained within Schedule 12 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 require underpinning rules and regulations. A scoping exercise has now commenced to determine the development of these. It is anticipated that this will be completed by May 2008 and the results will inform the timetable for consultation and implementation.

Voting Rights

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what pilots have taken place in relation to the use of personal identifiers for absent voting. [176521]

Mr. Wills: Two pilots have taken place in relation to the use of personal identifiers for absent voting in respect of postal voting. These were in the London borough of Newham and Stevenage borough council at the May 2006 local elections.

Personal identifiers in the form of codes allocated to electors have been used in all electronic voting pilots since 2002.

In 2007, electronic voting pilots also required identifiers to be provided by electors to administrators to further enhance security.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to consult on weekend voting in elections. [176666]

Mr. Wills: In July 2007 we published "The Governance of Britain" Green Paper which sets out our commitment to consult on the merits of moving the voting day for general and/or local elections from Thursday to the weekend.

Work is currently being undertaken to finalise the consultation process for weekend voting.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to extend the use of *(a)* e-counting and *(b)* remote electronic voting to future (i) local, (ii) European Parliament and (iii) general elections. [176667]

Mr. Wills: In the Governance of Britain Green Paper the Government sets out a long-term aim to investigate the potential benefits of remote electronic voting and to take advantage of emerging communication technologies to provide increased flexibility and choice in the way people vote.

In the immediate term we are reviewing the lessons learnt from previous e-voting and e-counting pilots. This will help to advise our future programme of work for electoral modernisation.

There are no plans in the short term to extend the use of e-voting and e-counting to (i) local, (ii) European Parliament and (iii) general elections.

Young Offenders

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many disposals were reported by youth offending teams in 2006-07, broken down by *(a)* pre-court, *(b)* first tier, *(c)* community and *(d)* custodial disposals. [175995]

Mr. Hanson: The YJB collates data from YOTs broken down by disposals. The data for 2006 will be published in the new year in the YJB's 2006-07 Annual Statistics document.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children aged *(a)* 10, *(b)* 11, *(c)* 12 and *(d)* 13 were brought before the juvenile courts in (i) 2004, (ii) 2005 and (iii) 2006 and (A) were convicted, (B) were not convicted, (C) received an absolute discharge and (D) received a conditional discharge. [175998]

Maria Eagle: The information requested on the number of children brought before the juvenile courts, and the outcomes of these hearings are provided in the following table.

Number of defendants aged 10-13 proceeded against, found guilty and not guilty at youth courts and the number sentenced to an absolute and conditional discharge, by individual age, England and Wales 2004-06[1,2]

Age	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Not guilty	Absolute discharge	Conditional discharge
2004					
10	259	168	91	18	5
11	934	638	296	36	42
12	2,776	1,925	851	88	132
13	6,876	4,857	2,019	268	384
Total	10,845	7,588	3,257	410	563
2005					
10	223	144	79	13	9
11	957	682	275	45	39
12	2,673	1,954	719	102	124
13	6,828	5,074	1,754	213	375
Total	10,681	7,854	2,827	373	547
2006					
10	181	117	64	9	4
11	780	556	224	36	29
12	2,557	1,911	646	101	130
13	6,286	4,793	1,493	178	302
Total	9,804	7,377	2,427	324	465

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Young Offenders: Crime

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females under 18 years old were convicted for: (i) vehicle crime, (ii) domestic burglary and (iii) robbery in each constituency in London in each of the last eight years. [175358]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested covering the offences of (i) burglary and aggravated burglary in a dwelling (ii) robbery and (iii) vehicle crime comprising (a) theft of a motor vehicle and (b) theft from a motor vehicle in Greater London is provided in the following table.

Information broken down to constituency level is not held by the Ministry of Justice.

Number of persons aged under 18 found guilty at all courts for selected offences in Greater London[1], 1999 to 2006[2, 3, 4]

Offence class	Sex	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Burglary in a dwelling	Male	353	286	257	269	282	297	333	335
	Female	13	20	22	17	28	25	14	10
	Total	366	306	279	286	310	322	347	345
Robbery	Male	549	621	848	746	646	870	953	1,315
	Female	43	86	140	119	138	140	153	218
	Total	592	707	988	865	784	1,010	1,106	1,533
Vehicle crime	Male	141	107	122	96	77	97	87	136
	Female	2	1	—	2	—	1	3	2
	Total	143	108	122	98	77	98	90	138

[1] Includes Metropolitan and City of London police force areas.
[2] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] Includes offences of theft of a vehicle and theft from a vehicle.
Source:
Court Proceedings Database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Young Offenders: Sentencing

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average number of days from arrest to sentence in cases involving persistent young offenders was at the most recent date for which figures are available for each police force area. [176039]

Maria Eagle: In 1996, the average time from arrest to sentence for persistent young offenders was 142 days. The Government pledged to halve the time to 71 days by March 2002 (changed to May 2002 by the 2001 manifesto). The pledge is a target that applies jointly to all Criminal Justice Agencies.

The average number of days from arrest to sentence (three month rolling average) for persistent young offenders in England and Wales for July to September 2007 was 62 days. The monthly performance for September 2007 was 60 days. Therefore the performance is better than the Government's pledge.

The information contained in the following table details the most recent arrest to sentence details for each Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB). LCJBs are coterminous with police force areas with the exception of Metropolitan which cover both the Metropolitan and City of London forces.

Average number of days from arrest to sentence (three-month rolling averages) for persistent young offenders in England and Wales by Criminal Justice Area for February 2007 to September 2007

Area	February to April 2007	March to May 2007	April to June 2007	May to July 2007	June to August 2007	July to September 2007
Avon and Somerset	72	72	72	74	71	66
Bedfordshire	81	75	80	82	73	74
Cambridgeshire	71	64	60	58	60	53
Cheshire	62	58	56	54	54	47
Cleveland	69	62	63	64	67	57
Cumbria	83	64	60	56	55	64
Derbyshire	55	55	55	59	62	58
Devon and Cornwall	72	78	79	72	66	59
Dorset	77	79	90	80	61	59
Durham	67	63	58	54	49	47
Dyfed-Powys	48	46	48	44	46	42
Essex	58	63	62	60	54	56
Gloucestershire	68	63	55	55	70	82
Greater Manchester	77	74	73	70	69	65
Gwent	94	83	77	67	72	72
Hampshire	66	66	62	61	55	53
Hertfordshire	69	70	66	68	71	74
Humberside	75	73	73	69	69	58
Kent	90	85	75	63	63	69
Lancashire	64	59	57	51	52	51
Leicestershire	90	82	71	65	67	66

Average number of days from arrest to sentence (three-month rolling averages) for persistent young offenders in England and Wales: by Criminal Justice Area for February 2007 to September 2007

Area	February to April 2007	March to May 2007	April to June 2007	May to July 2007	June to August 2007	July to September 2007
Lincolnshire	58	50	65	70	64	59
Merseyside	65	64	61	58	56	57
Metropolitan	72	72	70	72	71	66
Norfolk	79	59	50	44	48	47
North Wales	85	74	56	51	53	49
North Yorkshire	56	58	54	54	55	63
Northamptonshire	87	78	61	47	49	59
Northumbria	74	77	74	72	68	76
Nottinghamshire	68	68	63	64	63	66
South Wales	76	75	73	83	85	82
South Yorkshire	68	69	65	62	60	64
Staffordshire	69	69	72	66	60	52
Suffolk	53	53	51	52	57	60
Surrey	75	80	66	63	51	43
Sussex	70	74	63	67	66	63
Thames Valley	80	75	73	72	67	60
Warwickshire	57	67	70	68	62	56
West Mercia	66	63	56	50	65	69
West Midlands	72	73	63	55	54	56
West Yorkshire	59	64	68	66	59	57
Wiltshire	77	63	77	84	81	72
British Transport Police	110	113	97	92	79	71
England and Wales	72	70	67	65	63	62

Youth Justice Body

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many performance indicators the Youth Justice Body has instructed local authorities to monitor as part of their local area agreements. [176669]

Mr. Hanson: There are six youth justice indicators in the national indicator set for Local Government. The six indicators are:

The rate of proven re-offending by young offenders;

Percentage of young people within the Youth Justice System receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody;

Ethnic composition of offenders on Youth Justice System disposals;

Young offenders' engagement in suitable education, employment or training;

Young offenders' access to suitable accommodation;

The number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10 to 17.

National indicators will be reported on by local authorities in England regardless of whether they are in a specific local area agreement (LAA). LAA's are agreed between local authorities and central Government.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Aviation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many air miles were travelled by Ministers in his Department in each year since 2000; and what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as a result: [172229]

(2) how many miles he and other Ministers in his Department travelled on short haul flights in the last 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as a result of these flights. [172564]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since 1999 the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the current financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. From next year, the list will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

All central Government ministerial and official air travel has been offset from 1 April 2006. Departmental aviation emissions are calculated on an annual basis and subsequently offset through payments to a central fund. The fund purchases certified emissions reductions credits from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with sustainable development benefits, located in developing countries.

In addition, offsetting the flights of Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development, and the Prime Minister has been backdated to 1 April 2005.

A list of Government Carbon Offsetting Fund members, their emission figures and what activities they have offset through the fund is available online at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/carbonoffset/government.htm>

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent by his Department on international flights in each year since 1997. [174350]

Margaret Hodge: The Department's accounting system does not record travel information in the format and at the level of detail requested. The information can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Regarding Ministers' visits overseas, since 1999 the Government have published a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the current financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. From next year, the list will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code.

Carbon Emissions

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department has adopted the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme. [176925]

Margaret Hodge: The Department has adopted the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme to assist in establishing a baseline measurement of the carbon footprint of the departmental estate and that of our major non-departmental public bodies.

Christmas

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* postage of Christmas cards in 2007. [176905]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The total numbers of DCMS Christmas cards that each Minister intends to send this year are as follows:

	Cards
James Purnell, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport	500
Margaret Hodge, Minister for Culture, Creative Industries and Tourism	450
Gerry Sutcliffe, Minister for Sport	150

This year the Department is producing a total of 3,400 Christmas cards (of which 1,100 are allocated to Ministers), costing a total of £2,284.

We cannot supply an accurate figure for postage costs as many of the cards will be distributed via internal contacts. However, standard procedure for DCMS is that they will be sent via second class post.

Club and Coaching Development Scheme

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the administrative costs to each of the national governing bodies of implementing the Club and Coaching Development Scheme sponsored by his Department. [176814]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Our non-departmental public body, Sport England has not made any estimate of the cost to governing bodies of implementing the Club and Coach programme. Costs will vary depending on the size and scope of each national governing body's programme and the extent of their existing staffing infrastructures. Sport England has invested £8.35 million of additional funding into a number of national governing bodies to provide them with extra capacity to help manage this new programme.

Computer Software

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many copies of Adobe Photoshop software were purchased by his Department in the last period for which figures are available. [176716]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has six copies of Adobe Photoshop software.

Cultural Heritage: Textiles

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his policy is on the maintenance and preservation of collections of historic textiles in public ownership; and if he will make a statement. [175110]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* The Victoria and Albert Museum houses the national collection of textiles and there are significant collections at other museums sponsored by the Department. The Government delegate responsibility for specific textile conservation policies to these and other public bodies with duties for the care and protection of cultural heritage.

The Institute of Conservation continues to support efforts to find a new home for the Textile Conservation Centre.

Departmental Databases

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many times databases containing personal information on members of the general public were transferred by his Department to other bodies or organisations *(a)* physically and *(b)* electronically in each year since 1997. [176816]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is as follows.

(a) None

(b) None

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many branded plastic bags his Department has purchased in the last 24 months for which figures are available; and at what cost. [176714]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has not purchased any branded plastic bags in the last 24 months.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what (1) *(a)* volume and *(b)* percentage of its waste his Department recycled in each of the last five years; [172508]

(2) how much and what proportion of its waste his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [174436]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department does not hold records on recycling for the last five years.

DCMS introduced a new waste management system in January 2007 at its Cockspur street offices. The average monthly recycling rate is 59 per cent.

Departmental Sustainable Development

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department is working towards an accredited certified environmental management system such as ISO 14001 or EMAS *(a)* for its whole estate and *(b)* in some of its buildings. [176927]

Margaret Hodge: The Department's environmental management system was accredited to ISO 14001 in June 2007. The EMS covers the Department's offices at Cockspur Street and Tottenham Court Road.

The Department's executive agency the Royal Parks, has an environmental management system accredited to ISO 14001 for all its estate.

Digital Broadcasting: Television

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) when the Switchover Programme Group decided to change the digital switchover programme alert from Red to Amber; and if he will place in the Library the minutes of the meeting when the decision was taken; [173931]

(2) when he was informed that on 9 August 2007 Digital UK issued a red status alert for the overall digital switchover programme; whether the information relating to the alert was made public; and if he will notify Parliament if any such further alert is issued; [173933]

(3) what the criteria are for a red status alert to be issued for the digital switchover scheme; what the current alert status is; and if he will make a statement. [173934]

James Purnell: Red, amber, green status reporting is a valuable internal management tool for focusing efforts on key operational or strategic issues to ensure effective delivery of switchover. In this case red status reflected a concern about tight timescales for the delivery of the Digital Switchover Help Scheme in Whitehaven.

Digital UK informed me that the switchover programme was likely to move to red status at a meeting on 8 August 2007 and at the same time set out the steps that the programme was taking to resolve the issue. Given that this was essentially an operational issue and that plans to address it were being put in place, it was not at that stage an issue for widespread concern which necessitated informing Parliament.

At the next meeting of the Switchover Programme Group sufficient action had been taken and the group agreed to revert to amber status. The relevant extract from the minutes of this meeting is given as follows:

The Digital UK Programme Office issues a status alert if a move to 'red' needs to be brought to the attention of the Switchover Programme Group before their next scheduled monthly meeting. Quarterly progress reports on the switchover programme, including its red/amber/green status, are published on:

www.digitaltelevision.gov.uk

All such changes in status and the implications of them, including whether to inform Parliament, will be considered on an individual basis depending upon the severity of the issue.

The current status of the switchover programme is amber. The criteria used by the Digital Switchover Programme for awarding red, amber and green status are:

Green: Good progress towards all milestones and objectives; no cause for concern.

Amber: Some cause for concern: one or two milestones missed and indications are that this will recur. Issues may exist, but corrective action identified and being taken.

Red: Major cause for concern: several milestones missed or about to be missed endangering programme objectives. Further milestones will be missed unless proactive steps taken and sustained action supported by the programme or programme-critical issues exist with no clear course of corrective action identified.

Switchover Programme Group: Extract from minutes of meeting held on 19 September 2007

Alex Pumfrey returned to the reasons why the Copeland Help Scheme was originally placed on red status on 13 August: (i) the need for reassurance that there was sufficient delivery and installer capacity to meet demand, which Peter White had confirmed there was; (ii) the need for a forward plan of activity, which has been shared; and (iii) assurance from DSHS that people have been given sufficient time to respond. Peter White noted that among the groups eligible for free help, 43 per cent. had responded, which indicated that people had had sufficient time to respond if they wished, and that low response was more likely to be attributable to the deterrent effect of the £40 charge or take-up of satellite. On this basis the group agreed to move the Copeland Help Scheme from red to amber status.

Gambling

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library copies of the letters he has received since 1 September

2007 on (a) gaming machine stake and prize levels and (b) the number of gaming machines in use. [174516]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since 1 September the Department has received more than 140 letters from hon. Members, writing on behalf of constituents, concerning gaming machine stakes and prizes and gaming machine numbers.

I am arranging for a copy of an anonymised example of a typical constituent's letter, and the Department's reply, to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he plans to review the (a) size and (b) remit of the Gambling Commission. [175597]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are no immediate plans to review the size or focus of the Gambling Commission. The Gambling Commission is the new regulator for the gambling industry and became fully operational from 1 September 2007. The Commission is still in its first operational cycle and has developed strategic objectives for the first three years to deliver its statutory objectives as set out in the Gambling Act 2005. The Commission's initial Corporate Plan will be reviewed after 18 months in light of its first year's experience as the regulator. In particular the review will consider the developing methods for assessing the level of risk within the gambling industry and the resource effectiveness of the Gambling Commission's approach (including an annual review of licence fees).

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations he has received from (a) the Gambling Commission, (b) the Responsibility in Gambling Trust, (c) Gamcare and (d) trade associations on the likely effects on problem gambling of the introduction of the Gambling Act 2005 on 1 September 2007. [175598]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The implementation of the Gambling Act 2005 which came into force on 1 September 2007 has been the subject of extensive consultation with key stakeholders from industry and those with an interest in problem gambling.

Ministers and officials also continue to hold meetings with stakeholders including those listed in the question and which have included representations on a range of issues, including problem gambling.

The Gambling Commission has also recently launched a first consultation paper on the Review of Research, Education and Treatment for problem gambling and has invited views from a broad range of stakeholders.

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the economic effect of the Gambling Act 2005 on seaside arcades. [175599]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department is engaging in active and constructive dialogue with the British Amusement Catering Trade Association, the main trade body which represents the gaming machines and seaside arcades sector, and other trade bodies with an interest in the sector, such as the British Association of Leisure Parks, Piers and Attractions, to gain a full understanding of the current trading conditions in the gaming machine and seaside arcades sector.

I have made it clear to these organisations that I will be happy to consider any evidence they can provide in relation to the difficult trading conditions that some arcade operators say they are currently experiencing, and any proposals for remedial action.

However, the Government's principal priority remains to protect the public. We will need to be satisfied that any proposals put forward for remedial action by the industry do not have an adverse impact in terms of the licensing objectives of the Gambling Act 2005.

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the average premises licence fees levied on (a) family entertainment centres and (b) adult gaming centres by local authorities was in 2006-07. [175600]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The average premises licences fees for (a) family entertainment centres and (b) adult gaming centres by local authorities are set out in the table. These data is calculated from fee data returns collected by my Department from 95 per cent. of licensing authorities. Full details of all premises licence fees are available on the DCMS website

www.culture.gov.uk.

£

Premises type	*Fast track application fee (for existing premises)*	*Average new application fee*	*Average annual fee*
Family entertainment centres	242	790	564
Adult gaming centres	243	796	717

Licensed Premises

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many different statutory notices licensed premises must display. [176719]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Under the Licensing Act 2003, a premises licence holder is required to display the most recent summary of the premises licence (or a certified copy of it) and a notice specifying the position held by the person who has custody of the premises licence itself (if that person is not the licence-holder). There are similar requirements for the holder of a club premises certificate. A person who gives a Temporary Event Notice (TEN) must display the TEN itself, or in lieu thereof, a notice identifying the person with custody of the TEN.

The holder of a premises licence or club premises certificate is therefore required to display a minimum of one, and a maximum of two notices under the 2003

Act. A person who gives a TEN is required to display at least one notice.

A premises licence holder may also need to display notices in order to comply with legislation other than licensing legislation. These include notices as regards prices of food and drink under the Weights and Measures Act 1985, notices concerning the prohibition of smoking under the Health Act 2006, notices concerning business names under the Business Names Act 1985 and notices under Health and Safety legislation.

Minimum Wage

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many London-based staff are employed by his Department on the national minimum wage. [175979]

Mr. Sutcliffe: None.

Museums and Galleries

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* publicly funded and *(b)* charitably funded (i) art galleries, (ii) museums and (iii) archives (A) closed and (B) opened in each local authority area in England in each of the last five years. [169008]

Margaret Hodge: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam (Mr. Burstow) by my hon. Friend the Member for Tottenham (Mr. Lammy) on 26 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1256W, in respect of museums and galleries sponsored by the Department. The only addition is the opening of the International Slavery Museum (August 2007), part of National Museums Liverpool.

The following Arts Council England funded galleries have opened in the past five years:

	Gallery	*Local authority*
2003	Permanent Gallery	Brighton and Hove City Council
2004	Apartment	Manchester City Council
2004	The Brindley	Halton District Council
2004	OVADA	Oxford City Council
2004	Study Gallery	Poole Borough Council
2005	Colony Gallery	Birmingham City Council
2005	De La Warr Pavilion	Rother District Council
2005	Mushroom Works	Newcastle City Council
2006	Town Hall Galleries	Ipswich Borough Council
2006	Workplace	Newcastle City Council
2007	Designed and Made	Newcastle City Council
2007	Exchange Gallery	Penwith Borough Council
2007	Picture This	Bristol City Council
2007	Plymouth University Levinsky Building	Plymouth City Council

The following Arts Council England funded galleries have closed in the past five years:

	Gallery	*Local authority*
2003	Basement	Liverpool City Council
2005	Craft Council Gallery	Islington Council
2006	Jump Ship Gallery	Liverpool City Council
2007	Gardner Arts Centre	Brighton and Hove City Council
2007	Norwich Gallery	Norwich City Council

Information on local authority, or charitably funded museums, galleries and archives is not held centrally.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what resources have been made available to museums in the West Midlands since 1997. [172185]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* The following table shows spend on museums and galleries in the west midlands through the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and its predecessor body:

	£
1997-98	435,181
1998-99	461,413
1999-2000	461,062
2000-01	540,328
2001-02	664,119
2002-03	926,112
2003-04	1,219,000
2004-05	4,264,535
2005-06	5,840,000
2006-07	6,141,168
2007-08	6,133,456
Total	27,086,374

The following table shows spend on regularly funded galleries in the west midlands by Arts Council England since 2002/03.

	£
2002-03	1,386,986
2003-04	1,427,589
2004-05	1,833,982
2005-06	1,819,820
2006-07	2,384,861
2007-08	2,445,594
Total	11,298,832

The following table shows the value of grants given by the DCMS/Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund to institutions in the west midlands.

	£
2004-05	529,100
2005-06	845,000
2006-07	510,000
2007-08	209,000

Museums are a discretionary local authority service and their core funding is a matter for the 14 single tier and county councils and 24 district councils in the west midlands. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance

and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Statistical Information Service surveys local authority museums and the findings are available in its 'Leisure and Recreation Statistics Estimates' publication that is in the House Library.

Portable Antiquities Scheme

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the reporting of treasure in England and Wales of the proposal by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council to maintain the funding for the Portable Antiquities Scheme next year at its current level; and if he will make a statement. [175277]

Margaret Hodge: The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is funded by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) and so any decisions on its future funding will be taken by the MLA.

The PAS is of national importance and the MLA is committed to seeing it thrive and evolve. The MLA will continue to work with the British Museum and other stakeholders to build on the success the scheme has had in its goal of advancing archaeological knowledge—for finders, museums and, most importantly, the wider public.

The MLA believes the scheme fits with the wider Renaissance in the Regions agenda and intends to maintain current levels of support for 2008-09, while considering options for future funding in the context of wider priorities for museum collections and public participation.

Sports: Finance

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the level of public funding for *(a)* sport and *(b)* women's sport has been in each of the last five years; and which sport received the most money per participant. [173458]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Exchequer and Lottery spending on sport in England in each of the last five years was:

£ million

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Lottery	350	297	249	419	344
Exchequer	137	140	235	273	377
Total	487	437	484	692	721

The Exchequer figures show DCMS spending through UK Sport and Sport England, and DCSF spending on school sport through the Youth Sport Trust. The Lottery figures show spending through UK Sport, Sport England, the Big Lottery Fund and its predecessors (Community Fund and New Opportunities Fund).

It is not possible to provide total figures for investment into women's sport, or which sport received the most money per participant, as information is not held in this format.

We do have figures on programmes specifically targeted at women.

The Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation, which exists to promote physical activity as an integral part of life for women and girls, has received the following funding:

£

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Core costs (Exchequer)	150,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	329,333
Project support (Exchequer)	—	—	—	—	[1]33,000
Project support (Lottery)	—	83,729	—	65,207	56,454
Total	150,000	283,729	200,000	265,207	418,787

[1] £20,000 to support work across the Sports Equity Alliance, not solely women's sport.

UK Sport has funded the following women's sport programmes:

£30,000 (£10,000 in 2006-07 and £20,000 in 2007-08) has been invested in the Women and Leadership Development Programme, established in partnership with the BOA and CCPR to address the lack of women in senior decision making sports positions.

£67,500 has been invested between 2004 and 2008 in international women's sport development projects.

Synchronised swimming, (£1,617,000 for April 2006 to March 2009) and rhythmic gymnastics (integrated into the overall British Gymnastics Beijing award of £9 million) which are both female only sports.

Since 2003, female athletes have received 39 to 41 per cent. of UK Sport World Class Performance Programme and World Class Pathway Programme awards.

Stonehenge: Visitors' Centre

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the total cost has been to *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies of (i) public enquiries, (ii) public consultations, (iii) public exhibitions, (iv) public information initiatives, (v) consultancy fees and (vi) all others costs incurred in connection with the proposed English Heritage Visitors' Centre at Stonehenge and the associated road improvement on the A303(T) since 1986. [173998]

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost has been to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* English Heritage of preparatory work in connection with the Stonehenge Visitors' Centre. [174376]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* English Heritage records for expenditure on the Stonehenge visitor centre proposals commence at 1990-91. A total of some £16 million has been spent on developing various schemes for a new visitor centre. This includes funds to purchase land for the proposed site, which can be used for other purposes, together with consultancy and project team costs associated

with the architectural, structural and environmental design of the centre including costs associated with public enquiries.

It is not possible to disaggregate costs in the manner requested but broadly the split of costs is as follows:

		£ million
1990-91 to 1997-98	Original feasibility study and proposals	4.2
1997-98 to 2002-03	Public private partnership scheme development	1.9
2000-01	Purchase of the Countess East site and Countess road properties	3.4
2000-01 to 2006-07	Countess East scheme	6.5

Additional staff costs have fallen to my Department but these are included in overall running costs and are not separately recorded.

The costs for the A303 Stonehenge improvement scheme were given in the answer to the hon. Member for Salisbury (Robert Key) the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Glasgow, South (Mr. Harris) on 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1426W.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Carbon Sequestration

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the maturity and practicality of carbon capture and storage technologies; [174684]

(2) what research the Department has carried out on the cost of carbon capture and storage technology. [175430]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has published two reports on carbon capture and storage: 'The Review of Carbon Capture and Storage in the UK' and 'The Carbon Abatement Technology (CAT) Strategy for Fossil Fuel Use', provide the results in these areas. Both reports can be found in the House of Commons Library and also on the BERR website at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/coal/cfft/co2capture/review.pdf

and

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/coal/cfft/cct/pub/catreportlinked.pdf.

The supporting analysis underpinning the carbon abatement technology strategy which can be found at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/coal/cfft/cct/pub/pdfs/r301.pdf

provides the work to date on predicting the impact of deploying this technology. Further work on this area is planned as part of an update of the CAT strategy.

Additionally, Poyry Ltd carried out a study in June 2006 on the North sea CCS pipeline infrastructure. The study, commissioned by BERR, on behalf of the UK, Norway and the North sea basin task force, has now been completed and is also available on the BERR web site at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/sustainable/carbon-abatement-tech/ccs/nsbtf/page42482.html

The Department also commissioned engineers PB Power to assess proposed CCS projects in the UK and to advise the Government on whether to support a CCS demonstration. This work is commercially confidential and is not in the public domain.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether carbon capture and storage technology will be eligible for capital allowances. [175431]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

HMT consulted on the barriers to carbon capture and storage (CCS) deployment in 2006 and the Government announced in the Energy review that the next logical step would be a full-scale demonstration project. A competition to design and build one of the first commercial CCS demonstration projects was launched by the Prime Minister on the 19 November.

Allowances and reliefs are kept under review and any changes are announced by the Chancellor as part of the budget process.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether carbon capture and storage technology will be eligible for capital grants. [175432]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government have a £35 million programme for the demonstration of carbon abatement technologies, including carbon capture and storage (CCS). It is also possible that part of the funding for the CCS demonstration project will be in the form of capital grants.

Coal: Finance

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much Government funding the UK coal industry received annually since 1997; and what plans there are to continue such funding. [175434]

Malcolm Wicks: Grants paid to UK coal producers in each financial year from 1997-98 are shown in the following table. The UK coal industry has received support through the UK Coal Operating Aid Scheme (2000-02) and Coal Investment Aid ('CIA'—awards made in 2003 and 2004 for draw-down during 2003-08), both of which are closed. Details of both can been found on the BERR website. Two CIA awards have not yet been drawn down in full; any further qualifying expenditure must be incurred and defrayed by the end of 2008.

£ million

UK Coal Operating Aid						Coal Investment Aid				
1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007 to date
0	0	0	76.5	61.6	26.6	0.4	21.8	19.5	9.6	0.2

Fossil Fuelled Power Stations: Carbon Emissions

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate has been made of the level of effect on carbon emissions of construction of fossil fuel plants without operational carbon capture and storage technology. [175428]

Malcolm Wicks: The most recent BERR energy and emissions projections were published as a supporting document to the Energy White Paper of May 2007. In the central case projection, including policy measures, total power station emissions are projected to fall from 47MtC 2005 to around 36MtC in 2020.

Fuel Poverty: Lincolnshire

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many households are classified as living in fuel-poverty in *(a)* North East Lincolnshire and *(b)* North Lincolnshire. [176870]

Malcolm Wicks: Regional estimates of fuel poverty are available only for England in 2003 and are taken from the Fuel Poverty Indicator (FPI) dataset (available online at http://www.fuelpovertyindicator.org.uk/). This estimates that there were 4,600 fuel-poor households in North East Lincolnshire and 4,300 in North Lincolnshire.

It is important to note that the FPI only predicts the level of poverty in individual areas. It cannot take into account local circumstances. As with all small area indicators, it is important to use local knowledge and data to complement the FPI when developing local fuel poverty programmes.

Gambling: Competition

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans his Department has to assess the effects of the Gambling Act 2005 on competition in the gambling market. [174512]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

A competition assessment of the Gambling Act 2005 was included in the Regulatory Impact Assessment which was published in April 2005 to accompany the Act. In addition, impact assessments were prepared where appropriate for each piece of secondary legislation required to implement the Act. These are published with the related explanatory memorandum on the Office for Public Sector Information website www.opsi.gov.uk <http://www.opsi.gov.uk>, and separately on the Department's website www.culture.gov.uk <http://www.culture.gov.uk>

Members: Correspondence

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he will reply to the letters of 4 July and 17 September 2007 from the hon. Member for Weston-Super-Mare on behalf of Mr. Gerald Evans of Weston-Super-Mare regarding Reusa-Can Ltd., which were transferred to his Department on 21 September 2007. [174203]

Malcolm Wicks: I replied to the hon. Member on the 2 October 2007.

My Private Office also sent a copy of the reply to the hon. Member on 12 November 2007.

Minimum Wage

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what information his Department holds on statutory national minimum wages in *(a)* each EU member state, *(b)* the United States, *(c)* China, *(d)* India, *(e)* Russia and *(f)* Japan expressed in (i) local currency and (ii) sterling (purchasing power parity) in each case. [163075]

Mr. McFadden: An international comparison of minimum wage rates was published in Annex C of "Government Evidence to the Low Pay Commission on the Economic Effects of the National Minimum Wage" in November 2006. This is available from the BERR website at www.berr.gov.uk/employment/pay/national-minimum-wage/Evidence-Low_Pay-Commission/page21634.html. Copies are also available in the House Libraries. An updated international comparison will be provided in the Government's evidence to the Low Pay Commission for 2007 which will be published in December.

Statistics on OECD minimum wages in purchasing power parity terms can be found at www.oecd.org/document/63/0,3343,en_2825_495691_38939455_1_1_1_1,00. html. Statistics on EU minimum wages in purchasing power parity terms can be found at epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-SF-07-071/EN/KS-SF-07-071-EN.PDF.

Nuclear Reactors: Flood Control

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what projections he has made of flood risk to each of Britain's nuclear power and waste processing plants over the next 100 years; and if he will make a statement. [173865]

Malcolm Wicks: The Health and Safety Executive requires flood defence plans for civil licensed nuclear sites to be periodically reviewed by site operators. These reviews are carried out against the current climate change impact projections.

Political Levy

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Certification Officer has made of the number of trade unions which affiliate more members to the Labour Party than they have members paying the political levy. [174706]

Mr. McFadden: Neither the Department nor the Certification Officer has made an assessment about the number of member trade unions affiliated to the Labour Party.

Post Offices

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with (*a*) the Post Office and (*b*) others on the timetable for the Network Change Programme consultation; what changes have been made following these discussions; and if he will make a statement. [170969]

Mr. McFadden: The timetable for the Network Change Programme was set out in July of this year. In line with the Cabinet Office guidelines on consultations during local elections POL have now agreed to suspend the process during the local election campaign. As a consequence of these changes, the start of consultations and announcements of decisions on plans which were previously scheduled for after 1 May 2008 are put back by four weeks on average.

It remains POL's intention to complete the Network Change Programme by the end of next year.

Radioactive Materials: Transport

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations his Department has received on security provision in the event of (*a*) an accident and (*b*) a terrorist attack involving nuclear waste in transit in (i) an urban and (ii) a rural environment; and if he will make a statement. [169398]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government believe that the risks of transporting nuclear materials are very small and that there is an effective regulatory framework in place to ensure that these risks are minimised and sensibly managed by industry.

The Government set out their preliminary view on the future of nuclear power in the consultation document, published on 23 May 2007. The consultation ended on 10 October 2007 and the Government are currently carefully considering the responses received before they make the decision early this year.

Regional Development Agencies: Finance

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what criteria were used to allocate the funding referred to in the answer of 23 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 195W, on regional development agencies' finance to each regional development agency; and what the reasons were for the variation between regional development agencies of their administrative costs as a percentage of their respective grants. [170632]

Mr. Timms: The regional development agencies' budgets for 2007-08 were allocated to the RDAs following the Spending Review 2004. Grant in aid was divided between the RDAs using a funding formula which takes into account the needs of the region (including skills, worklessness and productivity).

Once the overall budgets were set, the RDAs produced corporate plans in which they set out their requirements for pay and non-pay administration costs. Those plans were approved by Ministers.

Differences in the proportion of the total budget spent on administration by RDAs arise for a number of reasons. These include the different geographic size and population of the region, the different sizes of the RDAs' total budget and the different choices which the Agencies make in terms of whether they deliver particular objectives themselves or whether they operate through sub-regional partners.

Renewable Energy: Research

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much money has been allocated for research into renewable energies in each of the last five years. [174984]

Malcolm Wicks: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Morley and Rothwell (Colin Challen) on 24 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1448-449W.

Sakhalin Island: Pipelines

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his policy is on underwriting the Sakhalin II oil and gas development; when he expects to make a decision on underwriting exploration; and how much he expects to underwrite. [171220]

Malcolm Wicks: ECGD will apply its normal underwriting policy and its business principles to consideration of support for this project taking into account its Case Impact Assessment Process. See www.ecgd.gov.uk

A decision on whether to support the project and on the amount of any such support will be made after ECGD has completed its financial, technical, environmental and other due diligence. This will take into consideration comments received on the project from other interested parties, including NGOs.

Social Security Benefits: Christmas

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Work and Pensions on the timetable of pension and benefits payments in the period before Christmas 2007. [174870]

Mr. McFadden: None. However, I understand from Post Office Ltd. that it is confident that its horizon system has the capacity to cope with the number of transactions expected to take place on 24 December. State pensions for 1.4 million Post Office card account holders will be payable from 21 December giving those pensioners the choice of three days on which to draw their pensions and spreading the transaction volumes for sub-post offices and the Horizon system. Post Office Ltd. will monitor performance of its systems closely in the days preceding the holiday period and has comprehensive contingency plans in place.

Summertime

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned, *(b)* undertaken and *(c)* evaluated on the effects of changing to daylight saving time in the UK. [175580]

Mr. McFadden: There are no plans to change the current summer time arrangements or to undertake additional research as the Government are not convinced that a change would be in the best interests of the UK.

Utilities: Complaints

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what steps Ofgem is taking to encourage improvements in consumer complaint-handling by energy suppliers; what discussions he has had with Ofgem on this; and if he will make a statement; [175738]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that consumers have access to information on the performance of energy suppliers in handling complaints; and if he will make a statement. [175739]

Malcolm Wicks: Under the Consumers, Estate Agents and Redress Act 2007, Ofgem is required to make regulations that set standards of performance for complaint-handling standards for gas and electricity customers. Ofgem is currently consulting on proposals that meet this requirement. Among other things, Ofgem has proposed that companies provide information about the number of complaints they receive. Its consultation also seeks views on what other information—such as customer satisfaction or speed of resolution—might be provided by companies. My officials, and other interested parties, have been in discussion with Ofgem about this activity.

Utilities: Fees and Charges

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimates he has made of the average UK household *(a)* electricity and *(b)* gas bill in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [175534]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government do not produce forecasts of household fuel bills.

Historical annual average household gas and electricity bills are published in 'Quarterly Energy' available from the House of Commons Library.

Waste Heat Recovery

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what research his Department has carried out into mapping the potential for heat capture in the UK. [175421]

Malcolm Wicks: In the Energy White Paper we said that we would conduct further work into the policy options available to reduce the carbon impact of heat including the capture and use of surplus heat. This work is being led by the Office of Climate Change and officials from my Department along with other Departments.

As announced by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on the 19 November, a call for evidence on heat will be published in January 2008.

The OCC's Heat Project aims to improve the understanding of how heat can be cost-effectively decarbonised, including how heat can be supplied from renewable sources. This work is being taken forward under the four workstreams:

(i) Carbon Markets;

(ii) Renewable Heat;

(iii) Community Heating; and

(iv) Large Scale Heat.

BERR and other Government Departments have been working closely with the Office of Climate Change (OCC), providing input to their heat strategy.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister recently announced that the call for evidence would be jointly published in January 2008 by BERR, DEFRA and CLG.

Wind Power

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the cost of decommissioning a 2MW wind turbine, including the cost of removing concrete foundations, access roads and associated infrastructures, and restoring sites to their original condition; and what mechanisms are in place to ensure that such decommissioning is properly carried out. [175677]

Malcolm Wicks: No such estimate has been made. Decommissioning conditions are applied to onshore wind farm planning permissions to ensure restoration of the site to the satisfaction of the local authority once the planning permission lifetime has expired. It is common practice for developers to enter into agreements pursuant to section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to ensure funds are available for such decommissioning work.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his latest long-term target for the number of academies is; and if he will make a statement. [174664]

Jim Knight: We are firmly committed to establishing 400 academies as first announced on 30 November 2006.

Academies: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils aged *(a)* three to 15, *(b)* 14 to 15 and *(c)* 16 to 19 there are expected to be in academy schools in each year between 2008-09 and 2010-11. [172552]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the estimated number of pupils aged *(a)* three to 15, *(b)* 14 to 15 and *(c)* 16 to 19 that are expected to be in academy schools in the following academic years 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11.

These estimates are based on 200 academies being open by 2010; they are subject to change as we move towards opening 400 academies. This is consistent with the projections published in Department Annual Report 2007 and the submission of 16 May 2007.

Projected numbers of pupils[1] in academies

Thousand

	2009	*2010*	*2011*
At January at previous 31 August			
Aged 3-15	114	136	184
Aged 14-15	40	49	68
Aged 16-19	20	26	36

[1] Full-time equivalents, counting each part-time pupil as 0.5. The numbers have been rounded to the nearest one thousand.

Note:

Projections use 2006 School Census Data and are being updated in early 2008.

Academies: Disadvantaged

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of academies in targeting the most disadvantaged pupils. [166037]

Jim Knight: The academies programme targets areas of inadequate educational opportunity and attainment.

The National Foundation for Educational Research ("Admissions: who goes where? Messages from the statistics", published July 2006) found that academies tended to be situated in areas where the community populations included higher proportions of children eligible for free school meals (FSM); with special educational needs (SEN); of black or ethnic minority origin; and of lower key stage 2 (KS2) ability; and that academies admit higher proportions of pupils eligible for FSM and with SEN than the proportion living in the local postcode districts. Furthermore, they admit a lower proportion of pupils of higher KS2 ability compared to the proportion living within the local postcode districts.

There is a large body of evidence from independent reports and examination results that the academies programme is succeeding in raising aspirations and attainment in the communities they serve. The National Audit Office concluded that pupils' achievements in 2005 and 2006 indicated a strong trend in raising attainment, and that if this trend continues, the academies programme will meet its objective of raising attainment in deprived areas ("The Academies Programme", National Audit Office, February 2007, page 8). The Government agree with this assessment, which is why the Secretary of State in his statement to the House of 10 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1319-23, announced a series of measures to accelerate the academies programme, and the Department plans to open 50 new academies in each of the next three years on its way to opening at least 400 academies.

Academies: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what external assessments of the academies programme will be *(a)* completed and *(b)* published in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [166028]

Jim Knight: In February 2003, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) was commissioned by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) to conduct an independent five-year evaluation of the academies programme. The aim of the evaluation is to assess the overall effectiveness of the programme in terms of its contribution to educational standards, and to examine the impact of key features of academies including sponsorship, governance, leadership and buildings. The first four reports have already been published and the fifth and final report will be published in summer 2008.

Assessments: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether any *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A-level examinations will be marked overseas in whole or in part in 2008; whether any have been in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [172762]

Jim Knight: This information is not collected centrally. The qualifications regulators require awarding bodies to ensure that all examiners and markers, irrespective of background or location, are trained and standardised in line with the requirements of the GCSE, GCE, GNVQ and AEA Code of Practice. The qualifications regulators monitor awarding bodies' compliance with this requirement.

In 2007 all examiners (individuals with subject expertise who are responsible for marking candidates' responses) were based in the UK. There are no plans to use examiners in other countries in 2008. Some clerical work such as the copy typing of one word hand-written answers, so that they could be read by computer, was carried out overseas in summer 2007.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Fire Extinguishers

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the Government's policy is on the inclusion of sprinkler systems within schools being rebuilt under Building Schools for the Future; and if he will make a statement; [174302]

(2) which schools *(a)* have been built; *(b)* are being built and *(c)* are planned for re-build under Building Schools for the Future in each local authority area; and whether each has included a sprinkler system. [174303]

Jim Knight: The Department announced its policy on sprinkler systems for schools in March 2007. The policy is that a risk assessment should be undertaken for new and refurbishment projects in all categories of state-funded schools including all BSF schools. To help local authorities and school designers to decide when sprinklers are needed, DCSF has produced a risk assessment tool and a cost benefit analysis tool. See www.teachernetgov.uk/fire and follow links to Sprinklers.

Our presumption is that new schools and some refurbished schools will have fire sprinklers installed, however this is not a compulsory measure. There may be cases where local authorities or other promoters of schools consider that sprinklers are not needed. If so, they will need to be able to demonstrate that such schools are very low risk and that sprinklers would not represent good value for money.

To date, seven schools have been built under the Building Schools for the Future programme, in Bristol, Solihull, Haringey, Sheffield, South Tyneside, Stoke and Sunderland; these include six 'early win' projects. We believe that the Bristol Brunel Academy is the only one fitted with a sprinkler system. This was a large new build project and the most suitable for a sprinkler installation. Five of the other six schools were refurbishment projects where it may not have been technically feasible to install sprinkler systems. It is also more expensive to install sprinklers in a refurbishment which means they do not always provide good value for money. These projects were all in the late design or construction stage when the new sprinkler policy was announced which would have made it more expensive and technically difficult to install sprinkler systems unless they were part of the original design.

We expect approximately 80 schools to be under construction in the current financial year in the following local authorities: Bradford, Bristol, Lewisham, Sheffield, Knowsley, Lancashire, Leeds, Leicester, Manchester, Newcastle, Solihull, Stoke, Sunderland, Waltham Forest, Lambeth, Durham and Kent.

Under Building Schools for the Future, we plan to rebuild, remodel or refurbish all secondary schools in England.

For projects that were either in a late stage of design or in construction when the new sprinkler policy was announced it is difficult to introduce a sprinkler system. However, for new projects and those still in an early stage of design we expect sprinklers to be included.

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the number of times Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service staff will be involved in early intervention or dispute resolution during 2007-08; and what estimate he has made of the likely cost of such involvement; [162333]

(2) how many section 7 cases were completed by the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in each of the last five years; and what the cost of those cases was to the public purse in each year; [162332]

(3) whether any of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service regions will be recruiting additional staff during 2007-08; [162296]

(4) whether he plans to recalculate workload measurements for Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service staff. [162297]

Kevin Brennan: These are matters for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS). Anthony Douglas, the Chief Executive, will write to my hon. Friend with this information and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Letter from Anthony Douglas, dated 3 December 2007:

I am writing to you in response to the four Parliamentary Questions that you tabled recently:

162333—To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, what estimate he has made of the number of times Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service staff will be involved in early intervention or dispute resolution during 2007-08; and what estimate he has made of the likely cost of such involvement.

The table below shows an estimate of the Cafcass' Dispute Resolution scheme for the financial years 2002/03 to 2006/07. This has been calculated by multiplying the number of hours spent on Dispute Resolution in the year by the Unit Cost* for an hour of practitioner activity. Statistics do not currently fully capture all case related support activity and we plan a diary survey in the spring which will enable us to make more accurate calculations and calculate averages in respect of time taken on such work. Related activity in screening cases coming before the courts prior to embarking on Dispute Resolution is also not included in these figures but plays an important part in ensuring appropriate safeguards are in place.

Financial Year	*Total Dispute Resolution Hours*	*Unit Cost (£) per Hour* *	*Total Cost (£)*
2002/03	No DR scheme in place		
2003/04	No DR scheme in place		
2004/05	34,987	41	1,446,712
2005/06 (does not incl. Wales)	43,322	48	2,080,322
2006/07 (does not incl. Wales)	57,880	50	2,895,736

* Unit Costs are calculated at the end of each financial year dividing the total Direct** spend for the Organisation by the estimated number of hours spent on Public and Private Law cases completed in the year.
** Direct spend only includes costs directly linked to practice e.g. Staff Salary, Training, Travel & Subsistence. It does not include indirect costs e.g. Accommodation, Recruitment & Utilities.

162332—To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how many section 7 cases were completed by the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in each of the last five years; and what the cost of those cases was to the public purse in each year.

The table below shows an estimate of the cost of the Section 7 Reports for the financial years 2002/03 to 2006/07. This has been calculated by multiplying the number of S7 reports completed in the year by an average cost for an S7 Report, based on the Unit Costs*.

Financial Year	*Completed S7 Reports*	*Avg. Cost (£) per S7 Report*	*Total Cost (£)*
2002/03	32,268	1,029	33,190,865
2003/04	32,489	1,029	33,418,185
2004/05	30,054	1,029	30,913,544
2005/06 (does not incl. Wales)	25,478	1,265	32,232,473

Financial Year	Completed S7 Reports	Avg. Cost (£) per S7 Report	Total Cost (£)
2006/07 (does not incl. Wales)	21,545	1,252	26,975,848

* Unit Costs were calculated by dividing the total Direct** spend for the Organisation by the estimated number of hours spent on all the Public and Private Law cases completed in the year. This figure is then multiplied by the average time taken to complete a S7 Report (25 hours).

** Direct spend only includes costs directly linked to practice e.g. Staff Salary, Training, Travel & Subsistence. It does not include indirect costs e.g. Accommodation, Recruitment & Utilities.

162296—To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, whether any of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service regions will be recruiting additional staff during 2007-08.

There are no plans to curtail recruitment for funded posts across the organisation. 58 vacancies have been advertised in the last 3 months and appointments are in progress. Workforce plans have been developed in all areas and recruitment will begin in accordance with these plans as vacancies occur.

162297—To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, whether he plans to recalculate workload measurements for Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service staff.

Cafcass is currently reviewing allocation guidelines for family court advisors and recognises that changed working practices and the move to case planning as the basis for workload measurement as opposed to set formulas makes this a more complex process. A joint management and trade union working group is planning a diary survey in the spring, which will inform future workload planning.

A copy of this reply will be placed in the House Library.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what representations he has received on the workload of service managers at the Children and Family Courts Advisory and Support Service; [167879]

(2) what assessment he has made of the workload of service managers of the Children and Family Courts Advisory and Support Service; [167878]

(3) who conducted the recent Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service staff survey; by whom they were employed; and what remuneration they received; [167734]

(4) what assessment he has made of the effect of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the consultation Organising for Quality for service delivery and funding at the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service; [167735]

(5) what plans he has for Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service pilot programmes arising from the consultation Organising for Quality in the next two years. [170314]

Kevin Brennan: These are matters for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS). Anthony Douglas, the chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Letter from Anthony Douglas, dated 11 December 2007:

I am writing to you in response to the four Parliamentary Questions that you tabled recently:

167734—To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, who conducted the recent Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service staff survey; by whom they were employed; and what remuneration they received.

Cafcass conducted its first staff survey in December 2006 to provide the baseline data to understand staff perceptions on a range of issues. Many of these issues were then included in the Cafcass 2007-10 business plan. The staff survey was produced internally to provide value for money but with the responses directed to the University of Birmingham's department of Organisational Psychology to provide respondents with anonymity.

The following individuals and companies unconnected with Cafcass were involved in the staff survey:

Contributor	Payments (£)
Dr. Dirk Van Rooy (University of Birmingham)	No payment
Caroline Mollers (University of Birmingham)	510.00
Sue Rentoul Design	6,261.90
The Organisers	1,613.32

The following Cafcass employees were involved in the production of the staff survey: The Corporate Director of Strategy and Performance, Head of Communications, a Human Resources Manager, the Publications Editor and Communications Officer. A Family Court Adviser conducted the analysis of the data under the supervision of Dr Dirk Van Rooy of the University of Birmingham who provided Cafcass with a declaration of authenticity. The raw data was input from the individual returns by a student at Birmingham University.

167735—To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, what assessment he has made of the effect of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the consultation Organising for Quality for service delivery and finding at the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service.

170314—To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, what plans he has for Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service pilot programmes arising from the consultation Organising for Quality in the next two years.

The consultation ended on 28 February 2007 and a full response was published. There are two strands to the programmes of work to take forward the Organising for Quality programme. The first of these is the introduction of new National Standards for Cafcass. These were introduced on 01 April 2007 and are supported by revised practice guidelines and a comprehensive training programme. The second strand is that of organisational structures aimed at further efficiencies and improved practice. The changes at the first line management level are being achieved through a refocusing of priorities and a narrowing of the roles and responsibilities of first line managers to focus on practice, performance and staff development.

The majority of the structural changes will be completed by April 2008 and a period of consolidation will then follow.

There were thirty-two key proposals in the Cafcass consultation paper Organising for Quality. Twenty-two are being taken forward either as part of the current Cafcass restructuring programme, or within the delivery of the 2007-10 Business Plan. Six proposals are being taken forward in a modified form. Only one proposal for a Practice Advice Line, is being piloted. Four proposals are not being proceeded with at all, following a review of all proposals we received in the light of the consultation responses.

167878—To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, what assessment he has made of the workload of service managers of the Children and Family Courts Advisory and Support Service.

Cafcass are in the process of negotiating significant changes to the Service Manager role to ensure both manageable and effective workloads. We intend to give Service Managers a reduced span of control and more business support to enable them to focus on practice, performance and staff development. These changes will be in place across most of the country by the start of the new financial year in April 2008.

167879 To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, what representations he has received about the workload of service managers at the Children and Family Courts Advisory and Support Service.

No specific additional representations were received from service managers, apart from those received on a number of previous occasions, both directly and via trade unions and professional associations. Cafcass accepted the core points being made some time ago, and resolution of them has needed to wait for the resources to become available. Over the last two years, we did increase our national establishment by 15 Service Managers, which has made a difference, but my intention is that we take further steps in April 2008 to reduce workloads.

A copy of this reply will be placed in the House Library.

Children: Disabled

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the waiting times are for disabled children in receipt of direct payments, who have been reassessed and are waiting for a change in care level, broken down by local authority area; [174529]

(2) what estimate he has made of how many disabled children are *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* receiving direct payments in each local authority area; [174562]

(3) what formula is used by the Government in defining levels of need in relation to disabled children's provision through direct payments; and if he will make a statement. [174561]

Jim Knight: There is no information collected on waiting times or eligibility for direct payments, nor any estimate made of these. However, data are collected on the number of disabled children aged 16-17, and the number of carers of disabled children, receiving direct payments at 31 March each year. The most recent data available are for 31 March 2006, and show that 649 children and 4,170 carers were receiving these payments in England. These data are also available by local authority, and have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

In terms of local government funding, the children's social care relative needs formula (RNF) is designed specifically to allocate funding for the provision of children's social care services in local authorities in England. The formula takes account of the resident children population aged 0 to 17, deprivation top-up, foster and area cost adjustments. However, there is no specific element of the formula which takes into account the use of direct payments. This is because direct payments are designed to be cost-neutral, providing equivalent cash payments made in lieu of social service provisions to individuals or families.

Children: Literacy

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received on the reading ability of school children in England. [174281]

Jim Knight: The recently published Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) shows we have performed well compared to other countries. On average, pupils in England achieved significantly above the international mean.

More generally, improving standards of literacy is one of this Government's top priorities. We have seen dramatic improvements in the proportion of 11-year-olds achieving the target level 4 and above in reading. In 2007, 84 per cent. of pupils achieved this level—a rise of 17 percentage points compared to 1997. A third of 11-year-olds achieved the higher level 5 in reading, the standard expected of 14-year-olds.

Proportion of pupils achieving level 4+ in reading

	Level 4	*Level 5*
1997	67	20
1998	71	23
1999	78	31
2000	83	42
2001	82	42
2002	80	38
2003	81	42
2004	83	39
2005	84	43
2006	83	47
2007[1]	84	48

[1] Amended data.

Although these results are the best ever, we know that we can and must do more. We have a strong platform for securing further improvements. The Children's Plan, published on 11 December sets out that vision and our goals for achieving world-class standards.

Every primary school is now using the renewed Primary Framework which puts phonics at the heart of the teaching of reading. We are also introducing nationally the Every Child a Reader (ECAR) programme. By 2011 this programme will provide 30,000 six-year-olds who have difficulty reading with intensive one-to-one tuition each year. Results from the first year of the pilot, involving some of the most disadvantaged children, showed they made well over four times the normal rate of progress in reading as a result of the programme.

Corporate Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on how many occasions he has accepted corporate hospitality in the last 12 months. [171319]

Ed Balls: Chapter 7 of the Ministerial Code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the cost of the education maintenance allowance has been in each *(a)* London constituency, *(b)* London borough and *(c)* Government region since its introduction; and if he will make a statement; [162216]

(2) what percentage of applications for an education maintenance allowance have been successful in each *(a)* London constituency, *(b)* London borough and *(c)* Government office region; and if he will make a statement; [162213]

(3) what percentage of 16 to 19 year olds in each *(a)* London constituency, *(b)* London borough and *(c)*

Government region have received the (i) £10, (ii) £20 and (iii) £30 education maintenance allowance; and if he will make a statement; [162204]

(4) how many people in each *(a)* London constituency, *(b)* London borough and *(c)* Government region have applied for an education maintenance allowance; and if he will make a statement; [162202]

(5) what percentage of 16 to 19 year olds in each *(a)* London constituency, *(b)* London borough and *(c)* Government region have applied for an education maintenance allowance; and if he will make a statement; [162201]

(6) how many people in each *(a)* London constituency, *(b)* London borough and *(c)* Government region have received the (i) £10, (ii) £20 and (iii) £30 education maintenance allowance; and if he will make a statement. [162200]

Jim Knight: These are all matters for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold the information about take-up and payments under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Gentleman with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 22 November 2007:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Questions that asked:

1. What the cost of the education maintenance allowance has been in each (a) London constituency, (b) London borough and (c) Government region since its introduction.

2. What percentage of applications for an education maintenance allowance have been successful in each (a) London constituency, (b) London borough and (c) Government office region.

3. What percentage of 16 to 19 year olds in each (a) London constituency, (b) London borough and (c) Government region have received the (i) £10, (ii) £20 and (iii) £30 education maintenance allowance.

4. How many people in each (a) London constituency, (b) London borough and (c) Government region have applied for an education maintenance allowance.

5. What percentage of 16 to 19 year olds in each (a) London constituency, (b) London borough and (c) Government region have applied for an education maintenance allowance.

6. How many people in each (a) London constituency, (b) London borough and (c) Government region have received the (i) £10, (ii) £20 and (iii) £30 education maintenance allowance.

Information on the number of young people who have applied, enrolled and received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available at national and Local Authority Level, but not at constituency level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

We do not hold population data for 19 year olds so the figures shown in the tables below are based on 16-18 year old data.

Information on cost is only available at a national level. EMA payments to learners during academic year 2006/2007 totalled £483 million.

The following tables show the information requested which relates to EMA applications for London LSC area, London Local Authority area and LSC Regions during the academic year 2006/07.

Application data, LSC/local authority, 2006/07

	Number of young people who applied for an EMA	*Percentage of the 16 to 18-year-old population who applied for EMA*	*Percentage of applications received that were successful*
England	569,066	28.4	97.6
East Midlands	48,343	27.7	97.6
East of England	51,549	24.0	97.5
London	90,870	33.7	97.8
North East	34,628	33.8	97.4
North West	90,436	31.9	97.8
South East	68,986	21.2	97.5
South West	52,526	26.1	98.4
West Midlands	69,713	31.6	97.5
Yorkshire and the Humber	62,015	29.7	97.6

Application data, regional, 2006/07

	Number of young people who applied for an EMA	*Percentage of the 16 to 18-year-old population who applied for EMA*	*Percentage of applications received that were successful (NOE's issued)*
London Central	17,554	36.3	98.1
Camden	2,115	30.2	98.4
Islington	2,435	42.7	98.0
Kensington and Chelsea	978	18.1	98.3
Lambeth	4,077	49.1	97.8
Southwark	3,915	46.6	98.3
Wandsworth	2,378	36.0	97.6
City of Westminster	1,656	23.7	98.4
London East	30,080	37.9	97.8
City of London	80	[redacted]	93.8
Greenwich	3,087	35.9	97.1
Hackney	3,887	49.8	98.4
Lewisham	3,634	41.3	97.7
Tower Hamlets	4,222	53.4	98.8
Barking and Dagenham	2,505	37.4	97.6
Bexley	2,069	22.5	97.2

Application data, regional, 2006/07

	Number of young people who applied for an EMA	*Percentage of the 16 to 18-year-old population who applied for EMA*	*Percentage of applications received that were successful (NOE's issued)*
Havering	1,918	21.3	97.1
Newham	5,543	49.5	98.0
Redbridge	3,135	31.0	97.6
London North	14,072	36.2	97.7
Barnet	3,137	26.6	97.5
Enfield	3,870	35.5	97.4
Haringey	3,716	47.0	98.1
Waltham Forest	3,349	40.3	97.7
London South	11,806	23.8	97.8
Bromley	2,273	20.3	98.5
Croydon	4,230	31.1	97.6
Kingston upon Thames	989	17.4	97.6
Merton	1,898	29.7	97.2
Richmond upon Thames	891	15.4	98.4
Sutton	1,525	21.8	98.2
London West	17,358	32.4	97.5
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,777	34.8	97.7
Brent	4,131	40.9	97.7
Ealing	3,767	35.2	97.4
Harrow	2,527	26.9	97.3
Hillingdon	2,464	23.9	97.4
Hounslow	2,692	33.7	97.2

[1] No population data.

The following table shows the information requested which relates to EMA take-up for London LSC area, London Local Authority area and LSC Regions during the academic year 2006/07.

Take-up data split by payment band, LSC/local authority, 2006/07

	Number of learners who received the £30 EMA	*Percentage of the 16 to 18-year-old population who received the £30 EMA*	*Number of learners who received the £20 EMA*	*Percentage of the 16 to 18-year-old population who received the £20 EMA*	*Number of learners who received the £10 EMA*	*Percentage of the 16 to 18-year-old population who received the £10 EMA*
England	423,839	21.2	51,195	2.6	45,249	2.3
East Midlands	34,936	20.01	4,957	2.8	4,428	2.5
East of England	37,121	17.31	5,320	2.5	4,766	2.2
London	71,869	26.63	6,006	2.2	4,522	1.7
North East	26,044	25.43	2,976	2.9	2,676	2.6
North West	68,985	24.34	7,485	2.6	6,502	2.3
South East	49,885	15.31	7,051	2.2	6,224	1.9
South West	37,678	18.75	5,489	2.7	5,131	2.6
West Midlands	51,370	23.27	6,411	2.9	5,747	2.6
Yorkshire and the Humber	45,951	21.99	5,500	2.6	5,253	2.5

Take-up data split by payment band, regional, 2006/07

	Number of learners who received the £30 EMA	*Percentage of the 16 to 18-year-old population who received the £30 EMA*	*Number of learners who received the £20 EMA*	*Percentage of the 16 to 18-year-old population who received the £20 EMA*	*Number of learners who received the £10 EMA*	*Percentage of the 16 to 18-year-old population who received the £10 EMA*
London Central	14,519	30.0	957	2.0	590	1.2
Camden	1,818	26.0	94	1.3	43	0.6
Islington	2,016	35.4	104	1.8	76	1.3
Kensington and Chelsea	814	15.1	42	0.8	35	0.6
Lambeth	3,359	40.5	262	3.2	131	1.6
Southwark	3,206	38.2	225	2.7	153	1.8
Wandsworth	1,917	29.0	148	2.2	103	1.6
City of Westminster	1,389	19.8	82	1.2	49	0.7
London East	24,112	28.4	1,748	2.2	1,449	1.8
City of London	63	[1]—	2	[1]—	3	[1]—
Greenwich	2,408	28.0	202	2.3	155	1.8
Hackney	3,260	41.8	171	2.2	108	14

Take-up data split by payment band, regional, 2006/07

	Number of learners who received the £30 EMA	*Percentage of the 16 to 18-year-old population who received the £30 EMA*	*Number of learners who received the £20 EMA*	*Percentage of the 16 to 18-year-old population who received the £20 EMA*	*Number of learners who received the £10 EMA*	*Percentage of the 16 to 18-year-old population who received the £10 EMA*
Lewisham	2,823	14.4	258	2.9	228	2.6
Tower Hamlets	3,768	47.7	66	0.8	49	0.6
Barking and Dagenham	1,961	29.3	187	2.8	121	1.8
Bexley	1,485	16.1	210	2.3	193	2.1
Havering	1,353	15.0	179	2.0	190	2.1
Newham	4,558	40.7	264	2.4	202	1.8
Redbridge	2,433	24.1	209	2.1	200	2.0
London North	11,048	28.4	934	2.4	685	1.8
Barnet	2,423	20.5	217	1.8	176	1.5
Enfield	2,965	27.2	286	2.6	226	2.1
Haringey	3,037	38.4	202	2.6	110	1.4
Waltham Forest	2,623	31.6	229	2.8	173	2.1
London South	8,750	17.6	1,074	2.2	850	1.7
Bromley	1,661	14.8	217	1.9	176	1.6
Croydon	3,200	23.5	341	2.5	274	2.0
Kingston upon Thames	720	12.6	91	1.6	91	1.6
Merton	1,373	21.5	183	2.9	135	2.1
Richmond upon Thames	687	11.8	79	1.4	57	1.0
Sutton	1,109	15.8	163	2.3	117	1.7
London West	13,440	25.1	1,293	2.4	948	1.8
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,441	28.3	97	1.9	74	1.5
Brent	3,250	32.2	282	2.8	192	1.9
Ealing	2,973	27.8	260	2.4	188	1.8
Harrow	1,897	20.2	225	2.4	174	1.9
Hillingdon	1,852	18.0	217	2.1	145	1.4
Hounslow	2,027	25.3	212	2.7	175	2.2

[1] No population data.

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07 and to date in 2007/08 is now also available on the LSC website, at the following address:

http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/Data/statistics/learner/EMA_take_up.htm

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much expenditure on education maintenance allowance (EMA) was provided to people in each local education authority in each year since the inception of the allowance; how many people of each *(a)* sex and *(b)* ethnic group have received EMA in each academic year since its inception; how many of those in receipt of EMA in each academic year went on to (i) study and (ii) complete a course at university; and what assessment has been made of those trends; [164381]

(2) what the administrative costs of the education maintenance allowance scheme were in each year since 1999-2000; and if he will make a statement. [164383]

Jim Knight: These are matters for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Lady and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 22 November 2007:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Questions that asked:

1. How much expenditure on educational maintenance allowance (EMA) has been provided to people in each local education authority in each year since the inception of the allowance; how many people of each (a) sex and (b) ethnic group have received EMA in each academic year since its inception; how many of those in receipt of EMA in each academic year went on to (i) study and (ii) complete a course at university; and what assessment has been made of those figures.

2. What the administrative costs of the educational maintenance allowance scheme have been in each year since 1999-2000; and if he will make a statement.

Information relating to costs of EMA are only available at a national level. The following table shows the expenditure on EMA payments to learners by financial year since inception.

	EMA student payment costs (£)
1999-2000	10,560,000.00
2000-01	49,920,000.00
2001-02	104,600,000.00
2002-03	115,200,000.00
2003-04	136,300,000.00
2004-05	217,300,000.00
2005-06	363,100,000.00
2006-07	457,100,000.00

The following table shows the information requested which relates to the administration costs of EMA by financial year:

	EMA admin costs (£ million)
1999-2000	0.44
2000-01	2.08
2001-02	4.4
2002-03	4.8
2003-04	5.7
2004-05	42.7
2005-06	43.5
2006-07	45.8

Information on the number of young people who have received EMA payments each academic year is provided below, split by Gender and Ethnicity. This information is collected as part of the application process for EMA and is non-mandatory. The No Information Provided rows below detail where this section was left incomplete.

Gender	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Male	125,516	187,912	244,345
Female	144,764	218,215	270,178
No information provided	27,287	24,202	13,873
Total	297,567	430,329	528,396

Ethnicity	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Asian or Asian British			
Bangladeshi	7,840	8,065	9,893
Indian	10,983	12,370	14,282
Pakistani	15,137	18,916	21,760
Any other Asian background	3,602	4,301	5,596
Black or Black British			
African	9,820	12,967	16,626
Caribbean	7,175	8,842	10,747
Any other black background	1,260	1,558	1,786
Chinese			
Chinese	2,755	3,336	3,878
Mixed			
White and Asian	1,792	2,581	3,155
White and Black African	1,028	1,341	1,631
White and Black Caribbean	4,652	5,839	7,934
Any other mixed background	2,720	3,672	4,452
White			
British	200,808	301,158	387,672
Irish	1,402	849	1,027
Any other white background	4,074	5,267	6,390
No information provided	22,519	39,267	31,567
Total	297,567	430,329	528,396

The first cohort of learners to be eligible to receive EMA following national roll-out will have recently progressed into higher education. The LSC is working with UCAS and HESA to analyse those learners who have progressed to higher education courses after completing further education with support from EMA. We are planning that the results of this work to be available in Summer 2008.

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many young people in *(a)* Warrington, South and *(b)* Warrington received the education maintenance allowance in each year since its establishment. [167071]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold the information about take-up and payments made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Lady with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 28 November 2007:

I am writing in response to your recent Parliamentary Question that asked: how many young people in *(a)* Warrington South and *(b)* Warrington received the education maintenance allowance in each year since its establishment.

Information on the number of young people who have applied, enrolled and received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available at Local Authority Level but not at local area level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

EMA take-up for Warrington Local Authority area during each academic year since inception is as follows:

	Number
2004/05	726
2005/06	1,332
2006/07	1,685
2007/08	[1]1,497

[1] To 31 October 2007.

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07 and to date in 2007/08 is now also available on the LSC website, at the following address:

http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/Data/statistics/learner/EMA_take_up.htm

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effects of education maintenance allowances on educational attainment; and if he will make a statement. [174551]

Jim Knight: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is responsible for the operation of the education maintenance allowance (EMA) scheme. An analysis of the impact of EMA on attainment was commissioned by the LSC and a copy of the results, with a summary of the key findings was placed in the House Library, on 3 December 2007.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Apprentices

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many learners in programme-led apprenticeships have received an education maintenance allowance. [165534]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold the information about take-up and payments under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Gentleman with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 26 November 2007:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question that asked; "How many learners in programme-led apprenticeships have received an education maintenance allowance."

By mid November 2007, 5,811 learners in programme-led apprenticeships have received one or more Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) payments during the 2007/08 academic year.

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07 and to date in 2007/08 is now also available on the LSC website, at the following address:

http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/Data/statistics/learner/EMA_take_up.htm

Education: Assessments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether it is the policy of his Department to regard trends in examination results in England as reliable quantitative indicators of long-term changes in educational standards; and if he will make a statement. [163534]

Jim Knight: The Department has a public service agreement (PSA) to support its strategic objective to achieve world-class standards in education by raising the educational achievement of all children and young people. The proportion of young people who succeed in public examinations is one of the key performance indicators of this PSA. In this context it is important that exam standards are maintained, which is why the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority has rigorous procedures in place for ensuring consistency over time.

To ensure the reliability of the PSAs, each target is supported by guidance which sets out exactly how it will be measured. The Department is committed to ensuring that PSA targets are supported by rigorous performance information and in conjunction with the National Audit Office (NAO) has reviewed the data systems underpinning the former DfES PSA targets and is acting on these findings. A copy of the departmental report on progress towards meeting the Department's public service agreement (PSA) targets has been placed in the Library.

Faith Schools: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of religious schools select pupils for admission by faith; and if he will make a statement. [175146]

Jim Knight: Schools are not allowed to select pupils for admission by faith. Schools designated as having a religious character under section 69 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 may give priority, when oversubscribed, to children on the basis that they are members of or practise their faith. We know that practices vary widely and that a number of schools with a religious character do not give priority on the basis of faith and others offer a proportion of places to children without reference to faith.

The priority given to faith applicants is not "selection" (as the term is used in education law) because it does not relate to academic aptitude or ability.

Family Courts

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average time was to complete a *(a)* private law and *(b)* public law case in the family courts in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the average cost was of each. [176157]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

In the county court, for the period April to November 2007, it took on average 33.12 weeks to complete a private law case and 55.02 weeks for a public law case. There are no data currently collected in the Family Proceedings Court (FPCs) on the average length of private law cases. In the FPCs the average duration of cases where a care or supervision order was made (April 2007 to November 2007) was 44.3 weeks. Between April and November 2007, 51 per cent. of care and supervision cases in FPCs and 39.6 per cent. of care and supervision cases in care centres were completed within 40 weeks.

The unit cost for private law applications (judicial and administrative costs) for financial year 2006-07 is £996 in the county courts and £1,232 in the Family Proceedings Courts. The equivalent figures for public law applications are £4,286 and £4,014. The average legal aid cost of private law matters is £2,790 and for public law matters is £5,961. No information is held centrally on average local authority costs.

Free School Meals: Greater Manchester

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils on free school meals achieved five grade A*-C GCSEs in *(a)* Manchester and *(b)* Greater Manchester in each of the last three years. [170759]

Jim Knight: Information for Greater Manchester is not available. The figures for Manchester are:

	2003/04	*2004/05*	*2005/06*
Number of eligible pupils	1,925	1,957	1,974
Percentage of pupils on free school meals achieving 5 A*-C GCSE grades	27.0	30.9	32.3

These figures can be found in the following Statistical First Releases (SFRs):

2003/04: http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000564/index.shtml (Table 48)

2004/05: http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000640/index.shtml (Table 91)

2005/06: http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000693/index.shtml (Table 73)

Figures for the academic year 2006/07 have not yet been published and will be included in the SFR released in the week beginning 28 January 2008.

Free School Meals: North East Region

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of students in *(a)* the City of Sunderland and *(b)* the North East Region are eligible to receive free school meals. [175222]

Jim Knight: Figures from the school census 2007 show that the proportion of students known to be eligible to receive free school meals in maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools in Sunderland is 16.9 per cent., compared to 18.1 per cent. in the North East region. These figures include dually registered and boarding pupils.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many maintained mainstream schools did not submit any pupils for a foreign language GCSE in each year since 2002; [171030]

(2) how many pupils sat ICT GNVQ in each year since 2002, and how many of these gained A* to C grades; [171031]

(3) how many pupils sat Edexcel mathematics GCSE in each year since 2000; [171032]

(4) how many mainstream maintained schools did not offer *(a)* French, *(b)* German and *(c)* Spanish GCSE to pupils in each year since 2002; [171041]

(5) how many mainstream maintained schools offer only single science GCSE to pupils; [171042]

(6) how many mainstream maintained schools do not offer the three separate sciences at GCSE to pupils. [171043]

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many mainstream secondary schools have not entered students for a GCSE in *(a)* a modern language and *(b)* music in each of the last three years. [171461]

Jim Knight: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Free School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of white British boys eligible for free school meals failed to obtain at least five GCSEs at any level in each year between 1996 and 2007; and if he will make a statement. [174196]

Jim Knight: The available information covers the proportion of pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent and are given in the table.

Percentage of white British boys eligible for free school meals who achieved five A-C grades at GCSE or equivalent[1], at maintained schools, 2002 to 2006*

	Percentage achieving 5 A-C grades*	*Percentage not achieving 5 A*-C grades*
2002[2]	16.1	83.9
2003	16.8	83.2
2004	18.3	81.7
2005	21.0	79.0
2006	24.0	76.0

[1] Based upon 15 year old pupils (age at start of academic year) for figures up to and including 2004. For 2005 onwards figures are based upon pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.
[2] Figures for 2002 relate to pupils classified as 'white' rather than 'white British'.

Data are sourced from the National Pupil Database which began in 2002. The latest figures relate to 2006 where 90.9 per cent. of white British boys eligible for free school meals achieved any passes (9.1 per cent. achieving no passes). These figures are published in Table 32 of SFR46/2006 "National Curriculum Assessment, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics in England 2005-06, (Provisional)" which can be found at

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000693/index.shtml.

Equivalent figures for 2006-07 will be published at the end of January 2008 as additional tables to SFR 38/2007 which can be found at

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000759/index.shtml .

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Kent

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many secondary schools in Kent over 70 per cent. of pupils did not achieve five A*-C GCSEs, including English and mathematics, in the latest year for which figures are available. [175147]

Jim Knight: The information is available from the 2006 Secondary School Achievement and Attainment Tables in the House of Commons Library.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: North East Region

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils in *(a)* the City of Sunderland and *(b)* the North East achieved more than five A* to C grades at GCSE in each year since 1997. [175223]

Jim Knight: The information requested is given in the following table.

Proportion of 15-year-old pupils[1] achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A-C at GCSE or equivalent—years 1997-2007 (Sunderland LA and the North East region)*

Year[2]	*Sunderland*	*North East region*
1996/97[3]	34.4	36.8
1997/98	32.3	37.1
1998/99	34.6	39.4
1999/2000	38.4	41.7
2000/01	39.2	42.5
2001/02	41.6	44.3
2002/03	44.1	46.8

Proportion of 15-year-old pupils[1] achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A-C at GCSE or equivalent—years: 1997-2007 (Sunderland LA and the North East region)*

Year[2]	Sunderland	North East region
2003/04[4]	44.2	48.7
2004/05	51.5	53.5
2005/06	54.9	57.3
2006/07	58.7	59.6

[1] Number of pupils on roll aged 15 at the start of the academic year, i.e. 31 August.
[2] Data for 2007 are provisional and final for all other years.
[3] Percentages from 1996/97 include GCSEs and GNVQs.
[4] Percentages from 2003/04 include GCSEs and other equivalent qualifications approved for use pre-16.
Source:
Secondary School Achievement and Attainment tables

Figures include achievements in previous academic years.

The increase in the proportion of 15-year-old pupils achieving five or more good GCSEs in Sunderland (24.3 per cent.) and the North East region (22.8 per cent.) compares favourably with a national increase of 15.2 per cent. over the same period.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will list the *(a)* top 20 and *(b)* bottom 20 maintained secondary schools in England on the basis of the proposition of pupils obtaining five A* to C GCSEs in 2007, setting out in each case (i) GCSE performance, (ii) percentage of children eligible for free school meals, (iii) school type, (iv) local authority, (v) OFSTED classification and (vi) percentage of statemented children. [166030]

Jim Knight: This information is not available until the publication of the KS4 Achievement and Attainment Tables on 10 January 2008.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of secondary schools had fewer than *(a)* 10 per cent., *(b)* 20 per cent., *(c)* 30 per cent., *(d)* 40 per cent., *(e)* 50 per cent., *(f)* 60 per cent., *(g)* 70 per cent., *(h)* 80 per cent. and *(i)* 90 per cent., of pupils obtaining five A* to C grades in GCSEs (i) including English and mathematics and (ii) in all subjects in the latest year for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [168199]

Jim Knight: Information on secondary schools and the pupils in each school achieving 5+ A*-C and 5+ A*-C including English and mathematics is included in the 2006 key stage 4 achievement and attainment tables. Full details of each school and the requested information can be found in the House of Commons Library. 2007 figures will be available from January 2008.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in each local education authority area had fewer than *(a)* 30 per cent. and *(b)* 40 per cent. of pupils achieving five passes at GCSE including mathematics and English in each of the last three years. [170290]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* Information for each of the years individually is in the Library.

We have summarised the figures in the following table showing the number of schools in each local authority achieving fewer than *(a)* 30 per cent. and *(b)* 40 per cent. in all of the last three years.

These figures relate to maintained schools only. Schools without published results for each of the last three years are not included in the analysis.

To answer this question, figures for the academic years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 have been used as the data for 2006-07 have not yet been published. Schools and colleges will get the chance to amend their results before the revised data are published in January 2008.

Schools with <30 per cent. and <40 per cent. 5+ A-C including English and mathematics 2004-2006*

LA number	LA name	<30 per cent.	<40 per cent.
202	Camden	3	5
203	Greenwich	5	9
204	Hackney	4	6
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	5	5
206	Islington	5	9
207	Kensington and Chelsea	0	0
208	Lambeth	6	6
209	Lewisham	5	7
210	Southwark	9	9
211	Tower Hamlets	9	12
212	Wandsworth	9	11
213	City of Westminster	2	3
301	Barking	3	6
302	Barnet	4	6
303	Bexley	6	9
304	Brent	4	7
305	Bromley	3	6
306	Croydon	11	14
307	Ealing	4	8
308	Enfield	8	10
309	Haringey	8	9
310	Harrow	1	3
311	Havering	4	7
312	Hillingdon	5	9
313	Hounslow	5	6
314	Kingston upon Thames	3	4
315	Merton	4	5
315	Newham	1	8
317	Redbridge	2	3
318	Richmond upon Thames	1	3
319	Sutton	4	5
320	Waltham Forest	4	11
330	Birmingham	41	47
331	Coventry	8	14
332	Dudley	8	13
333	Sandwell	12	16
334	Solihull	7	7
335	Walsall	11	15
336	Wolverhampton	9	14

Schools with <30 per cent. and <40 per cent. 5+ A-C including English and mathematics 2004-2006*

LA number	LA name	<30 per cent.	<40 per cent.
340	Knowsley	8	10
341	Liverpool	17	22
342	St. Helens	3	6
343	Sefton	9	11
344	Wirral	9	13
350	Bolton	6	10
351	Bury	1	2
352	Manchester	18	23
353	Oldham	6	9
354	Rochdale	6	10
355	Salford	8	10
356	Stockport	2	6
357	Tameside	7	9
358	Trafford	7	8
359	Wigan	5	12
370	Barnsley	4	10
371	Doncaster	11	15
372	Rotherham	7	10
373	Sheffield	9	16
380	Bradford	12	19
381	Calderdale	3	9
382	Kirklees	12	18
383	Leeds	13	18
384	Wakefield	2	10
390	Gateshead	5	9
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	5	8
392	North Tyneside	3	6
393	South Tyneside	3	8
394	Sunderland	9	13
420	Isles of Scilly	0	0
800	Bath and North East Somerset	2	4
801	City of Bristol	15	16
802	North Somerset	2	5
803	South Gloucestershire	2	6
805	Hartlepool	2	3
806	Middlesbrough	7	7
807	Redcar and Cleveland	2	5
808	Stockton-on-Tees	6	9
810	City of Kingston upon Hull	12	14
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	2	5
812	North East Lincolnshire	9	10
813	North Lincolnshire	3	9
815	North Yorkshire	10	12
816	York	1	3
820	Bedfordshire	6	10
821	Luton	3	6
825	Buckinghamshire	11	17
826	Milton Keynes	7	8
830	Derbyshire	9	20
831	City of Derby	5	6
835	Dorset	4	7
836	Poole	3	3

Schools with <30 per cent. and <40 per cent. 5+ A-C including English and mathematics 2004-2006*

LA number	LA name	<30 per cent.	<40 per cent.
837	Bournemouth	3	5
840	Durham	11	26
841	Darlington	3	5
845	East Sussex	10	14
846	Brighton and Hove	6	8
850	Hampshire	16	24
851	Portsmouth	7	9
852	Southampton	7	11
855	Leicestershire	1	4
856	Leicester City	10	13
857	Rutland	0	0
860	Staffordshire	15	25
861	Stoke on Trent	11	13
865	Wiltshire	4	10
866	Swindon	4	6
867	Bracknell Forest	1	4
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	1	3
869	Newbury	2	3
870	Reading	3	4
871	Slough	4	7
872	Wokingham	2	3
873	Cambridgeshire	8	10
874	Peterborough	9	12
875	Cheshire	14	17
876	Halton	5	8
877	Warrington	3	5
878	Devon	7	14
879	Plymouth	11	11
880	Torbay	4	5
881	Essex	30	43
882	Southend	7	8
883	Thurrock	1	3
884	Herefordshire	2	4
885	Worcestershire	9	15
886	Kent	51	69
887	Rochester and Gillingham	8	12
888	Lancashire	21	36
889	Blackburn	3	8
890	Blackpool	5	7
891	Nottinghamshire	20	32
892	Nottingham City	15	16
893	Shropshire	1	2
894	TheWrekin	7	11
908	Cornwall	2	6
909	Cumbria	5	16
916	Gloucestershire	15	16
919	Hertfordshire	20	34
921	Isle of Wight	2	3
925	Lincolnshire	26	42
926	Norfolk	13	23
928	Northamptonshire	15	21
929	Northumberland	6	8
931	Oxfordshire	8	12
933	Somerset	4	12
935	Suffolk	8	15
936	Surrey	19	24

Schools with <30 per cent. and <40 per cent. 5+ A-C including English and mathematics 2004-2006*

LA number	LA name	<30 per cent	<40 per cent
937	Warwickshire	9	17
938	West Sussex	11	15

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which secondary schools had less than 30 per cent. of pupils securing five A*-C GCSEs including mathematics and English in the latest reporting period, broken down by local authority; what percentage of pupils in each school (*a*) were eligible for free school meals and (*b*) secured five A*-C GCSEs, including mathematics and English; and whether specialist status had been achieved by each. [170790]

Jim Knight: The information required has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of students at Key Stage 3 achieved (*a*) no GCSE passes and (*b*) fewer than five GCSE passes in each year between 1996 and 2007. [174195]

Jim Knight: The information requested is contained in the following table.

Proportions of students achieving (a) no GCSE passes and (b) fewer than five GCSE passes: years 1996/97 to 2006/07[1] (provisional)[2]

Coverage: England

	Number of pupils[3]	Percentage who achieved: No passes at GCSE or equivalent[4]	Percentage who achieved: Fewer than five 45+ grades at GCSE or equivalent
15-year-olds			
1996/97[5]	586,766	7.7	13.6
1997/98	575,210	6.6	12.5
1998/99	580,972	6.0	11.5
1999/2000	580,393	5.6	11.1
2000/01	603,318	5.5	11.1
2001/02	606,554	5.4	11.1
2002/03	622,122	5.2	11.2
2003/04[6]	643,560	4.1	11.2
2004/05	636,771	3.6	11.0
2005/06	648,942	3.3	10.6
2006/07	656,667	2.7	10.1
Pupils at end key Stage 4			
2004/05	633,414	2.6	9.8
2005/06	645,931	2.2	9.5
2006/07	648,752	0.9	8.4

[1] Including attempts and achievement in previous academic years.
[2] Figures for 2006/07 are provisional, all other figures are final.
[3] Number of pupils on roll aged 15 at the start of the academic year or from 2004/05 end of Key Stage 4 figures are the number of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in that academic year.
[4] From 2003/04 this includes attempts in entry level qualifications which do not contribute towards A*-C or A*-G thresholds.
[5] Percentages for all years include GCSEs and GNVQs.
[6] Percentages from 2003/04 include GCSEs and other equivalent qualifications approved for use pre-16.
Source:
Secondary School Achievement and Attainment tables

Figures for pupils at the end of key stage 4 are only available from 2004/05 onwards.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils failed in GCSE exams in (*a*) history, (*b*) geography, (*c*) mathematics, (*d*) French, (*e*) science, (*f*) physics, (*g*) chemistry and (*h*) physical education in each year from 1997 to 2007. [174197]

Jim Knight: The available information on GCSE exams is shown in the following table. The revised 2007 data will be available in SFR 01/2008 GCSE and equivalent examination results in England 2006-07 (revised) and will be published on the Department's website in January.

Percentage who did not achieve grades A-G: 1997 to 2007*

	History	Geography	Maths	French	Biological science	Physics	Chemistry	Other science	Physical education
2007[1]	2.5	2.4	4.4	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.2	5.9	0.4
2006	2.4	2.7	3.1	0.9	0.5	0.3	0.3	7.6	0.5
2005	2.6	3.1	3.2	1.2	0.5	0.3	0.4	4.5	0.6
2004	2.9	3.1	3.5	2.0	0.4	0.3	0.2	8.3	0.6
2003	3.1	3.3	3.9	2.2	2.8	0.4	0.3	5.9	0.8
2002	3.2	2.6	3.1	1.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	4.9	0.9
2001	5.2	2.8	3.3	3.9	0.5	0.5	0.4	4.1	9.2
2000	2.7	2.6	3.5	1.4	0.7	0.4	0.4	4.9	0.9
1999	3.1	2.9	3.8	1.3	0.6	0.5	0.4	5.0	1.1
1998	3.5	2.7	4.1	1.5	0.7	0.6	0.5	6.1	1.1
1997	3.40	3.2	4.4	3.1	0.8	0.7	0.8	6.9	3.0

[1] Based on 15 year-old pupils (age at start of academic year) with the exception of 2007 which are based on pupils at the end of KS4. [2] Provisional.

Grammar Schools

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many requests to open new grammar schools were received from each local authority in each year since 1997; what approval is needed from his Department to open a new grammar school; and if he will make a statement. [175148]

Jim Knight: Since September 1999 one new school, in Buckinghamshire, has been designated as a grammar

school. The school opened in September 1999 and was established in substitution for a closing grammar school. Information held on proposals to establish new schools made prior to September 1999 is not reliable and has therefore not been included.

Section 104 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 provides that no new additional grammar schools may be established. There are 164 designated grammar schools, and this number has remained constant since 1999. Section 104 provides that a new school may be designated as a grammar school only if it is established in substitution for a closing grammar school or schools.

Home Education

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will issue new guidelines for local authorities on home education. [174166]

Jim Knight: We issued guidelines for local authorities on elective home education on 29 November 2007. A copy of the guidelines has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

International Baccalaureate

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many local authorities have one or more mainstream institutions offering the international baccalaureate. [174223]

Jim Knight: There are currently 61 maintained schools and colleges in England that are accredited to offer the international baccalaureate, based in 47 local authorities.

Languages: Education

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government have taken to improve standards of foreign language education in schools since 1997. [174159]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 18 December 2007]:* As the hon. Gentleman will be aware from my answer of 8 November, in 2002 the Government published the National Languages Strategy, with the overarching objective of improving the teaching and learning of languages across all phases of education. The Languages review, chaired by Lord Bearing and Lid King, the National Director of Languages, progressed this process further.

We have taken a number of steps to improve standards of foreign language education. This week we have confirmed in the Children's Plan that the review of the primary curriculum will examine how best to introduce languages as a compulsory subject in primary schools, which will include how standards can be assessed.

Standards in languages at key stage 3 are rising faster than in any other subject. The proportion of pupils achieving level 5 and above rose from 54 per cent. to 58 per cent. between 2006 and 2007, while the figure for those who achieved level 6 or above rose from 22 per cent. to 25 per cent. This improvement has been supported by the development of Strategic Learning Networks, enabling language teachers to work together and share good practice. The revised key stage 3 curriculum will be more relevant and engaging for young people and should continue this improvement in standards. Specialist language colleges receive additional money for outreach work with local schools, which can be used to improve standards at key stage 4.

The proportion of those pupils achieving an A*-C grade in a GCSE language subject has increased from 48 per cent. in 1997 to 66 per cent. in 2007.

The Languages Ladder/Asset Languages Scheme, introduced in 2005, complements existing qualifications and allows learners to progress at their own pace in one or more of the four language skills—speaking, listening, reading and writing. This allows pupils who may not previously have achieved a languages qualification to have their achievement recognised.

Finally, we have announced the development of a new diploma in languages to be introduced from 2011.

Languages: GCE A-Level

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will require all maintained schools and colleges with sixth forms to offer modern languages to A-level; and if he will make a statement. [174265]

Jim Knight: We have no plans to do so. Choice of which subjects to offer at A-level is a matter for schools to determine. We were pleased to see a small increase in the number of pupils studying languages at A-level in 2007. This shows that young people choosing to learn languages at GCSE are enthusiastic language learners who are more likely to continue learning post-16.

Literacy: Teaching Methods

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent guidance has been given to schools on the use of synthetic phonics; and if he will make a statement. [174263]

Jim Knight: The strong emphasis we have placed on the use of systematic phonics through the renewed Primary Framework is supported by a range of guidance and training.

We have provided Letters and Sounds, a high quality phonics training manual developed by the Primary National Strategy with support from Jim Rose, free to all primary schools. To help schools implement this we have provided, and continue to provide, training and guidance to local authorities for dissemination to schools.

Through the Communication, Language and Literacy Development Programme we provide guidance for all those involved in early literacy development: teachers, teaching assistants, head teachers and LA staff. In addition to training and guidance we provide a dedicated site which addresses the key aspects of quality first teaching of early reading.

As part of consolidating a firm understanding of the principles which underpin excellent phonic work we have determined a set of core criteria that define the

key features of an effective systematic phonics teaching programme. These build directly on Sir Jim Rose's recommendations for

'high quality phonic work'

These, together with notes of guidance on how to apply them, are contained within Letters and Sounds and can also be accessed through our dedicated phonics site which provides an additional source of advice and information for schools and settings to draw on.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidelines he has issued to Ofsted on monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the Rose review. [174289]

Jim Knight: The Department has not issued guidelines to Ofsted on this matter. It has however asked Ofsted to conduct reviews of both early reading provision in schools, and its coverage as part of initial teacher training. These are expected to take place in the coming year.

Lord Adonis

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether Lord Adonis attended the academies seminar on 1 November 2007; and if he will make a statement. [168191]

Jim Knight: The seminar on 1 November was attended by a number of officials and a range of stakeholders in the academies programme. No Ministers attended this meeting.

Mandarin: Teachers

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers with a language specialism in Mandarin Chinese qualified in the last 12-month period for which figures are available. [174290]

Jim Knight: Data relating to the language specialisms of Initial Teacher Training (ITT) trainees are not collected centrally.

In 2005/06 there were two postgraduate ITT trainees who gained Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and had an undergraduate UK degree in a subject related to Mandarin. One trainee had an undergraduate degree in applied languages and the other in Chinese (modern).

There are currently no ITT courses which specialise in Mandarin only.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects to reply to the letter of 16 October 2007 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Cedar Mount High School. [173127]

Jim Knight: I apologise that, due to an administrative oversight in the Department, you had not yet received a reply to your letter of 16 October 2007. A reply was sent on 10 December.

Personal Social and Health Education

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the number of parents who opted their children out of personal social and health education in the latest period for which figures are available; [175205]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of schools which did not include sex and relationships education in their personal social and health education curriculum in the latest period for which figures are available; [175206]

(3) how many *(a)* school nurses and *(b)* school nurses who teach sex and relationships education in schools there were in the latest period for which figures are available. [175207]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* The Department does not collect data on the number of pupils withdrawn from personal, social and health education (PSHE). However, Ofsted's survey on SRE published in 2002 found that only 0.04 per cent. of pupils were withdrawn from the non-statutory aspects of SRE normally delivered through PSHE.

Similarly, the Department does not collect data or the number of schools who include SRE within PSHE, but departmental guidance on SRE (DfES, 2000) makes clear that schools should embed SRE within their programmes for PSHE.

In 2006 there were 1,129 school nurses with a school nurse qualification (an increase of 31.9 per cent. since 2004). Their involvement in the delivery of SRE is a decision for primary care trusts and individual schools. The Department recognises the unique contribution that school nurses make to SRE and encourages all those involved in classroom delivery to undertake the National PSHE Continuing Professional Development Programme. This accredited programme supports standards in the delivery of PSHE teaching including sex and relationships education.

Primary Education: Standards

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the levels of numeracy and literacy were among primary school leavers in *(a)* Uxbridge constituency, *(b)* each London borough and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [171322]

Jim Knight: The information required is in the Library.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the five *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest performing primary schools in England were in each of the last 10 years in terms of (i) Key Stage 2 SAT results and (ii) value-added measures. [175213]

Jim Knight: The information required can be found in the achievement and attainment tables held in the House of Commons Library.

Primary Education: Teachers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate his Department has made of the number of additional primary school teachers required in each of the next 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [169801]

Jim Knight: This Department is about to complete an exercise to forecast the number of teacher training places that will be needed during the next few years, and I will shortly be notifying these to the Training and Development Agency for Schools to enable it to begin allocating training places.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of primary teacher trainees who gained Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) were shown as in service in the database of teacher records at the end of the financial year three years after they gained QTS for each year from 1998; [174269]

(2) what proportion of secondary teacher trainees, in each subject for which there are initial teacher training targets, who gained Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) were shown as in service in the database of teacher records at the end of the financial year three years after they gained QTS for each year from 1998. [174270]

Jim Knight: The information is not available in the format requested.

The following table provides the percentage of full and part-time teachers who entered local authority maintained sector service in England in the year after qualification in March 1998 and 2003 and were still in such service three years later, broken down by primary and for secondary by subject of initial teacher training.

Retention rate of full and part-time teachers who entered local authority maintained[1] sector service in England by the March after the year of their qualification[2], 1998 to 2003 and were still in service three years later in 2001 to 2006

	Three year retention rate (percentage)					
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005[3]	2006[3]
Primary	82	83	80	82	83	83
Mathematics	76	75	78	75	78	79
English	77	76	77	76	79	81
Science	77	73	74	76	79	79
Modern Foreign Languages	72	68	66	72	72	71
Technology	74	80	79	78	84	83
History	83	82	81	79	81	83
Geography	75	80	79	79	82	80
Art	80	72	79	79	80	79
Music	78	73	76	76	79	77
RE	75	76	78	80	77	76
PE	80	83	81	82	86	85
Other	78	77	71	79	79	74
Overall secondary	77	76	76	77	79	80

[1] Excludes Academies and CTCs
[2] Includes teachers qualifying through college based routes to qualified teachers status, SCITTs and Open University but excludes employment based routes
[3] Provisional
Source:
Database of teacher records

There is also some information available from the Training and Development Agency (TDA) which provides the employment status of teachers six months after obtaining qualified teacher status (QTS). The following tables provide the information for primary schools and secondary schools by subject for each year from 1998-99 to 2005-06.

Mainstream final year primary trainees employment status[1,2,3]

		Percentage		
	Number of final year mainstream primary trainees gaining QTS	*Proportion of trainees gaining QTS who are known to enter a teaching post in a maintained school six months after gaining QTS*	*Proportion of trainees gaining QTS who are known to enter a teaching post in a school with an unknown sector six months after gaining QTS*	*Proportion of trainees gaining QTS who have an unknown destination*
1998-99	11,740	66	9	11
1999-2000	9,880	74	6	14
2000-01	10,540	73	10	12
2001-02	10,720	74	6	11
2002-03	11,930	69	5	12
2003-04	12,470	67	6	13
2004-05	12,690	70	5	12
2005-06	12,680	70	6	10

Mainstream final year secondary trainees employment status[1,2,3]

		Percentage		
Subject of ITT training	*Number of final year mainstream secondary trainees gaining QTS*	*Proportion of trainees gaining QTS who are known to enter a teaching post in a maintained school six months after gaining QTS*	*Proportion of trainees gaining QTS who are known to enter a teaching post in a school with an unknown sector six months after gaining QTS*	*Proportion of trainees gaining QTS who have an unknown destination*
1998-99				
Mathematics	940	68	11	9
English[4]	1,830	64	12	12
Science	1,910	60	11	11
Modern languages	1,410	58	14	13
Technology	1,360	61	10	14

Mainstream final year secondary trainees employment status1,2,3

Subject of ITT training	*Number of final year mainstream secondary trainees gaining QTS*	*Percentage*		
		Proportion of trainees gaining QTS who are known to enter a teaching post in a maintained school six months after gaining QTS	*Proportion of trainees gaining QTS who are known to enter a teaching post in a school with an unknown sector six months after gaining QTS*	*Proportion of trainees gaining QTS who have an unknown destination*
Design and technology	740	62	12	14
Information and communications technology	250	59	10	15
Business studies	370	60	7	12
History	790	52	14	16
Geography	680	54	10	13
Art and design	810	56	11	15
Music	440	57	14	12
Religious education	530	56	10	12
Physical education	1,340	63	9	11
Other[5]	170	58	12	12
Citizenship	—	—	—	—
Total	12,340	60	11	12
1999-2000				
Mathematics	1,060	68	10	13
English[4]	1,700	70	8	14
Science	1,940	68	10	13
Modern languages	1,290	63	11	15
Technology	1,360	65	10	16
Design and technology	650	63	13	17
Information and communications technology	310	66	6	18
Business studies	340	70	10	12
History	760	62	10	16
Geography	750	70	7	12
Art and design	700	64	6	18
Music	470	65	12	15
Religious education	450	67	7	16
Physical education	1,150	74	4	12
Other[5]	270	60	12	13
Citizenship	—	—	—	—
Total	11,820	67	9	14
2000-01				
Mathematics	990	72	10	10
English[4]	1,750	75	7	12
Science	1,940	72	8	12
Modern languages	1,390	69	6	16
Technology	1,400	67	13	12
Design and technology	670	69	13	12
Information and communications technology	400	68	11	12
Business studies	340	60	16	13
History	770	71	9	12
Geography	790	67	11	12
Art and design	670	67	7	15
Music	470	66	8	15
Religious education	450	64	12	15
Physical education	1,200	75	7	9
Other[5]	290	64	9	8
Citizenship	—	—	—	—
Total	12,100	70	9	12
2001-02				
Mathematics	1,090	77	5	9
English[4]	1,800	78	6	10
Science	2,030	77	5	9
Modern languages	1,340	72	4	14

Mainstream final year secondary trainees employment status1,2,3

Subject of ITT training	*Number of final year mainstream secondary trainees gaining QTS*	*Percentage*		
		Proportion of trainees gaining QTS who are known to enter a teaching post in a maintained school six months after gaining QTS	*Proportion of trainees gaining QTS who are known to enter a teaching post in a school with an unknown sector six months after gaining QTS*	*Proportion of trainees gaining QTS who have an unknown destination*
Technology	1,540	73	10	10
Design and technology	690	73	10	11
Information and communications technology	460	76	7	9
Business studies	400	71	13	8
History	790	72	3	15
Geography	810	72	4	13
Art and design	630	71	4	16
Music	470	76	4	10
Religious education	440	71	5	13
Physical education	1,270	79	4	7
Other[5]	240	68	5	12
Citizenship	130	75	6	9
Total	12,550	75	5	11
2002-03				
Mathematics	1,270	72	4	13
English[4]	2,070	74	5	13
Science	2,140	71	5	12
Modern languages	1,350	62	6	17
Technology	1,850	77	6	8
Design and technology	740	77	5	11
Information and communications technology	620	76	6	9
Business studies	490	78	6	5
History	840	67	6	13
Geography	800	70	6	14
Art and design	720	66	8	15
Music	460	65	9	17
Religious education	440	67	6	12
Physical education	1,180	79	3	8
Other[5]	210	44	6	32
Citizenship	180	65	11	15
Total	13,490	71	6	13
2003-04				
Mathematics	1,520	74	6	10
English[4]	2,170	72	7	11
Science	2,310	72	6	10
Modern languages	1,450	64	8	14
Technology	2,060	72	6	13
Design and technology	830	74	6	13
Information and communications technology	750	73	6	13
Business studies	470	68	9	14
History	850	69	6	9
Geography	850	71	7	8
Art and design	810	69	8	10
Music	510	71	8	11
Religious education	460	69	5	11
Physical education	1,390	78	4	6
Other[5]	280	66	11	8
Citizenship	0	78	8	9
Total	14,860	71	6	10
2004-05				
Mathematics	1,570	74	4	10
English[4]	2,050	78	5	9
Science	2,230	73	5	10

Mainstream final year secondary trainees employment status1,2,3

		Percentage		
Subject of ITT training	*Number of final year mainstream secondary trainees gaining QTS*	*Proportion of trainees gaining QTS who are known to enter a teaching post in a maintained school six months after gaining QTS*	*Proportion of trainees gaining QTS who are known to enter a teaching post in a school with an unknown sector six months after gaining QTS*	*Proportion of trainees gaining QTS who have an unknown destination*
Modern languages	1,360	60	6	13
Technology	2,070	73	6	11
Design and technology	800	75	5	11
Information and communications technology	250	72	6	14
Business studies	520	72	8	7
History	830	75	4	9
Geography	810	70	7	9
Art and design	670	69	6	11
Music	500	72	6	9
Religious education	470	77	3	9
Physical education	1,330	75	5	10
Other[5]	370	69	8	10
Citizenship	220	67	5	19
Total	14,460	72	5	10
2005-06				
Mathematics	1,550	73	4	8
English[4]	2,000	77	5	8
Science	2,410	77	6	9
Modern languages	1,260	60	6	13
Technology	1,950	73	6	8
Design and technology	720	78	5	8
Information and communications technology	750	71	8	11
Business studies	490	71	5	5
History	780	70	7	6
Geography	750	71	6	6
Art and design	620	68	6	9
Music	560	70	6	10
Religious education	520	69	10	8
Physical education	1,270	79	6	6
Other[5]	930	66	11	10
Citizenship	190	75	6	13
Total	14,420	72	6	8

[1] Includes trainees from universities and other higher education (HE) institutions, school centred initial teacher training (SCITT) and open universities (OU), but exclude employment based routes (EBR).
[2] Employment information is not collected for trainees who enter ITT through employment based routes.
[3] Numbers are individually rounded to the nearest 10.
[4] English includes dance and drama.
[5] Other includes classics, economics, social studies, vocational subjects (from 2003/04 onwards) and assessment only records (in 2005-06).
Source:
TDA performance profiles.

Pupils: English Language

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children of school age there are who are bilingual learners or have English as a second language, in each local authority. [174864]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* The available information has been placed in the Library. This can be found in SFR 30/2007 "Schools and Pupils in England: January 2007 (Final)" which is available on the Department's website here:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000744/index.shtml

The table shows pupils by first language status; information on bilingual learners is not collected.

Pupils: Sight Impaired

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in what formats educational material for visually impaired and dyslexic children are provided by his Department; how much has been allocated for provision of such material; and if he will make a statement. [174336]

Jim Knight: Local authorities and schools are funded to provide services for children with special educational needs (SEN). It is for local authorities and schools to determine how best to use resources to overcome barriers to achievement—including the provision of educational material in alternative formats where that is appropriate. The Education Act 1996 requires local

authorities, schools and early years settings to have regard to the SEN Code of Practice which provides advice on carrying out statutory duties to identify, assess and make provision for pupils' special educational needs.

Part 4 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 requires schools and local authorities to plan to improve access to the curriculum and written materials for disabled pupils over time. In addition, the new Disability Equality Duty introduced by the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 requires all public bodies including schools and local authorities to promote disability equality more widely.

The Department does not generally provide educational materials to children. However, we are currently working with a range of stakeholders including the RNIB and British Dyslexia Association, to look at ways of improving the provision of books and educational material in accessible formats.

School Leaving: Newcastle

Mr. Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make an assessment of the likely costs to the Newcastle local education authority of raising the school leaving age to 18. [174133]

Jim Knight: The estimated costs of raising the participation age were set out in the regulatory impact assessment (RIA) published alongside the Education and Skills Bill on 29 November 2007. Costs were projected to be around £800 million per cohort of young people but the economic benefits were estimated to be around £2,400 million on the same basis.

The RIA can be accessed at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/publications/educationandskills/

and I have placed a copy in the Library of the House.

The Department has not made detailed economic projections at a local level. Demographic changes will vary between local areas, of course, as will the nature of demand from young people, and local authorities will need to use their own projections to plan accordingly.

The proposed legislation is for the education and training leaving age, not the school leaving age, to be raised to 18 years. This will be done in two stages, with the participation age not being raised to 18 until 2015.

Schools

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many competitions for new schools were won by *(a)* academies, *(b)* local authority schools and *(c)* other schools in each month since January 2006; and if he will make a statement. [167782]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number of competitions won, in each month, by proposals for new academies and schools proposed by local authorities (LAs):

Decision date	*Competition*	*Winning school proposal*	
		Academy	*LA maintained school*
May 2007	Haringey		[1]
July 2007	Southampton (East) and Southampton (West)	2	
August 2007	Lincolnshire (Gainsborough)	1	

[1] Community school

There were no school competitions decided in 2006. The Lincolnshire and Southampton competitions were decided by the local authorities since they had not entered proposals of their own into the competitions; the Haringey competition was decided by the Schools Adjudicator.

A further four competitions are currently in progress in Salford, Devon, West Sussex and Cambridgeshire.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much deprivation-related funding is allocated to each school in Somerset; and if he will make a statement. [175152]

Jim Knight: Somerset's total Dedicated Schools Grant allocation for 2007-08 was £253.489 million: the amount of deprivation funding within this was 7.8 per cent. or £19.642 million. Somerset distributed £11.785 million or 60 per cent. of this deprivation funding through its formula on the basis of deprivation factors. Figures for each school in Somerset could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Science: Teachers

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of science teachers in *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools have a GCSE science qualification at grade C or above. [174222]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Information on the number of full-time teachers in service in secondary schools by the highest post-A-level qualification in the subject they teach is available from the Secondary School Curriculum and Staffing Survey (SSCSS), an occasional sample survey last conducted in 2002 and 2007. 2007 figures are expected to be published in spring 2008.

The following table provides the number of teachers teaching each subject area and the level of qualification in that subject in 2002, the latest information available.

Teachers in Service: Full-time teachers in maintained secondary schools: Highest post-A-level qualifications[1] held in the subjects they teach[2] to year groups 7-13, England

Percentages

	Degree[3]	*BEd*	*PGCE*	*Cert Ed*	*Other Qual*	*No Qual*	*Total teachers (Thousand)*
Mathematics	42 ± 3	15 ± 2	9 ± 2	7 ± 1	2 ± 1	24 ± 2	28.2
English	51 ± 3	15 ± 2	7 ± 1	6 ± 1	1 ± 1	20 ± 2	29.4

Teachers in Service: Full-time teachers in maintained secondary schools—Highest post-A-level qualifications[1] held in the subjects they teach[2] to year groups 7-13, England

Percentages

	Degree[3]	BEd	PGCE	Cert Ed	Other Qual.	No Qual	Total teachers (Thousand)
Combined/General science	62 ± 3	12 ± 2	10 ± 2	4 ± 1	1 ± 1	11 ± 2	28.3
Biology[4]	71 ± 5	7 ± 3	11 ± 4	3 ± 2	- ± 1	7 ± 3	5.6
Chemistry[4]	72 ± 5	6 ± 3	12 ± 4	1 ± 1	1 ± 1	7 ± 3	5.2
Physics[4]	63 ± 6	11 ± 4	15 ± 4	3 ± 2	- ± -	8 ± 3	4.7
Other sciences[4]	10 ± 6	4 ± 4	5 ± 4	- ± -	- ± -	80 ± 8	1.6
French	54 ± 3	7 ± 2	10 ± 2	3 ± 1	2 ± 1	23 ± 3	16.0
German	47 ± 5	6 ± 3	13 ± 4	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	30 ± 5	6.9
Spanish	37 ± 7	8 ± 4	19 ± 6	- ± -	3 ± 2	33 ± 7	3.6
Other modern languages	18 ± 8	- ± -	9 ± 7	- ± -	3 ± 4	71 ± 10	1.4
Design and technology[5]	26 ± 3	20 ± 3	7 ± 2	21 ± 3	2 ± 1	24 ± 3	20.9
ICT[5, 6]	13 ± 2	6 ± 1	8 ± 2	2 ± 1	3 ± 1	69 ± 3	18.9
Other/Combined technology[5]	30 ± 10	13 ± 8	16 ± 7	18 ± 9	2 ± 3	20 ± 9	1.6
Business studies	30 ± 5	11 ± 4	9 ± 3	4 ± 2	3 ± 2	43 ± 5	6.5
Classics	33 ± 7	- ± -	2 ± 4	2 ± -	- ± -	63 ± 7	1.0
History	57 ± 4	9 ± 2	6 ± 2	6 ± 2	- ± -	23 ± 3	13.7
Religious education	22 ± 3	8 ± 2	8 ± 2	4 ± 1	2 ± 1	57 ± 4	14.2
Geography	53 ± 4	9 ± 2	6 ± 2	5 ± 2	1 ± 1	25 ± 3	13.7
Other social studies	35 ± 5	6 ± 3	2 ± 2	2 ± 1	- ± 1	54 ± 6	4.9
Combined arts/humanities/ social studies	5 ± 3	4 ± 2	7 ± 3	1 ± 1	1 ± 1	83 ± 5	5.3
Music	59 ± 5	15 ± 4	5 ± 2	6 ± 3	2 ± 2	13 ± 4	6.3
Drama	25 ± 4	10 ± 3	12 ± 3	6 ± 2	2 ± 1	45 ± 5	8.1
Art and design	54 ± 4	10 ± 3	7 ± 2	9 ± 3	1 ± 1	20 ± 4	9.3
Physical education	25 ± 3	31 ± 3	6 ± 2	13 ± 2	2 ± 1	22 ± 2	21.4
Careers education	2 ± 2	1 ± 2	3 ± 3	4 ± 4	3 ± 4	87 ± 7	1.5
PSHE[6]	1 ± -	1 ± -	2 ± 1	1 ± -	- ± -	95 ± 1	61.4
General studies	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	1 ± 1	- ± 1	- ± -	95 ± 2	7.1
Citizenship	2 ± 1	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	- ± 1	- ± -	94 ± 2	9.0
Other							32.8
Total[7]	33 ± -	10 ± -	7 ± -	5 ± -	1 ± -	44 ± -	388.4

'-' = zero or less than 0.5.

[1] Where a teacher has more than one post-A-level qualification in the same subject, the qualification level is determined by the highest level reading from left (Degree) to right (Other Qual.). For example, teachers shown under PGCE have a PGCE but not a degree or BEd in the subject, while those with a PGCE and a degree are shown only under Degree.

[2] Teachers are counted once against each subject which they are teaching.

[3] Includes higher degrees but excludes BEds.

[4] Teachers qualified in combined/general science are treated as qualified to teach biology, chemistry, or physics. Teachers qualified in biology, chemistry or physics are treated as qualified to teach combined/general science.

[5] Teachers qualified in other/combined technology are treated as qualified to teach design and technology or information and communication technology. Teachers qualified in design and technology or information and communication technology are treated as qualified to teach other/combined technology.

[6] Information and Communication Technology is abbreviated as ICT and Personal Social and Health Education is abbreviated as PSHE.

[7] 'Other' not included in total percentages.

Source:
Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey 2002.

Specialised Diplomas: Expenditure

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what expenditure from the public purse has been incurred to date by *(a)* the Learning and Skills Council, *(b)* the sector skills councils, *(c)* the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, *(d)* the Gateway process and *(e)* his Department on (i) the diploma programme and (ii) individual diplomas. [173868]

Jim Knight: Expenditure on (i) the diploma programme by the Learning and Skills Council, the Sector Skills Council, the Qualifications Curriculum Authority, the Gateway process and the Department is set out in the following table.

	2005-06	2006-07	£ million 2007-08 (30 November)
LSC			
Sector Skills Council	1.847	6.217	5.533
QCA	1.14	6.86	8.76
Development costs	1.4	2.4	6.54

Expenditure on (ii) individual diplomas (including by the LSC) is zero as participation on diplomas has yet to start.

Teachers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) teachers were in service at any time during their first three years after gaining QTS in the latest period for which figures are available. [174271]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Vocational Training: Sunderland

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to ensure that residents from the city of Sunderland will have the necessary skills to take advantage of jobs resulting from the Olympics in 2012. [175224]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills has a joint responsibility with the Department for Work and Pensions to maximise the employment and skills benefits for the UK arising from Games-related business. In the main, this will be achieved using existing initiatives such as Train to Gain, as we help employers in meeting their skill needs to design, build and deliver the Games, and encourage individuals to develop their skills so that they can compete for opportunities and progress within the labour market beyond 2012. To do this, we have initiated a programme of activities which are nation or UK-wide, rather than related to specific cities or regions. On the employer side, two cluster groups of sector skills councils are leading two areas: one to look specifically at the issues relating to the built environment and environmental improvements for the Games; and the other is looking at the staging and legacy aspects of the Games. Other specific employer-led initiatives include a programme of media training placements being developed by Skillset; the national skills strategy for hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism in England developed by People 1st; and the National Skills Academy for Construction centre on the Olympic site which the Prime Minister announced on 29 November. For individuals, initiatives include new advanced apprenticeships in sporting excellence; customer service and hospitality apprenticeships; and the LDA-led Personal Best Programme which is currently being piloted in London but will be offered nationally and is targeted at individuals furthest away from the labour market to improve skills and promote employability.

Within the Sunderland area itself initiatives include promoting business opportunities to Sunderland companies; engaging in discussions regarding the Cultural Olympiad; Sunderland venues registering as possible venues for pre-Games training camps; and Sunderland university has been involved in discussions concerning the north-east's regional cultural volunteering programme. The north-east's plans for the Games also include the development of a sport-related work force and making the most of the opportunities available for the key nine sectors in the regional economic strategy.

Young People: Disadvantaged

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding he plans to allocate to Hertfordshire to assist young people with disadvantaged backgrounds; and if he will make a statement. [174465]

Jim Knight: Funding for young people with disadvantaged backgrounds is a component of the Dedicated Schools Grant. On 12 November I announced to Parliament the three year school funding settlement for 2008-11. In addition to the existing funding for deprivation in DSG allocations, a new deprivation indicator is being used to fund the Pockets of Deprivation Ministerial Priority. In 2008-09 funding for Hertfordshire is £3,896 per pupil, of which 7.5 per cent., or £292, is for educational disadvantage.

Further information on the new indicator, the local authority allocations for pockets of deprivation and the overall proportion of each local authority's DSG allocation for deprivation is on the Teachernet website at:

www.teachernet.gov.uk/dsg200811/

Youth Citizenship Commission

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when the Youth Citizenship Commission referred to in the Governance of Britain Green Paper will be launched; who the members of the commission will be; when he expects the recommendations of the commission to be published; and if he will make a statement. [174088]

Ed Balls: We will be making an announcement on the Youth Citizenship Commission in the new year.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 7 January 2008

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Christmas

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether it is her Department's policy to use *(a)* incandescent light bulbs and *(b)* LED lights for festive decorations on departmental premises; [173490]

(2) what her Department's policy is on the selection of *(a)* real and *(b)* artificial Christmas trees for her Department's festive decorations; and how real trees are disposed of. [173532]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government provides a real Christmas tree in the reception of its three HQ buildings. The trees are sustainably sourced, whereby for each tree harvested, another is planted. These are decorated using ultra-energy-efficient LED lights. The trees are disposed of sustainably by conversion to wood chips for composting and mulching.

Closed Circuit Television: Planning

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what permitted development rights exist for CCTV cameras *(a)* on a fixed pole and *(b)* affixed to a building. [176193]

Mr. Iain Wright: Part 33 of Schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 grants permitted development rights for the installation, alteration or replacement on buildings or other structures (such as walls, fences or poles) of CCTV cameras for security purposes, subject to specified limits on size, numbers and positioning. Part 33 does not apply to listed buildings. Nor does it give permitted development rights to poles or other structures specially constructed to hold cameras.

Community Relations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she has taken to improve community cohesion and integration since 2005. [175634]

Mr. Dhanda: When Communities and Local Government (CLG) was set up in May 2005, policy for community cohesion was one of the areas which transferred to the new Department. Since then, CLG has provided support for local areas experiencing challenges to cohesion and supported the independent Commission for Integration and Cohesion. We announced an initial response to the Commission in October, which included an additional £50 million funding to support local areas work to build cohesion over the next three years. We will announce a full response to the Commission shortly.

Community Relations: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to improve community cohesion in West Chelmsford constituency. [174983]

Mr. Dhanda: Both "Strong and Prosperous Communities" the Local Government White Paper and the Government's initial response to the Commission on Integration and Cohesion's final report, "Our Shared Future", recognise the need to respond to the community cohesion challenge faced by increasing change in local communities.

In the 2006 Best Value Survey West Chelmsford scored above the national average on the measure for cohesion ("the percentage of residents who agree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together"). The Department for Communities and Local Government is not undertaking specific cohesion work with West Chelmsford.

However within the new performance framework for local authorities and local authority partnerships there are mechanisms to monitor progress against the new single set of national indicators which includes indicators of community cohesion, and the new local area agreements offer the opportunity to identify priority improvement targets.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of posts in her Department were recategorised from back office to frontline posts as classified by the Gershon efficiency review in each year since 2004. [172249]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Communities and Local Government is committed to achieving work force reductions of 400 full-time equivalents by the end of 2007-08. This is a net target and no posts will be reallocated to the frontline as part of it.

Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes she is making to the requirement for local authorities to have a register of empty homes returned to use. [176196]

Mr. Iain Wright: There is no statutory requirement on local authorities to hold a register of empty homes returned to use. However, local authorities are expected to take measures to reduce the number of homes that are left empty for long periods of time as part of their strategic housing role. Local authorities may therefore choose to keep information about empty homes in their area in the form of a register if this helps to facilitate their strategic approach.

English National Land Use Database

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hectares of derelict land are recorded on the English National Land Use Database, broken down by government office region. [176162]

Mr. Iain Wright: In 2006, the latest year for which figures are available, there were an estimated 17,850 hectares of derelict land and buildings in England. This is broken down by region as follows:

Region	*Hectares*
North East	1,130
North West	4,970
Yorkshire and The Humber	2,920
East Midlands	1,790
West Midlands	2,070
East of England	1,970
London	250
South East	1,260
South West	1,490
England	17,850

English Partnerships: Expenditure

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much English Partnerships has spent since its establishment in each parliamentary constituency in England. [175546]

Mr. Iain Wright: English Partnerships' expenditure is not available at parliamentary constituency level as it records most of its expenditure by individual local authority. A breakdown of English Partnerships' spend in each local authority area since 2001-02 has been deposited in the Library of the House. Due to organisational changes, data prior to 2001 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

As some expenditure is incurred at national level, a figure for national spend is included for completeness. This covers national investment in financial vehicles like the English Cities Fund, Priority Sites Ltd. and Networkspace; the purchase of national portfolios of land such as that from the NHS in 2005; and research.

Environment Protection: EU Law

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to amend legislation to meet the requirements of the EU Directive on Environmental Impact Assessments. [176158]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Town and Country (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 (SI No. 293) (the 1999 Regulations) are the principal regulations which apply environmental impact assessment (EIA) to development proposals. On 15 November 2000 they were amended to apply EIA to applications for review of conditions attached to mineral planning permissions.

We are currently planning to make two further amendments to the 1999 Regulations. The first will allow EIA to be applied at the reserved matters stage following the grant of outline planning permission

The second amendment will apply the requirements of the 1999 Regulations, as amended in 2000, to the few outstanding applications for initial review of old mineral permissions which pre-date 15 November 2000 and which are stalled because information to enable EIA to be carried out has not been provided. The effect of the new Regulations will be to allow new conditions to be attached to permissions to mitigate the environmental impact of mineral operations.

Fires: Chemicals

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what instructions were given by her Department's staff at the oxyacetylene fire incident on the A12 at Eight Ash Green on Friday 5 October 2007; whether her Department received any requests for the penetration of the oxyacetylene cylinder by high velocity rifle round; and if she will make a statement. [175549]

Mr. Dhanda: No instructions were given by Communities and Local Government (CLG) staff with regard to the oxyacetylene incident on the A12.

CLG did not receive any requests for the penetration of the oxyacetylene cylinder by high velocity rifle round.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire-fighters have been *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured by explosions caused by oxyacetylene cylinders in the last 10 years. [175553]

Mr. Dhanda: There have been no recorded deaths or injuries of firefighters following explosions of an acetylene cylinder in the last 10 years.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on which occasions trunk road motorway or rail closures of more than three hours have been caused by fires involving oxyacetylene since such fires began to be recorded as fires of special interest; and if she will make a statement. [175554]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Floods: Maps

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information the Ordnance Survey's Mastermap product holds on the flood risk of individual properties. [176186]

Mr. Iain Wright: None.

However a combination of OS Mastermap datasets such as topography, address and height data may be used by others, in combination with specialist information from other sources, to model flood risks down to individual properties.

Green Belt

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 563-4W, on green belt, what the loss in hectares of designated green belt was in each Government office region in each year since 1997 for which data are available, excluding additions to the green belt in the same period. [176453]

Mr. Iain Wright: The gross change in the number of hectares of green belt land that had green belt designation removed is not held centrally. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Housing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* proportion and *(b)* number of first time buyers in (i) the United Kingdom and (ii) England and Wales purchased properties in the three or four per cent. stamp duty band in the most recent year for which figures are available. [176619]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data on first time buyers (FTBs) using a mortgage in the UK are available from the Regulated Mortgage Survey which is supplied to Communities and Local Government by the Council of Mortgage Lenders. The survey is a sample so data on the total number of FTBs are unavailable.

However the Council of Mortgage Lenders publishes figures on the total number of FTBs in the UK, but not for England and Wales. In order to estimate numbers of FTBs in the UK in each stamp duty bracket proportions calculated from the Regulated Mortgage Survey have been applied to the published figure of FTBs in the UK.

The number and proportion of first time buyers in the UK that purchased properties in the 3 and 4 per cent. stamp duty bands during 2006 is shown in the following table.

Number and proportion of first time buyers that purchased properties in the 3 or 4 per cent. stamp duty bands during 2006, UK

	3 per cent. stamp duty band	*4 per cent. stamp duty band*	*3 or 4 per cent. stamp duty bands*
Number	23,435	2,831	26,266
Percentage	5.8	0.7	6.5

Source:
Regulated Mortgage Survey and Council of Mortgage Lenders

As information on the total number of FTBs in England and Wales is not available, only the proportions in each stamp duty band can be derived from the Regulated Mortgage Survey.

The proportion of first time buyers in England and Wales that purchased properties in the 3 and 4 per cent. stamp duty bands is shown in the following table.

Proportion of first time buyers that purchased properties in the 3 or 4 per cent. stamp duty bands during 2006, England and Wales

	Percentage
3 per cent. stamp duty band	6.3
4 per cent. stamp duty band	0.8
3 or 4 per cent. stamp duty bands	7.1

Source:
Regulated Mortgage Survey

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the range of the additional build costs of a zero carbon home in addition to Part L of the 2006 building regulations. [176617]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 545W and to the answer given to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 35W.

Housing: Cleethorpes

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many houses in multiple occupancy there were in Cleethorpes constituency in each year since 1997. [176871]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not hold this information.

Housing: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what central Government public expenditure on housing was in each year since 1996-97; and what the forecast levels are for each of the next three years. [176191]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data on public expenditure by function are published annually in 'Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses'. The latest edition was published in April 2007 (Cm 7091) and includes data for years up to and including 2007-08. Spending plans for the three years 2008-09 to 2010-11 were published in 'Meeting the Aspirations of the British People: 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review' (Cm 7227). Annex D5 includes details of the Government's housing plans.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the planned expenditure is on the Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder Scheme in each of the next three years. [176229]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder Schemes submitted business plans in November 2007 for the period 2008-11. Ministers are currently considering these business plans and will announce specific funding allocations in the next few weeks. Total funding for the Housing Market Renewal programme for 2008-11 will be around £1 billion.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's definition is of affordable housing; and what changes have been made to the definition since May 1997. [176592]

Mr. Iain Wright: Affordable housing is defined in detail in Planning Policy Statement 3 Annex B. In essence it includes social rented and intermediate units provided to households whose needs are not met by the market. This excludes 'low cost market' housing for example, homes which do not remain affordable on resale.

The new definition was adopted because Government wished to ensure that developer contributions are used to help provide genuinely affordable housing for households in need over the long term.

Housing: Parking

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the recommended maximum limit is on the number of parking spaces for new residential developments following the publication of Planning Policy Statement 3. [176622]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 900W.

Housing: Prices

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the average price was of a property purchased by a first time buyer in England in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* the latest period for which figures are available; [176185]

(2) what the average price was of a property purchased by a first time buyer in each local authority area in England in the most recent period for which figures are available. [176199]

Mr. Iain Wright: Using data from the Regulated Mortgage Survey, the mix-adjusted average price of a property purchased by a first time buyer in 1997 for England was £58,391.

The mix-adjusted average price of a property purchased by a first time buyer for England in 2006, the last full-year for which data are available, was £155,089.

The mix-adjusted average price of a property purchased by a first time buyer in Q3 2007, the latest period available for England, was £173,134.

Influenza

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have made a contingency plan for responding to a influenza pandemic. [167161]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

The Government do not formally collect information on the emergency plans and business continuity arrangements maintained by individual local authorities.

Part 1 of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 establishes a statutory framework for civil protection activity at the local level. Under this legislation, all principal local authorities are required to maintain emergency plans and business continuity arrangements, informed by risk assessments, to ensure that they can mobilise an effective emergency response, and are able to continue to exercise their other functions during a full range of emergencies, including health emergencies. The legislation also requires local authorities and other key partners to exercise these plans. The performance of English local authorities against the duties set out in the Act is assessed by the Audit Commission as part of the comprehensive performance assessment.

Law and Order: Antisocial Behaviour

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the enforcement of the Government's antisocial behaviour legislation in problem areas; and if she will make a statement. [174008]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

The Home Office is responsible for policy on tackling antisocial behaviour. Earlier this year a survey of 1,000 practitioners was conducted to assess the impact of the Respect programme on local communities. The outcome was that:

92 per cent. of practitioners felt more was being done in their areas to tackle ASB compared with three years ago;

79 per cent. had the backing of their community in tackling antisocial behaviour;

73 per cent. felt the right kinds of tools and powers were available to them to tackle antisocial behaviour, and;

41 per cent. felt that better partnership/multi-agency approaches have made a difference in tackling antisocial behaviour.

We have appointed IPSOS Mori to undertake a qualitative study investigating the circumstances in which different antisocial behaviour interventions are most effective. The outcome is to be published in 2008. In the meantime three independent reports have confirmed our approach to tackling antisocial behaviour is working. These were the Home Affairs Select Committee report (2005), the Audit Commission report (May 2006) and the NAO report (December 2006).

Local Authorities: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* targets and *(b)* performance indicators (i) English Partnerships and (ii) its successor agency is developing for local authorities. [176614]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 684-85W.

Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes the Government have made to the Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme since its introduction; and what further changes her Department is planning. [176201]

John Healey: The Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme was announced in the 2002 pre-Budget report and introduced in 2005-06, to reward local authorities for increasing their business rateable value base. The scheme was simplified in its second year by removing the ceiling on payments to local authorities.

A further change was made during 2007, in response to a challenge to the scheme under Judicial Review. As a result, additional year 1 and 2 payments were made to eligible local authorities in September 2007. These payments reflected increases in rateable value attributable to business expansion.

Following further consideration of the new legal challenges that have been made against the current Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme and the inherent uncertainty that this causes to the remaining LABGI pot, the Government are today drawing local authorities' attention to their intention to re-consider all aspects of the approach used to distribute the remaining resources available for year 3 of the LABGI Scheme.

It should also be noted that the sum total of remaining LABGI resources available for distribution will be dependent on the amounts that may be required to meet any potential consequences arising from the court's decisions on the legal challenges for years 1 and 2 of the LABGI Scheme.

A further announcement will be made shortly.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many letters her Department received from hon. Members and Peers in each session of Parliament since 1997. [174938]

Mr. Dhanda: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/Peers correspondence. Information relating to 2007 will be published as soon as it has been collated. The report for 2006 was published on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 101-04WS. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

National Identity Register

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Department has to make use of data on the national identity register when it is established; and what the estimated annual cost to her Department of that use is. [174031]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government will be working with the Home Office prior to the introduction of the national identity scheme to establish how identity information held on the proposed national identity register might be used to provide easier access to services. It is too early in the process to establish the detailed costs and benefits.

Planning Permission: Aerials

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will end the practice of deemed planning consent for mobile telephone masts where telecommunications companies do not receive any notification. [174764]

Mr. Iain Wright: We are currently reviewing the planning regulations governing the installation of mobile telephone masts contained in part 24 of schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as amended). The prior approval process, to which the hon. Member refers, is being considered as part of that review. Should our review result in any substantive proposals for change we will consult publicly on any options.

Planning: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department and its predecessor spent on research, consultancy and preparation costs for planning gains supplement. [176175]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department has undertaken preliminary work to develop and explore the feasibility of a planning-gain supplement since 2004. This has included the publication of one consultation document alongside the 2006 pre-Budget report. The costs incurred have been borne by the Department as part of the normal policy development process.

Population: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the density of population in the Borough of Tamworth, excluding the flood plain area, is expressed in acres per 100,000 people. [174713]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what the density of population in the Borough of Tamworth, excluding the flood plain area, is expressed in acres per 100,000 people (174713).

ONS does not have population density figures for the borough of Tamworth, excluding the flood plain area. However, population density figures for Tamworth Local authority are available expressed as persons per square kilometre. In mid-2006 the estimated population density for Tamworth local authority is 2,445 persons per square kilometre. These are the latest population density figures available.

Property: Databases

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of billing authorities have established a regularly-maintained link from their Local Land and Property Gazetteer to the National Land and Property Gazetteer. [176756]

Mr. Iain Wright: The National Land and Property Gazetteer is the responsibility of local government's Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) and information on this is not held by central Government. Further information on the National Land and Property Gazetteer can be found on the internet at:

www.nlpg.org.uk

Schools: Finance

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether funds raised by the Milton Keynes tariff on developers and landowners may be used for the capital funding of new schools. [175610]

Mr. Dhanda: Yes, the Milton Keynes Tariff makes a significant contribution towards the capital cost of new schools for the expansion areas in Milton Keynes and requires free land to be provided by the developers for school sites in these areas.

The precise amounts towards each school are set out in the Milton Keynes Partnership Committee annual business plan which also details other funding sources.

HOME DEPARTMENT

101 Calls

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library copies of letters sent by her Department to Northumbria police authority on the new 101 pilots. [168003]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The letters have now been placed in the House Library.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate has been made by her Department of the level of funding required to roll out each of the 101 non-emergency number pilots under the second wave of the pilot project; and if she will make a statement. [172543]

Mr. McNulty: The Government decided not to proceed with the roll out of the second wave of the 101 single non-emergency number service in October 2006 pending further evaluation of the costs and benefits of the service in the existing five areas. The level of funding requested by each of the potential second wave areas to implement the 101 service was set out in proposals submitted by each police and council partnership at that time and was as follows:

	Partnership proposed implementation cost (£000)
Kent	2,635
Nottinghamshire	2,193
South Yorkshire	2,523
Dorset	1,530
London	10,601
Wiltshire	2,000
Lincolnshire	1,802
Leicestershire	1,972
Lancashire	2,525
Surrey	2,021
Cumbria	1,400
Essex	3,598
Wales	3,428
Hertfordshire	2,250
Total	40,518

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been committed by her Department for maintaining the national 101 telephony infrastructure; and if she will make a statement. [172544]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office has committed £1 million per annum over the next CSR period to maintain the national 101 telephony infrastructure enabling local areas to maintain or develop their own locally funded 101 service.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been allocated by her Department for each 101 non-emergency number pilot in each month since their initiation, broken down by relevant police force area; and if she will make a statement. [172545]

Mr. McNulty: From initiation to the current financial quarter, the Home Office has allocated the following funding amounts as agreed with each 101 partnership area to meet their specific implementation and operation requirements (allocations are based on those costs scheduled to be claimed for the periods set out rather than by each month):

Police force area	*31 December 2005 to 31 March 2006*	*1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007*	*1 April 2007 to 31 December 2007*
			£
Northumbria	958,300	2,481,133	841,323
South Yorkshire	403,798	1,343,899	744,437
Hampshire	1,633,500	1,068,567	1,147,424
Leicestershire	568,491	2,230,389	1,443,206
South Wales	1,065,224	2,568,124	1,977,420

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total cost of the non-emergency 101 telephone number pilots was. [173155]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 362W, to the hon. Member for Hornchurch (James Brokenshire).

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many calls there have been to the new 101 service in each of the local authority areas in the Northumbria Police Authority area *(a)* in total and *(b)* per head of population. [170301]

Mr. McNulty: As of 7 November 2007 there have been a total number of 248,949 calls made from the public to the 101 service in the Northumbria police authority area since the service was launched on 3 July 2006. From incident data created as a result of these calls, it is estimated that *(a)* the number of calls in total and *(b)* the number of calls expressed as a percentage of the population calling on an annualised basis in each of local authority areas in the Northumbria police authority area are as follows:

Local authority area	*Estimated number of calls received by Northumbria 101 for each LA area since launch*	*Estimated percentage of population (2001 Census) calling 101 on annual basis*
Alnwick	2,441	5.76
Berwick-Upon-Tweed	1,986	5.61
Blyth Valley	16,834	15.18
Castle Morpeth	5,266	7.87
Gateshead	32,631	12.51
Newcastle City	57,645	16.28
North Tyneside	34,815	13.31
South Tyneside	27,951	13.41
Sunderland	49,102	12.82
Tynedale	3,648	4.55
Wansbeck	16,631	19.94

Airwave Radio System

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will write to the Mayor of London and the Metropolitan Police Authority urging them to agree protocols with non-Home Office constabularies in London to allow them to access the Airwave Radio System; [173237]

(2) what guidance her Department has issued to chief officers of police with regard to making the Airwave Radio System available to non-Home Office constabularies; and if she will list those non-Home Office police organisations which *(a)* do and *(b)* do not have access to the Airwave Radio System. [173238]

Mr. McNulty: For a non-Home Office police force to gain access to the Airwave Radio System, they must make an application to the Office of Communications (Ofcom). If this is granted, the force concerned would then be in a position to communicate with the emergency services that also use the network.

The relevant local Home Office police force would then determine how they need to interoperate, basing this decision on national security assurance standards.

Non-Home Office police organisations that do have access to the Airwave Radio System are:

British Transport Police
Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Dover Port Police
Haringey Borough Parks Police
IPCC
Ministry of Defence Police
Scottish Police Forces
Scottish Police Services Authority

A comprehensive list of those non-Home Office police organisations without access to the Airwave Radio System is not available.

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what additional money has been made available to the police in the last 12 months for tackling alcohol-related crime in addition to alcohol misuse enforcement campaigns. [176107]

Mr. Coaker: In the past 12 months over £1,000,000 has been made available to the police in England and Wales for tackling alcohol-related crime.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much additional funding has been made available to each police force specifically to tackle binge drinking and alcohol misuse in each year since the Licensing Act 2003 came into force. [176108]

Mr. Coaker: The Licensing Act 2003 came into force 24 November 2005. Since that time over £5.3 million has been made available to the police to tackle alcohol misuse.

Home Office alcohol enforcement campaigns are focused at the police basic command unit level. The allocation of funding from campaigns is based on a formal bid process and the number of operations conducted in any given campaign.

Animal Experiments: Scotland

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what proportion of the regulated procedures conducted in Scotland in 2006 under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 were performed in *(a)* public health authorities, *(b)* universities and medical schools, *(c)* NHS hospitals, *(d)* Government Departments, *(e)* other public bodies, *(f)* non-profit making organisations and *(g)* commercial organisations; [172528]

(2) what proportion of the regulated procedures conducted in Scotland in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006 under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 were carried out for (i) fundamental and applied studies other than toxicology and (ii) toxicity tests or other safety efficacy evaluation; [172540]

(3) how many *(a)* mice, *(b)* rats, *(c)* guinea pigs, *(d)* hamsters, *(e)* rabbits, *(f)* horses and other equids, *(g)* sheep, *(h)* pigs, *(i)* birds, *(j)* amphibians, *(k)* reptiles, *(l)* fish, *(m)* cats, *(n)* dogs, *(o)* New World primates and *(p)* Old World primates were used in regulated procedures conducted in Scotland under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in 2006; [172623]

(4) what proportion of the project licences granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986

that were in force in Scotland at the end of 2006 were in *(a)* mild, *(b)* moderate, *(c)* substantial and *(d)* unclassified severity bandings; [172624]

(5) how many of the regulated procedures conducted in Scotland in 2006 under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 involved *(a)* cats, *(b)* dogs, *(c)* rabbits, *(d)* horses and other equids, *(e)* New World primates and *(f)* Old World primates. [172635]

Meg Hillier: Comprehensive statistics of scientific procedures on living animals in Great Britain carried out under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 are published annually. Copies of the publication for 2006 (Cm 7153) can be found in the House Library.

The data are not collected, stored or presented in a way enabling them to be easily broken down between England, Wales and Scotland as the 1986 Act is administered by the Home Office for the whole of Great Britain (it is administered separately in Northern Ireland). However a special exercise has been undertaken to extract the information requested in relation to Scotland.

During 2006, in Scotland, universities and medical schools carried out 74 per cent. of the regulated procedures under the 1986 Act, Government Departments 1 per cent., other public bodies 16 per cent. and commercial organisations 9 per cent. Public health laboratories, NHS hospitals and non-profit making organisations did not carry out any regulated procedures.

During 2005, in Scotland, 83 per cent. of the regulated procedures under the 1986 Act were carried out for fundamental and applied studies other than toxicology and 17 per cent for toxicity tests or other safety efficacy evaluation. During 2006, in Scotland, 81 per cent. of the regulated procedures under the 1986 Act were carried out for fundamental and applied studies other than toxicology and 19 per cent. for toxicity tests or other safety efficacy evaluation.

During 2006, in Scotland, there were 239,593 mice, 48,519 rats, 1,915 guinea pigs, 711 hamsters, 2,625 rabbits, 211 horses and other equids, 10,573 sheep, 1,012 pigs, 10,680 birds, 336 amphibians, 73,548 fish, 31 cats, 886 dogs, 134 new world primates and 725 old world primates used in regulated procedures under the 1986 Act. No reptiles were used.

In Scotland, at the end of 2006, 37 per cent. of the project licences granted under the 1986 Act that were in force were in the mild severity banding, 59 per cent. in moderate, 2 per cent. in substantial banding and 2 per cent. were in the unclassified severity banding.

During 2006, in Scotland, there were 31 regulated procedures under the 1986 Act using cats, 1,252 using dogs, 6,151 using rabbits, 2,490 using horses and other equids, 163 using new world primates and 1,103 using old world primates.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the rate of breach of antisocial behaviour orders in 2006 will be published. [173831]

Mr. Coaker: The latest data on breach of antisocial behaviour orders are due to be published in spring 2008.

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were issued in *(a)* the city of Sunderland and *(b)* the north east in each year since 2001. [175220]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is provided in the following tables.

Number of ASBOs issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, by period and where restrictions are imposed within the local authority area of the city of Sunderland, up to 31 December 2005

1 January to 31 December each year	*City of Sunderland*
2001-01	
2002-02	2
2003-03	6
2004-04	18
2005-05	43
2001-05	69

Notes:
1. This local authority area table differs from criminal justice system area (cjsa) tables in that an issuing court can be outside the area in which the restrictions have been imposed. For example, an issuing court may be in Hampshire (cjsa) but restrictions apply solely to a local authority area within Dorset.
2. Previously issued data have been revised following joint Home Office/Court Service data reconciliation exercises.
3. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
RDS-OCJR

Number of antisocial behaviour orders issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, in the north east region by year, January 2001 to December 2005

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*Total*
North east region	22	29	55	133	260	499
Of which:						
Cleveland	4	5	14	28	60	111
Durham	9	8	16	31	27	91
Northumbria	9	16	25	74	173	297

Notes:
1. Previously issued data have been revised following joint Home Office/Court Service data reconciliation exercises.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Lincolnshire

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued in *(a)* Cleethorpes constituency and *(b)* Great Grimsby constituency in each year since their introduction. [176862]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Number of antisocial behaviour orders issued at all courts in the Humberside CJS area, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, April 1999 to December 2005

	Number
April 1999 to May 2000	0
June to December 2000	9
2001	4
2002	4
2003	10
2004	72
2005	137
Total	236

Notes:
1. Previously issued data have been revised following joint Home Office/Court Service data reconciliation exercises.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Assets Recovery Agency: Christmas

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans the Assets Recovery Agency has to hold a Christmas party or parties in 2007. [175190]

Mr. Coaker: There will be no Asset Recovery Agency party. A number of groups of Asset Recovery Agency staff will organise their own Christmas functions.

Asylum

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1930W, on asylum, what further information is being solicited from unsuccessful asylum claimants; how many such individuals have been contacted; when she expects to provide an update on the case resolution programme; what reports have been produced on the programme; if she will publish those reports; and if she will make a statement on her plans for dealing with unsuccessful asylum claimants subject to the case resolution programme in each year since the scheme began. [175267]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 18 December 2007]:* Cases are considered on an individual basis. The nature of any additional information required, therefore, will depend upon the circumstances of the particular case being considered.

The chief executive wrote to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 17 December 2007 about the progress made by the case resolution directorate. A copy of the letter is available in the House of Commons Library. As stated in the letter, we intend to report every six months on the number of files that have been concluded.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum cases the Case Resolution Directorate is dealing with; how many of these have been brought by residents of London constituencies, broken down by constituency; and if she will make a statement. [175362]

Mr. Byrne: We have previously estimated that there are around 400,000 to 450,000 electronic and paper records, although this is difficult to assess accurately as many case records are duplicates or errors. This figure does not therefore equate to numbers of asylum applicants.

The information on the number of cases brought by residents of London constituencies, broken down by constituency is not available in the format requested.

We will provide updates on progress on the work of the Case Resolution Directorate on a six monthly basis to the Home Affairs Select Committee. The first of these was published on 17 December 2007 and announced that we have concluded 52,000 cases to date, of which two thirds were either removed or discovered to be duplicate files or errors.

Asylum: Deportation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers have been deported to *(a)* Sudan, *(b)* Burma, *(c)* Zimbabwe, *(d)* Iraq, *(e)* the Democratic Republic of Congo, *(f)* Sri Lanka and *(g)* Afghanistan in the last 12 months. [167026]

Jacqui Smith: The following table shows the number of asylum applicants, including dependants, removed to the listed countries between October 2006 and September 2007, inclusive.

Removals, voluntary departures and assisted returns[1] of asylum applicants[2], including dependants, to stated destinations, October 2006 to September 2007[3,4]

		Number of asylum applicants, of whom:		
Destination	Total removals October 2006 to September 2007	Persons refused entry at port and subsequently removed[5,6]	Persons removed as a result of enforcement action and voluntary departures[6,7]	Persons leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes[8]
Sudan	90	5	35	50
Burma	5	*	—	5
Zimbabwe	270	25	35	210
Iraq	690	20	100	565
Democratic Republic of Congo	150	35	85	30
Sri Lanka	515	130	195	190
Afghanistan	980	105	435	435

[1] Includes enforced removals, persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them, persons leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes run by the International Organization for Migration and those who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.
[2] Persons who had sought asylum at some stage.
[3] Figures are rounded to the nearest five (- = 0, * = one or two) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.
[4] Provisional figures.
[5] Includes cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls.
[6] Including persons departing 'voluntarily' after enforcement action had been initiated against them.
[7] From January 2005 figures include persons who it has been established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities. It is not possible to separately identify asylum applicants who left 'voluntarily' after enforcement action had been initiated from those that left as a direct result of the enforcement action, due to data quality issues. Excludes assisted voluntary returns. Since January 2004 figures include management information on the number of deportations. Figures include people removed under AVR-FRS (facilitated return schemes) in 2006.
[8] Persons leaving under voluntary assisted return programmes run by the International Organization for Migration. May include some cases where enforcement action has been initiated.

Asylum: Entry Clearances

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will give a break down of the categories under which discretionary leave to remain has been granted to asylum seekers in each year since 2003. [174009]

Mr. Byrne: The requested information can be obtained only by examination of individual case records, at disproportionate cost.

Aviation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many air miles were travelled by Ministers in her Department in each year since 2000; and what estimate she has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as a result; [172239]

(2) how many miles she and other Ministers in her Department travelled on short haul flights in the last 12 months; and what estimate she has made of the total amount of carbon emissions produced as a result of these flights. [172527]

Mr. Byrne: Since 1999 the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the current financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. From next year, the list will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

All central Government ministerial and official air travel has been offset from 1 April 2006. Departmental aviation emissions are calculated on an annual basis and subsequently offset through payments to a central fund. The fund purchases certified emissions reductions credits from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with sustainable development benefits, located in developing countries.

In addition, offsetting the flights of Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development, and the Prime Minister has been backdated to 1 April 2005.

A list of Government Carbon Offsetting Fund members, their emission figures and what activities they have offset through the fund is available online at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/carbonoffset/government.htm

British Nationality: Overseas Residence

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many holders of valid UK passports were *(a)* resident in the UK and *(b)* resident abroad at the most recent date for which figures are available. [168139]

Meg Hillier: In 2006-07 6.2 million passports were issued in the UK by the Identity and Passport Service and slightly over 400,000 outside the UK by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. However, there are no records of where holders of valid British passports currently reside and records of numbers of passports issued only confirm that a person was present at the issuing location when the passport was issued and do not account for subsequent changes such as emigration or death of the passport holder.

Christmas

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether it is her Department's policy to use *(a)* incandescent light bulbs and *(b)* LED lights for festive decorations on departmental premises. [173500]

Mr. Byrne: Arrangements for the provision of such lighting are made locally.

Closed Circuit Television

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for future funding to police authorities to update CCTV schemes. [175295]

Mr. McNulty: On 6 December, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary, announced the provisional police grant settlement for the next three years.

Closed Circuit Television: Bus Service

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* arrested and *(b)* given anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOS) as a result of evidence from CCTV on buses in London in each year since 1997; and how many have been (i) arrested and (ii) given ASBOS as a result of the live CCTV pilot. [166945]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not centrally available.

Closed Circuit Television: Prosecutions

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make provision for closed-circuit television images to be copied for use by the police in criminal investigations. [176103]

Mr. Coaker: Most CCTV systems have some provision for images to be copied for use by the police in criminal investigations. Many of the digital CCTV systems currently in use do, from time to time, cause difficulties to some police forces. This issue has been highlighted in the National CCTV Strategy, published on 19 October 2007.

The Home Office Scientific Development Branch (HOSDB) has produced advice (available on their website) on the UK police requirements for digital CCTV systems. This guidance can significantly alleviate many of the problems that are being encountered. HOSDB are also working with the industry to influence the design of new digital CCTV systems which better map to current and future policing needs.

Corruption

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to respond to the letter of 22 November 2007 from the hon. Member for Twickenham about bribery and corruption; what the reasons are for the time taken to reply; and if she will make a statement. [173219]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 13 December 2007]*: I responded to the hon. Gentleman's letter of 22 November on 11 December, within the Home Office performance target for responses to ministerial correspondence.

Council Tax: Rates and Rating

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average Band D council tax was for each police authority in England and Wales in 2007-08. [176706]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Police precept (Band D) by police authority 2007-08

Police authority	£
Avon and Somerset	147.17
Bedfordshire	123.43
Cambridgeshire	149.40
Cheshire	116.03
Cleveland	158.10
Cumbria	171.09
Derbyshire	141.91
Devon and Cornwall	131.73
Dorset	156.51
Durham	135.72
Essex	116.46
Gloucestershire	179.49
Hampshire	125.37
Hertfordshire	130.17
Humberside	149.58
Kent	122.18
Lancashire	125.95
Leicestershire	138.96
Lincolnshire	131.58
Norfolk	164.88
Northamptonshire	170.21
North Yorkshire	185.40
Nottinghamshire	138.78
Staffordshire	160.15
Suffolk	137.34
Surrey	171.27
Sussex	122.67
Thames Valley	139.19
Warwickshire	145.90
West Mercia	157.66
Wiltshire	139.35
Average Shires	140.94
Greater Manchester	116.19
Merseyside	127.53
Northumbria	74.62
South Yorkshire	118.92
West Midlands	91.47
West Yorkshire	118.02
Average Mets	107.48
Average England (Exc. London)	133.22
Metropolitan	223.60
Average England (inc. London)	147.90
Dyfed-Powys	157.68
Gwent	159.94
North Wales	178.16
South Wales	132.74
Average Wales	153.03
Average England and Wales	148.21

Source:
English police authorities—DCLG Welsh police authorities—WAG

Crime: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on the trends in crime clear-up rates in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* Essex since 1997; and what representations she has received on this issue in each of the last five years. [174066]

Mr. McNulty: The detections figures for Essex police are shown in the following table.

Data for detections in Southend are available only from 2000-01. In April 2006, Southend became part of South Eastern BCU, and separate figures are no longer available.

Financial Year	Force detections	Force detection rate	Force sanction detections[1]	Force sanction detection rate[1]
1997	23,943	27		
1998/99[2]	27,542	29		
1999/2000[3]	30,503	30		
2000-01	27,708	26	22,249	21
2001-02	29,567	26	22,827	20
2002-03[4]	37,244	27	22,288	16
2003-04	39,748	28	24,189	17
2004-05	37,034	27	29,382	22
2005-06	40,384	31	34,596	26
2006-07	41,752	33	37,484	29

[1] Data for sanction detections are available only from 2000-01. A sanction detection is one which results in a charge or summons, caution, an offence being taken into consideration, a penalty notice for disorder or a cannabis warning.
[2] The Home Office Counting Rules for recorded crime changed with effect from April 1998. These brought new offences into the series with varying detection rates.
[3] Additional guidance on counting detections was implemented from 1 April 1999.
[4] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002. Data before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Southend Basic Command Unit (BCU)

Financial Year	BCU detections	BCU detection rate	BCU sanction[2] detections	BCU sanction detection rate
2000-01	4,760	33	4,095	28
2001-02	4,351	32	3,550	26
2002-03[3]	5,592	34	3,195	19
2003-04	5,006	29	3,637	21
2004-05	4,566	27	3,718	22
2005-06	5,237	32	4,235	26
2006-07[4]	8,280	35	7,496	32

[1] BCU data are available only from 2001-02.
[2] Data for sanction detections are available only from 2000-01. A sanction detection is one which results in a charge or summons, caution, an offence being taken into consideration, a penalty notice for disorder or a cannabis warning.
[3] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002. Data before and after that date are not directly comparable.
[4] Southend forms part of Essex South Eastern BCU with effect from April 2006, separate figures for Southend are no longer available.

Crime: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the trends in the number of *(a)* racial and *(b)* rape crimes reported in the Metropolitan Police Service results for October 2007 in the London borough of Havering. [176790]

Mr. Coaker: We have not published any crime statistics for October 2007 and therefore cannot make any public assessment.

Crime: Racial Violence

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of racial violence were reported in the Durham police authority area in each year since 2000; and how many resulted in conviction. [172765]

Mr. Coaker: The available information relates to offences of racially or religiously aggravated offences.

The statistics requested cannot be provided in the form requested since it is not possible to track individual offences to conclusion and therefore convictions cannot be directly related to the offences recorded. The recorded offences data given in table 1 are based on the number of crimes reported to and recorded by the police and are on a financial year basis. The convictions data in table 2 are based on the number of offenders convicted and are on a calendar year basis. Convictions figures are counts of offenders classified by their principal offence.

Table 1: Racially or religiously aggravated offences of violence recorded by the police in Durham

Number of offences

	Racially or religiously aggravated offences of:		
	Less serious wounding	Assault without injury[1]	Harassment
2000-01	5	4	34
2001-02	4	12	61
2002-03[2]	3	8	69
2003-04	14	12	107
2004-05	10	10	125
2005-06	24	13	196
2006-07	19	14	243

[1] Includes some assaults with minor injury prior to 2002-03.
[2] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002 and figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Table 2: Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for racially or religiously aggravated offences, Durham police force area, 1997-2006[1,2]

	Racially or religiously aggravated offences of:		
	Less serious wounding	Common assault	Harassment
1997	..	..	..
1998	..	..	..
1999	..	..	6
2000	3	2	12
2001	5	3	12
2002	1	4	14
2003	–	1	27
2004	3	5	24
2005	4	7	36
2006	–	2	46

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Crimes of Violence

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research her Department has conducted into the prevalence of violence between 9.00 pm and 5.00 am. [176439]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office published a study in 2007 to determine the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 on violent crime, disorder and criminal damage.

The study (which will contribute to a larger Home Office evaluation to be published early 2008) analysed time stamped data and focused on the types of offences that can occur as a result of alcohol misuse and night-time disorder and to see whether the timing of offences had changed. A copy of the report can be found on the Home Office website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/rdsolr1607.pdf

In addition, the Home Office also collects data via the British Crime Survey (BCS) on violent incidents. Relevant statistical information is as follows:

The 2005-06 BCS reported a reduction in the number of violent crimes committed in or around pubs and clubs in 2005-06 compared with 2004-05 at 17 per cent. from 22 per cent.

In 2006-07 victims believed the offender or offenders to be under the influence of alcohol in 46 per cent. of all violent incidents (at any time of day).

It is also worth noting that the feasibility of police forces flagging violent crime and disorder offences in the night-time economy is being examined as part of the regular annual data requirement review process by the Home Office and ACPO.

Crimes of Violence: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the levels of violent crime in London in the year ending in October 2008. [176792]

Mr. Coaker: According to the British Crime Survey, the most reliable indicator of long-term trends in violent crime, violence nationally fell by 35 per cent. between 1997 and 2006-07. Police-recorded violence against the person in London fell by 8 per cent. between 2005-06 and 2006-07. Estimates for 2007-08 are not available.

The Government are undertaking a wide-ranging programme of work to tackle violent crime. In London, Operation Trident was set up in 1998 in response to a string of what are often called 'black-on-black' shootings. It is a Metropolitan Police Service team dedicated to tackling gun crime within the black community. Community involvement has been seen as key to Trident's success from the outset, with the Trident Independent Advisory Group set up to harness public support and keep officers informed of community views. Trident is widely seen as a successful model and has been emulated in other cities. Adult Trident offences are falling.

The London Youth Crime Prevention Board is a partnership of senior figures from all of the key agencies, which is currently agreeing on a range of new pan-London measures to reduce the flow of young people into early criminality—including those who could go on to commit serious crime. The Board is exploring what more local authorities, schools and the criminal justice system might do to improve youth crime prevention across London. It will seek to instigate a number of changes before completing its work at the end of 2008.

Work on tackling domestic violence continues on a number of fronts. London is working to ensure that there are Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) across London. This is an evidence-based approach which allows agencies to manage perpetrators and reduce risk to victims.

The Five Borough Alliance (5BA) was set up this year as a multi-agency response to gangs issues. The boroughs are Croydon, Greenwich, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark. 5BA run a range of programmes and further initiatives are being developed.

Demonstrations: Greater London

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which hon. Members have applied under the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 to demonstrate on College Green; and when each applied. [176875]

Mr. Coaker: The policing of demonstrations in the vicinity of Parliament is an operational matter for the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis. As such, I have asked the Metropolitan police to collate the information requested by the hon. Gentleman. I shall write to the hon. Gentleman when that information is available.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether news media organisations have applied to demonstrate on College Green; [176876]

(2) who applied for an application to demonstrate in Parliament Square in August 2007. [176877]

Mr. Coaker: The policing of demonstrations in the vicinity of Parliament is an operational matter for the commissioner of the Police of the Metropolis. As such I have asked the Metropolitan Police to collate the information requested by the hon. Gentleman. I shall write to the hon. Gentleman when that information is available.

Departmental Coordination

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures are followed for authorising policies with significant financial implications for her Department, with partieular reference to the role of the finance director; and if she will make a statement. [164887]

Mr. Byrne: Budgets within the Home Office are planned and delegated on the basis of known priorities and pressures. In order to ensure a robust approach finance officials reporting to the Finance Director are engaged in policy development with significant cost implications to ensure policy proposals are affordable.

Significant projects and programmes are managed through a Group Investment Board chaired by the Director General of Finance and Commercial on which the Finance Director sits. In compliance with HM Treasury principles on delegated authority we seek clearance with the Treasury for projects and programmes above an agreed limit.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the standard terms and conditions of purchase used by her Department in procurement of goods and services from the private sector prohibits the assignment of debt. [172317]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Department uses a range of different terms and conditions for purchasing goods and services depending on their complexity and value. Generally these do not contain an express provision prohibiting the assignment of debts by the contractor. This reflects the position that, as the purchaser, it is the Home Department making payments rather than the contractor. Home Department contracts normally contain a provision prohibiting the assignment of any part of the contract without obtaining the consent of the Department.

Deportation

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in *(a)* Kent and *(b)* England who fraudulently obtained indefinite leave to remain were deported in the last 12 months. [173132]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested can be obtained only through the detailed examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost. The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency wrote a letter to the Home Affairs Committee on 20 November providing the most up-to-date and robust information regarding the deportation of foreign national prisoners. A copy of this letter is available in the Library of the House.

Deportation: EC Action

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations her Department has made in the Council of Europe on revision by international instrument of Article 3 of the European Charter of Human Rights as it applies in deportation cases. [164449]

Jacqui Smith: None. As I made clear when I wrote to the chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights in August, the Government are not seeking to amend the text of article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Emergency Calls

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made with plans to introduce a new national three digit non-emergency phone number for contacting the police; and if she will make a statement. [173131]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office has established a national telephony infrastructure for the non-emergency policing and community safety phone number, 101, and has demonstrated the principles and benefits of this new service in five police and council partnership areas across England and Wales. The Home Office will not continue to directly fund these initial partnership areas from 14 February 2008 or to directly fund further roll-out in other areas. However, the Home Office will continue to provide funding to support the national 101 telephony infrastructure. This continued funding together with the lessons learned for improving local services from the initial areas, will enable and inform local police and councils who wish to develop their own locally funded 101 service.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to revoke the status of a person granted indefinite leave to remain in the UK if it can be demonstrated that this status was acquired on a fraudulent basis. [173442]

Mr. Byrne: There is provision in both primary and secondary immigration legislation to revoke or invalidate indefinite leave to remain where this has been fraudulently obtained.

Essex Police Authority: Qualifications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what relevant specialist qualifications the chief executive of Essex police authority holds; what his or her career has been to date; what process was followed in his or her appointment; where the post was advertised; how many persons applied for the post; how many were short-listed for interview; how each was appraised; what criteria were adopted for each candidate; how many candidates were rejected; and if she will make a statement. [174059]

Mr. McNulty: The appointment of chief executives and their qualifications and experience is a matter for the individual police authority.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what relevant specialist qualifications each member of the Essex police authority holds; what the career of each has been to date; when each was appointed and by whom; what process was followed in his or her appointment; where the post was advertised; how many persons applied for the post; how many were short-listed for interview; how each was appraised; what criteria were adopted for each candidate; how many candidates were rejected; where Essex police authority is located; how much was spent by it on *(a)* office accommodation, *(b)* staff costs, *(c)* travel and subsistence and *(d)* staff bonuses in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [174060]

Mr. McNulty: The appointment of police authority members, the experience and qualifications of their members and the expenditure of the authority are matters for the individual police authority. Essex police authority is located in Chelmsford, Essex.

Essex Police: Standards

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to improve the performance of *(a)* Southend Police and *(b)* Essex Police following the Police Performance Assessment 2006-07 produced by her Department and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary; and if she will make a statement. [174044]

Mr. McNulty: Assessments are made for all 43 police forces in England and Wales and in seven key areas. Forces are assigned the clear judgments "excellent", "good", "fair" and "poor" and—for three of these areas—a judgment of "improved", "stable" or "deteriorated" is also made.

Essex's assessment in each area was as follows:

Tackling crime—Good

Serious crime and public protection—Good

Protecting vulnerable people—Fair

Satisfaction and fairness—Fair

Neighbourhood policing—Fair

Local priorities—Good

Resources and efficiency—Good.

Essex's assessment for direction of travel was:

Tackling crime—Stable

Satisfaction and fairness—Stable

Resources and efficiency—Stable.

The Home Office and HMIC will continue to support forces to address the issues highlighted in the assessments.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on the performance of police in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Southend in each of the last seven years; and if she will make a statement. [174067]

Mr. McNulty: I and my predecessors have received numerous representations regarding police forces in England and Wales. In addition, there have been formal reports published relating to the performance of the police service and of Essex police specifically. These can be found on the websites for Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) at:

http://inspectorates.homeoffice.gov.uk/hmic/inspections/

and the Home Office at:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/performance-and-measurement/performance-ssessment/

The most recent police performance assessments were published in October 2007.

The latest HMIC publication regarding Essex police was the phase one Inspection Report (October 2007), and regarding policing in the Southend BCU in the BCU Inspection (September 2003) and Follow-Up Inspection (December 2004).

Firearms

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many firearms were *(a)* surrendered to and *(b)* seized by the police in each London borough in each year since 2001. [174817]

Mr. Coaker: The figures requested are not held centrally.

Firearms: Databases

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will establish a central register for firearms *(a)* seized and *(b)* disposed of by police services in England and Wales. [176296]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not collate information on the number of firearms seized by police forces. The new National Ballistics Intelligence Database, which will start being implemented this year, may provide an overall picture of firearms seizures in future.

Foreigners: NHS

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the planned identity card scheme will enable NHS managers to check the eligibility of non-EU citizens for NHS outpatient care. [168134]

Meg Hillier: ID cards issued under the UK Borders Act to non-EU citizens will record an individual's immigration status, indicating whether the person has limited leave to remain or indefinite leave to remain. It will not contain details of the individual's right to NHS services. Where a person has no recourse to public funds, the card will have the statement "no recourse to public funds".

The criteria for access to NHS services are defined by the NHS therefore it would be the health care provider's responsibility to confirm eligibility.

Forensic Science Service

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there is European legislation relating to the liberalisation of forensic science services. [173599]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* There is no European legislation specifically on the liberalisation of forensic science services. The procurement of such services is, however, governed by the same European legislation as governs the procurement of publicly financed services in general, which requires bidding to be open to suppliers in all EU member states, except where certain national security conditions apply.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on the Forensic Science Service since it acquired the status of a Government-owned company in 2006. [173600]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* The Forensic Science Service has received no additional money from the Home Office since it was vested as a Government-owned company, other than through the provision of loans arranged prior to vesting and intended to support the transition from Executive Agency to GovCo. The loan in relation to their pension provision has been partially repaid, and the balance is expected to be paid by 2008-09. The Home Office receives interest on the outstanding loans and is eligible to receive dividends on its investment.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what performance targets were set for the Forensic Science Service (FSS) in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007; and how the FSS performed against its targets in the most recent year for which figures are available. [173601]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* Since December 2005, the Forensic Science Service (FSS) has been established as a Government-owned company. It is no longer an Executive agency of the Home Office and thus no longer subject to the agency

target setting regime. Its establishment as a Government-owned company was designed to provide the FSS with the freedom, flexibility, structures and resources to better respond to customer needs.

Therefore, the Home Office as its shareholder does not set the FSS detailed performance targets as such. Instead it agrees an overall strategic business plan with the FSS. The business plan covers such matters as trading and operational performance, but as the FSS now operates in a competitive market, the details are commercially confidential. The FSS published a report and accounts covering its financial performance for the period since changing status, in August 2007. This was filed at Companies House, and copies were placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Genetics: Databases

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals have personal data relating to fingerprints or DNA stored on national police computers; and what percentage of these records relate to individuals who (*a*) have not committed a criminal offence and (*b*) are not suspected of any criminality. [166807]

Meg Hillier: 7.3 million individuals have fingerprint records stored on the national fingerprint system, Ident1, as at 31 October 2007. This includes records for England, Wales and Scotland. The number of these who have not been convicted of a criminal offence could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

An estimated 4,188,033 individuals had a DNA profile on the National DNA Database, of which 3,938,156 were sampled by police forces in England and Wales, as at 31 October 2007. In relation to the number of individuals who have not been convicted of any offence on the National DNA Database, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green (Lynne Featherstone) on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 761-62 W.

Of those on the DNA Database, about 22,700 have provided a DNA profile voluntarily and the remainder had DNA taken under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE).

The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 amended PACE to allow samples to be taken if the person was charged with, or reported for summons, or convicted for a recordable offence, and allowed the samples and DNA profiles derived from these to be retained and speculatively searched against other samples and profiles held by or on behalf of the police, thus allowing the creation of the DNA database for use in criminal investigations. However, if the person was not prosecuted or was acquitted the samples and profiles had to be destroyed. The Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 amended PACE to remove the requirement for destruction of samples following a discontinuance or acquittal, but specified that any samples and profiles that were retained could be used only for the purposes of the prevention and detection of crime, the investigation of an offence or the conduct of a prosecution. The Criminal Justice Act 2003 amended PACE to allow the police to take DNA and fingerprints without consent from anyone arrested for a recordable offence and detained in a police station.

People who volunteer to give a DNA sample include victims, witnesses, people with legitimate access to crime scenes, family members, and those responding to DNA intelligence-led screens. There are two options: consent to giving a sample of DNA to be used in a single investigation only which is then destroyed, and consent to giving a sample of DNA which will be added to the database and kept permanently.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (*a*) males and (*b*) females aged (i) under 14, (ii) between 15 and 24, (iii) between 25 and 34, (iv) between 35 and 44, (v) between 45 and 54, (vi) between 55 and 64 and (vii) over 65 years in each of the ethnic appearance category were registered on the National DNA Database in each period for which figures are available. [167013]

Meg Hillier: The information requested is supplied in the following tables which show the position for the UK, and for England and Wales, at 30 September 2007.

DNA database at 30 September 2007—age on load

Ethnic appearance	Age range	Number of profiles	Number of individuals aged 14 years and over on a criminal justice system	Percentage
Male				
Unknown	Under 14	14,518	12,529	3.91
	15 to 24	150,865	120,703	37.66
	25 to 34	93,161	80,588	25.14
	35 to 44	66,701	57,563	17.96
	45 to 54	35,294	30,459	9.50
	55 to 64	15,051	12,984	4.05
	Over 65	5,609	4,841	1.51
	Unknown age on load	1,019	879	0.27
Total unknown		321,438	320,551	
Afro-Caribbean	Under 14	18,143	15,657	6.58
	15 to 24	107,979	93,186	39.18
	25 to 34	74,065	63,918	26.87
	35 to 44	51,774	44,681	18.78
	45 to 54	14,009	12,090	5.08
	55 to 64	3,305	2,852	1.20
	Over 65	1,467	1,266	0.53
	Unknown age on load	4,859	4,219	1.77
Total Afro-Caribbean		275,631	237,870	
Arab	Under 14	687	593	2.35
	15 to 24	10,810	9,329	37.04
	25 to 34	10,769	9,294	36.90
	35 to 44	4,577	3,950	15.68
	45 to 54	1,649	1,423	5.65
	55 to 64	371	320	1.27
	Over 65	90	78	0.31
	Unknown age on load	228	197	0.78
Total Arab		29,181	25,183	

Whole database at 30 September 2007 – age on load

Ethnic appearance	*Age ranges*	*Number of profiles*	*Number of individuals using 14 per cent. estimated replication rate*	*Percentage*
Asian	Under 14	9,549	8,241	4.70
	15 to 24	80,175	77,821	44.41
	25 to 34	58,306	50,315	28.71
	35 to 44	26,588	22,985	13.09
	45 to 54	12,454	10,748	6.13
	55 to 64	3,347	2,855	1.65
	Over 65	1,196	1,035	0.59
	Unknown age on load	1,439	1,242	0.71
Total Asian		203,054	175,236	
Dark skinned European	Under 14	3,531	3,020	5.06
	15 to 24	26,470	22,844	38.05
	25 to 34	22,879	19,599	32.31
	35 to 44	11,558	9,971	16.63
	45 to 54	3,961	3,373	5.52
	55 to 64	925	795	1.31
	Over 65	299	260	0.50
	Unknown age on load	840	725	1.21
Total dark skinned European		69,571	60,586	
Oriental	Under 14	476	411	2.55
	15 to 24	6,632	5,723	35.60
	25 to 34	5,934	5,123	31.85
	35 to 44	3,652	3,152	19.60
	45 to 54	1,427	1,232	7.66
	55 to 64	333	287	1.79
	Over 65	89	77	0.48
	Unknown age on load	88	76	0.47
Total Oriental		18,631	16,079	
White skinned European	Under 14	211,101	182,180	7.46
	15 to 24	1,147,665	990,435	40.54
	25 to 34	642,053	554,092	22.68
	35 to 44	453,428	391,308	16.02
	45 to 54	217,887	187,277	7.66
	55 to 64	91,739	79,171	3.24
	Over 65	29,582	25,496	1.04
	Unknown age on load	38,726	33,421	1.37
Total white skinned European		2,831,262	2,443,379	
Female				
Unknown	Under 14	5,850	5,049	6.63
	15 to 24	34,662	29,913	39.28
	25 to 34	21,484	18,541	24.34
	35 to 44	16,314	14,079	18.49
	45 to 54	7,142	6,164	8.09
	55 to 64	2,580	1,989	2.61
	Over 65	540	471	0.62
	Unknown age on load	53	46	0.06
Total unknown		88,751	76,161	
Afro-Caribbean	Under 14	7,082	6,112	10.83
	15 to 24	28,016	24,178	42.85
	25 to 34	16,649	14,367	25.46
	35 to 44	10,177	8,783	15.57
	45 to 54	2,532	2,185	3.87
	55 to 64	417	360	0.63
	Over 65	103	89	0.16
	Unknown age on load	299	258	0.52
Total Afro-Caribbean		65,375	56,422	
Arab	Under 14	25	130	4.83
	15 to 24	862	744	32.56
	25 to 34	769	664	29.04
	35 to 44	523	451	19.75
	45 to 54	252	217	9.52
	55 to 64	77	66	2.91
	Over 65	28	24	1.06
	Unknown age on load	9	8	0.34
Total Arab		2,665	2,285	
Asian	Under 14	1,867	1,611	6.87
	15 to 24	11,597	10,267	43.80
	25 to 34	7,811	6,986	27.29
	35 to 44	3,695	3,191	13.62
	45 to 54	1,661	1,433	6.12
	55 to 64	473	408	1.74
	Over 65	101	87	0.37
	Unknown age on load	53	46	0.20
Total Asian		27,161	23,440	
Dark skinned European	Under 14	1,679	1,449	11.42
	15 to 24	6,091	5,257	41.45
	25 to 34	3,830	3,305	26.06
	35 to 44	2,110	1,821	14.36
	45 to 54	713	615	4.85
	55 to 64	174	150	1.18
	Over 65	42	36	0.29
	Unknown age on load	57	49	0.39
Total dark skinned European		14,696	12,683	

Whole database at 30 September 2007 age on load

Ethnic appearance	*Age range*	*Number of profiles*	*Number of individuals using 13.7 per cent estimated replication rate*	*Percentage*
Oriental	Under 14	239	206	3.45
	15 to 24	2,554	2,206	36.88
	25 to 34	2,149	1,855	31.03
	35 to 44	1,260	1,087	18.20
	45 to 54	546	471	7.88
	55 to 64	136	117	1.96
	Over 65	30	26	0.43
	Unknown age on load	11	9	0.16
Total Oriental		6,925	5,976	
White skinned European	Under 14	90,528	78,126	12.27
	15 to 24	295,239	254,791	40.00
	25 to 34	155,015	133,778	21.00
	35 to 44	122,422	105,650	16.59
	45 to 54	51,484	44,437	6.98
	55 to 64	17,048	14,712	2.31
	Over 65	4,331	3,738	0.59
	Unknown age on load	2,016	1,740	0.27
Total white skinned European		738,083	636,966	

England and Wales at 30 September 2007 age on load

Ethnic appearance	*Age range*	*Number of profiles*	*Number of individuals using 13.7 per cent estimated replication rate*	*Percentage*
Male				
Unknown	Under 14	12,272	10,591	6.03
	15 to 24	72,419	62,498	35.60
	25 to 34	49,342	42,582	24.26
	35 to 44	35,330	30,490	17.37
	45 to 54	20,301	17,520	9.98
	55 to 64	9,501	8,199	4.67
	Over 65	3,802	3,281	1.87
	Unknown age on load	449	387	0.22
Total unknown	—	203,416	175,548	—
Afro-Caribbean	Under 14	18,128	15,644	6.62
	15 to 24	107,605	92,863	39.32
	25 to 34	73,406	63,349	26.82
	35 to 44	51,185	44,173	18.70
	45 to 54	13,802	11,911	5.04
	55 to 64	3,230	2,787	1.18
	Over 65	1,454	1,255	0.53
	Unknown age on load	4,873	4,205	1.78
Total Afro-Caribbean	—	273,683	236,188	—

England and Wales at 30 September 2007 age on load

Ethnic appearance	*Age range*	*Number of profiles*	*Number of individuals using 13.7 per cent estimated replication rate*	*Percentage*
Arab	Under 14	686	592	2.37
	15 to 24	10,781	9,304	37.19
	25 to 34	10,685	9,221	36.86
	35 to 44	4,526	3,906	15.61
	45 to 54	1,625	1,402	5.61
	55 to 64	366	316	1.26
	Over 65	90	78	0.31
	Unknown age on load	228	197	0.79
Total Arab		28,987	25,016	
Asian	Under 14	9,546	8,238	4.72
	15 to 24	89,901	77,585	44.47
	25 to 34	57,992	50,047	28.69
	35 to 44	26,422	22,802	13.07
	45 to 54	12,362	10,668	6.11
	55 to 64	3,316	2,862	1.64
	Over 65	1,192	1,029	0.59
	Unknown age on load	1,433	1,237	0.71
Total Asian		202,164	174,468	
Dark skinned European	Under 14	3,524	3,041	5.11
	15 to 24	26,310	22,706	38.15
	25 to 34	22,273	19,222	32.30
	35 to 44	11,402	9,840	16.53
	45 to 54	3,505	3,025	5.08
	55 to 64	904	780	1.31
	Over 65	207	179	0.30
	Unknown age on load	838	723	1.22
Total dark skinned European		68,963	59,515	
Oriental	Under 14	473	408	2.56
	15 to 24	6,596	5,692	35.68
	25 to 34	5,885	5,079	31.83
	35 to 44	3,618	3,122	19.57
	45 to 54	1,416	1,222	7.66
	55 to 64	329	284	1.78
	Over 65	84	72	0.45
	Unknown age on load	88	76	0.48
Total Oriental		18,489	15,956	
White skinned European	Under 14	210,072	181,292	7.62
	15 to 24	1,116,731	963,739	40.51
	25 to 34	621,712	536,537	22.55
	35 to 44	440,469	380,125	15.98
	45 to 54	211,395	182,434	7.67
	55 to 64	89,502	77,240	3.25
	Over 65	28,888	24,930	1.05

England and Wales at 30 September 2007 - age on load

Ethnic appearance	Age range	Number of profiles	Number of individuals using 15.7 per cent estimated replication rate	Percentage
	Unknown age on load	38,219	32,983	1.39
Total white skinned European		2,756,988	2,379,281	
Female				
Unknown	Under 14	5,271	4,549	9.08
	15 to 24	22,482	19,402	38.74
	25 to 34	13,103	11,308	22.58
	35 to 44	10,307	8,895	17.76
	45 to 54	4,759	4,107	8.20
	55 to 64	1,613	1,392	2.78
	Over 65	470	406	0.81
	Unknown age on load	22	19	0.04
Total unknown		58,027	50,077	
Afro-Caribbean	Under 14	7,079	6,109	10.92
	15 to 24	27,899	24,077	43.03
	25 to 34	16,469	14,213	25.40
	35 to 44	10,246	8,842	15.80
	45 to 54	2,442	2,107	3.77
	55 to 64	391	337	0.60
	Over 65	100	86	0.15
	Unknown age on load	209	180	0.32
Total Afro-Caribbean		64,835	55,953	
Arab	Under 14	127	110	4.82
	15 to 24	860	742	32.62
	25 to 34	762	658	28.91
	35 to 44	521	450	19.76
	45 to 54	252	217	9.56
	55 to 64	77	66	2.92
	Over 65	28	24	1.06
	Unknown age on load	9	8	0.34
Total Arab		2,636	2,275	
Asian	Under 14	1,867	1,611	6.90
	15 to 24	11,874	10,247	43.86
	25 to 34	7,372	6,362	27.23
	35 to 44	3,683	3,178	13.61
	45 to 54	1,649	1,423	6.09
	55 to 64	471	406	1.74
	Over 65	100	86	0.37
	Unknown age on load	53	46	0.20
Total Asian		27,063	23,361	
Dark skinned European	Under 14	1,676	1,446	11.48
	15 to 24	6,062	5,232	41.53
	25 to 34	3,797	3,277	26.01
	35 to 44	2,089	1,803	14.31
	45 to 54	704	608	4.82
	55 to 64	172	148	1.18
	Over 65	42	36	0.29
	Unknown age on load	56	48	0.38
Total dark skinned European		14,598	12,598	
Oriental	Under 14	238	205	3.46
	15 to 24	2,537	2,189	36.87
	25 to 34	2,137	1,844	31.06
	35 to 44	1,250	1,079	18.17
	45 to 54	544	469	7.91
	55 to 64	134	116	1.95
	Over 65	30	26	0.44
	Unknown age on load	11	9	0.16
Total Oriental		6,881	5,938	
White skinned European	Under 14	90,165	77,812	12.42
	15 to 24	290,224	250,463	39.98
	25 to 34	151,835	131,034	20.92
	35 to 44	120,229	103,758	16.56
	45 to 54	50,474	43,559	6.95
	55 to 64	16,678	14,393	2.30
	Over 65	4,250	3,668	0.59
	Unknown age on load	2,002	1,728	0.28
Total white skinned European		725,857	626,415	

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for how many and what proportion of the DNA samples from the National DNA database that have been used for research projects undertaken using data from the National DNA database the permission of the donor has been obtained; and if she will make a statement. [167966]

Meg Hillier: The Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) lays down that DNA samples and the profiles derived from them can only be used for the purposes of prevention and detection of crime, the investigation of an offence, the conduct of a prosecution or, since April 2005, for the purposes of identifying a deceased person. PACE does not require the permission of the person from whom the sample was taken for research to be carried out.

Requests for the release of profiles or samples must be approved by the National DNA Database Strategy Board. In the first instance requests are made to the Custodian of the NDNAD who provides the Board with details of the request together with their

observations on the merits of the request for the Board to consider. In accordance with the requirements of PACE, the Board does not approve any research unless it has clear operational benefit to the police.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many DNA samples from the National DNA database have been used for each research project undertaken using data from the National DNA database to date; and if she will make a statement. [167967]

Meg Hillier: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Humberside Police Authority

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the average waiting time was for a Criminal Records Bureau check in the Humberside police authority area in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement; [175046]

(2) what steps her Department is taking to improve the performance of the Criminal Records Bureau in the Humberside police authority area; and if she will make a statement; [175047]

(3) how many outstanding Criminal Records Bureau checks there were in the Humberside police authority area on 10 December 2007; and if she will make a statement; [175048]

(4) how many Criminal Records Bureau checks were conducted in the Humberside police authority area in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [175049]

Meg Hillier: Since the inception of the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) in 2002 Humberside police have carried out 272,465 checks as part of the Enhanced Disclosure process. On 10 December they had 7,119 checks outstanding and the following table shows the annual breakdown of checks completed.

Calendar year	*Completed checks*
2002	20,978
2003	37,253
2004	47,648
2005	55,238
2006	56,105
2007	55,243

As you can see there has been a marked increase in the number of applications sent to the force which almost doubled during the first year.

During November 2007 Humberside police completed their part of the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Enhanced Disclosure process in an average of 29.1 days.

However average figures do not give an accurate indication of performance, since any force's performance can be affected by a number of factors; the volume of cases sent to a force to process in any given month, the number of staff available to process the checks and the IT resources on hand to forces. With these variables, performance can fluctuate within individual forces from one month to the next.

The CRB has been supporting those forces that have encountered problems in meeting their targets by a range of measures including the provision of additional resources, monitoring performance, providing demand forecasting data and assistance in introducing new IT initiatives. Within Humberside police the following steps have been taken in conjunction with the CRB to improve performance:

Increased resources have been made available to the force to support them in recruiting extra staff and obtaining new accommodation.

Specialist training has been provided at the Disclosure Unit.

An improvement plan has been implemented which shows a reduction in the workload between January and March 2007 to improve turnaround times following the escalation of cases within the force to the assistant chief constable.

Discussions are currently underway regarding taking part in the Police Volume Management Project—this would enable the CRB to complete checks on behalf of Humberside via remote access to Humberside's local intelligence systems.

Humberside police are implementing a new IT system on 31 January 2008 which will improve their current functionality while searching their local intelligence systems.

Identity Cards

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the first identity cards are likely to be issued in the UK. [164800]

Meg Hillier: The Strategic Action Plan for the National Identity Scheme, published in December 2006, set out the Government's plans to provide more secure and reliable methods of proving identity, including the introduction of ID cards.

The plans are for the Border and Immigration Agency to begin issuing identity cards to foreign nationals from 2008 and for the Identity and Passport Service to begin issuing ID cards to British citizens from 2009.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the operational costs of the identity card and biometric passport scheme she estimates will be covered by fees charged for the cards and passports issued. [164855]

Meg Hillier: A detailed charging structure for the national identity scheme has yet to be determined and will need to be implemented through secondary legislation under section 35 of the Identity Cards Act 2006 that will require approval in both Houses of Parliament. However, it is expected that the running costs of the scheme will be recovered from fees just as they are now for passports.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate she has made of the cost of using *(a)* three separate databases for the identity card project and *(b)* creating a single database; [171877]

(2) what estimate has been made of the cost of including iris biometrics in passports and identity cards. [171878]

Meg Hillier: Providing any further breakdown of the estimated costs of the National Identity Scheme to that provided in the November cost report to Parliament would potentially jeopardise the ability of the Home Office to secure value for money from the recently commenced supplier dialogues for the procurement of services to operate the scheme.

I would refer the hon. Member to the latest cost report that may be found at:

http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity/publications-legislative.asp

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to what the annual volume of products issued in table 4 of the November 2007 identity cost report refers; and whether a joint identity card and passport is counted as one product. [171886]

Meg Hillier: The November 2007 Cost Report sets out a future estimate of passports, identity cards, and "combination products", where an applicant would be issued with both a passport and identity card through the same application.

I would refer the hon. Member to the latest cost report that may be found at:

http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity/publications-legislative.asp

To provide a further breakdown between each of these three application types, when taken together with other cost estimates already placed in the public domain, would jeopardise the current negotiations with prospective suppliers under the National Identity Scheme.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 678W, on identity cards: costs, why the estimate of passports issued in 2007-08 is different from the estimate listed in the last row of table 4 of the November 2007 identity card cost report. [171891]

Meg Hillier: The answer of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 678W, on identity cards costs stated the estimated number of passports to be issued in 2007-08 as reported in the last Identity and Passport Service Business Plan (March 2007) and estimated at the time of publication of that document.

The Cost Report laid before Parliament in November 2007 contained the latest estimate of all products to be issued for each of the 10 years covered by the report.

Identity Cards: Foreigners

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the likely effects of the introduction of mandatory identity cards for foreign nationals on access to services by foreign nationals; and if she will make a statement. [165932]

Mr. Byrne: A regulatory impact assessment was issued for the UK Borders Act 2007 (which contains the new biometric registration provisions) in May 2007. An equality impact assessment for the biometric registration provisions was also issued. Both can be downloaded from the Border and Immigration Agency's website.

The new identity cards for foreign nationals will make it easier for public service providers to confirm a person's eligibility to entitlements and for foreign nationals to access those services. This is because the new identity cards will replace the existing residence permits and other UK immigration status documents which can be subject to fraud. The new cards will be presented as a highly secure polycarbonate standalone card which will contain a tamperproof embedded chip. The face of the card will contain important biometric and biographical information—including the person's immigration status and entitlement to public funds in the UK.

Identity Documents

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been prosecuted for destroying their identity documents on arrival at a UK airport in each of the last five years. [175176]

Mr. Byrne: On 22 September 2004 section 2 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act came into force. Section 2 made failing to produce an immigration document, which satisfactorily establishes their nationality or identity, an offence. It does not differentiate between those who fail to produce an identity document or those who destroy an identity document on arrival.

From 22 September 2004 until 30 November 2007 Border Control Criminal Investigations Teams secured 1,222 convictions or cautions under section 2. Prior to this date the offence did not exist.

The data provided are based on locally collated management information, which may be subject to change and do not represent published national statistics.

Illegal Immigrants

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the likely effect of the most recent extension of the Schengen area on the number of people attempting to enter the UK illegally; and if she will make a statement. [174754]

Mr. Byrne: The UK is not part of the Schengen area and has retained full national border controls. UK border controls are robust and can adapt flexibly to new challenges posed.

Immigrants: Catering

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the numbers of skilled restaurant staff *(a)* China and *(b)* South Asian restaurants need to recruit annually to maintain their businesses; and if she will make a statement. [163800]

Mr. Byrne: The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) and the Migration Impact Forum (MIF) have been set up to help inform the development of immigration policy.

The Migration Advisory Committee will advise Government on where there are shortages in the economy which can sensibly be filled by migration. In particular it will produce shortage occupation lists for UK and Scotland for skilled employment. These lists comprise occupations where, in the MAC's view, there are shortages which can sensibly be filled by enabling employers to recruit migrants.

The Migration Impacts Forum will enable the Government to understand the wider impacts of migration on local areas and services.

Immigration Controls

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector organisations which are likely to apply for licences to sponsor migrants. [172957]

Mr. Byrne: No such break down has been estimated.

Immigration Officers

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which *(a)* airlines and *(b)* airport operators have offered the Border and Immigration Agency financial assistance to pay for extra immigration officers; and how many such offers have been accepted. [163773]

Mr. Byrne: The airport operator at Heathrow funds the staffing of Fast Track Immigration Controls. Fast Track offers travellers selected by participating airlines a discrete channel to the Immigration Control. The decision about who receives a fast track 'ticket' for this service is not an immigration one. Further discussions are ongoing at Luton, Stansted and Gatwick with a number of airlines and airport operators who have offered additional financial assistance for Primary Arrival Control services. However, due to the commercial nature of these discussions the details of the organisations cannot be disclosed.

Immigration: Olympic Games 2012

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps are being taken to ensure Olympic athletes do not stay in the UK illegally after the 2012 Games. [174914]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* Specific border security arrangements will be developed as part of the programme in order to manage the entry into and departure from the UK of Olympic athletes participating in the Games. All athletes competing in the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games must apply for Olympic accreditation in order to take part in the Games. The Border and Immigration Agency will work with the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games to issue Olympic Identity and Accreditation Cards to all entitled persons.

Marriage to Partners from Overseas

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the compatibility of the proposals in the consultation paper Marriage to Partners from Overseas with the European Convention on Human Rights. [174751]

Mr. Byrne: The consultation paper Marriage to Partners from Overseas was launched on 5 December 2007 and the consultation period runs until 27 February 2008. Following the consultation careful consideration will be given to the compatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights of the proposals taken forward.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on 1 November transferred from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (MP/Auth Ref: B33561/7). [175477]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 18 December 2007]:* The Border and Immigration Agency wrote to the hon. Member on 12 December 2007.

Metropolitan Police: Impounded Vehicles

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vehicles in the Metropolitan Police area were impounded following reference to the motor insurance database in each of the last two years; and if she will make a statement. [175372]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not collected centrally. I understand from the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis that in 2006 an estimated 10,000 and in 2007 an estimated 13,000 vehicles were seized.

Metropolitan Police: Motor Insurance Database

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times the Metropolitan Police accessed the motor insurance database in each of the last two years; and if she will make a statement. [175361]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not collected centrally. I understand from the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis that over the two years 2006 and 2007 the data base has been accessed about 60,000 times.

Migration Impacts Forum

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which groups, public bodies and organisations have submitted reports to the Migration Impacts Forum. [169693]

Jacqui Smith: The purpose of the Migration Impacts Forum (MIF) is to provide a forum for regular and organised dialogue with frontline professionals outside central Government, focused on the wider impacts

associated with migration experienced by local areas. Membership of the MIF includes representatives from local authorities, voluntary and public sectors, the CBI and the TUC.

In preparing thematic presentations for MIF meetings, lead MIF members may choose to consult a range of local and national stakeholders and use a number of publications.

Papers presented at the MIF meetings can be found on the Border and Immigration Agency website.

Mr. Chanceless Takaruva

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the residency status is of Mr. Chanceless Takaruva of Skelmersdale and his family (Home Office ref: T1095080). [174530]

Mr. Byrne: It would not be appropriate for me to comment on an individual case in the House. I wrote to my hon. Friend on 18 December 2007.

National DNA Database

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people with entries in the National DNA Database are resident in Wirral West constituency. [173623]

Meg Hillier: Information held on the NDNAD is available on a police force area basis but not a constituency basis. As at 6 December 2007, there were an estimated 107,208 individuals with a DNA profile on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) taken by Merseyside police. This figure is for people who had a DNA sample taken by Merseyside police, so in addition to residents of Merseyside, it includes people resident in other areas who had a DNA sample taken by that force, and excludes people resident in Merseyside who have had a sample taken by another force.

National Identity Register

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when the Government expects to publish an updated implementation timetable for the National Identity Scheme; [166089]

(2) whether she expects the target to roll-out identity cards to British citizens by the end of 2009 to be met. [166091]

Jacqui Smith: The Government remain committed to the introduction of a National Identity Scheme.

The National Identity Scheme Strategic Action Plan was published in December 2006 outlining plans to begin issuing identity cards to foreign nationals from 2008 and to British citizens from 2009.

A copy of the National Identity Scheme Strategic Action Plan can be found at:

http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity/downloads/strategic_action_plan.pdf

An updated timetable for the implementation of the National Identity Scheme will be reported to Parliament and published in due course.

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many judicial recommendations for deportation of convicted criminals were *(a)* made and *(b)* carried out in each of the last two years. [166081]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested could be obtained only by a detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

On 20 November the chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency wrote to the Home Affairs Committee to provide the most recent information available on the deportation of foreign national prisoners. In this letter she advised that, for the calendar year 2007 and up to the first week of November, approximately 3,500 foreign national prisoners were deported or removed. A copy of this letter is available from the Library of the House.

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government has taken to reduce the number of dangerous weapons on the streets since 1997. [175259]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 18 December 2007]:* We have taken a range of legislative and preventative action to reduce the availability of guns, knives and other dangerous weapons since 1997.

In 1997, following the Dunblane tragedy, we introduced a ban on handguns.

In 2003, a national firearms amnesty resulted in nearly 45,000 firearms and over 1 million rounds of ammunition being handed in. In 2006, a national knives amnesty resulted in nearly 90,000 knives being handed in. Although we have never claimed that amnesties alone will solve the problem, they are one facet in a range of tactics which include tough enforcement, prevention and education work. We are currently exploring the possibility of a hand-in system for weapons which would fall short of an amnesty but still provide a conduit for people to remove weapons from circulation.

The Criminal Justice Act 2003 introduced a mandatory minimum sentence for possession of a prohibited firearm of three years' detention for 16 to 17-year-olds and five years' imprisonment for people aged 18 and over.

The Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003:

introduced a ban on self-contained gas cartridge guns;

raised the age limit for having an air weapon; and

made it an offence to have an air weapon or an imitation firearm in a public place without a reasonable excuse.

Subsequently, the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006:

raised the minimum age at which a person can buy a knife from 16 to 18;

doubled the maximum sentence for possession of a knife in a public place without good reason from two to four years;

introduced a new offence of using someone to mind a weapon—where someone hands their weapon to another person to look after, they will no longer be able to escape prosecution for possession (and where a child is used, this will constitute an aggravating factor in determining sentencing);

banned the sale, manufacture and importation of realistic imitation firearms;

introduced tougher sentences for carrying imitation firearms (increased from a maximum of six months' imprisonment to 12 months);

further raised the age limit for having an air weapon (to 18);

required that air weapons only be sold by registered firearms dealers; and

introduced powers for school staff to search pupils for weapons (although schools can still call the police if preferred).

On 12 December 2007, we announced that, following a public consultation, we intend to ban the sale, import and hire of samurai swords.

In September 2007, the Tackling Gangs Action Programme (TGAP) was established, to focus targeted action in neighbourhoods of London, Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool where gun crime and gangs are a particular problem. The Association of Chief Police Officers, Serious Organised Crime Agency and HM Revenue and Customs are fully engaged in this work. On 28 November, an action day focusing on firearms was held in the four TGAP cities, which resulted in 124 arrests.

Ongoing work also includes support for prevention and education work through a variety of educational packages and other projects such as the Urban Concepts 'Don't Trigger' anti-gun crime campaign.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government are taking to ensure young people are unable to purchase knives. [175260]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 18 December 2007]:* Section 43 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 amends section 141A of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, making it an offence to sell a knife to a person under the age of 18 years—up from 16 years. This came into force on 1 October 2007.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many knives have been recovered in knife amnesty initiatives in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* each police force area in each of the last five years. [176113]

Mr. Coaker: A national knife amnesty was held from 24 May to 30 June 2006, resulting in the surrender of 89,964 items in England and Wales. A table showing the breakdown of items recovered by force area is as follows.

Figures for local weapon amnesties are not held centrally.

Knife amnesty—total items surrendered 24 May-30 June 2006

Force	Domestic	Non Dom	Weapons	Of interest	Total
Avon and Somerset	1,510	634	129	69	2,342
Bedfordshire	503	172	45	42	762
Cambridgeshire	982	188	465	0	1,635
Cheshire	1,241	457	287	55	2,040
City of London	38	0	4	18	60
Cleveland	729	224	159	41	1,153
Cumbria	1,082	146	46	27	1,301
Derbyshire	2,257	91	623	24	2,995
Dorset	1,029	275	186	8	1,498
Durham	593	326	124	19	1,062
Dyfed Powys	470	188	121	14	793
Devon Cornwall	2,626	601	375	150	3,752
Essex	1,517	446	209	51	2,223
Gloucestershire	702	309	50	0	1,061
GMP	1,172	403	276	14	1,865
Gwent	1,263	419	187	67	1,936
Hampshire	3,209	841	529	57	4,636
Herts	1,659	493	20	22	2,194
Humberside	877	152	261	23	1,313
Kent	2,603	704	421	0	3,807
Lancashire	948	389	187	1	1,525
Leicestershire	950	158	62	0	1,170
Lincs	731	422	260	35	1,448
Merseyside	1,142	630	33	0	1,888
Met	0	0	0	0	9,145
Norfolk [1]	[383]	[104]	[13]	[5]	1,723
North Wales	1,152	392	177	10	1,731
North Yorkshire	940	285	346	53	1,624
Northants	1,312	174	140	0	1,626
Northumbria	1,576	667	306	57	2,606
Nottinghamshire	1,086	419	127	17	1,649
South Wales	1,351	505	143	23	2,022
South Yorks	1,143	68	379	42	1,631
Staffordshire	1,200	524	222	64	2,010
Suffolk	975	298	171	0	1,444
Surrey	959	252	89	11	1,311
Sussex	2,479	936	253	89	3,757
Thames Valley	2,475	1,235	620	0	4,330
Warwickshire	494	179	147	36	856
West Mercia	1,523	440	164	0	2,127
West Midlands	1,979	298	510	451	3,238
West Yorkshire	851	332	175	17	1,375
Wiltshire	894	177	120	9	1,200
Totals [2]	52,222	16,595	9,148	1,658	89,864

[1] Breakdown figures for Norfolk relate to items surrendered in first week only.
[2] Breakdown figures do not equal final total due to (1).
Note:
MPS has supplied a total only figure.

Passports

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which countries do not issue passports that are capable of being read by electronic or automated passport readers; what estimate her Department has made of the number of countries likely to be issuing such passports when the e-border system becomes operational; and if she will make a statement. [163141]

Meg Hillier: There are a small number of states still issuing passports that are not machine readable. The e-Borders programme has ensured that its solution is

capable of processing such documents at both check-in and the immigration control.

In addition, from 2008, all visa applicants will be required to provide a 10-finger fingerprint scan and a digital photograph, as part of the application process when applying for a UK visa. Fingerprints and facial images are now in use in 125 countries and the global roll-out will be completed by, or before, March 2008. Nationals from approximately three-quarters of the countries identified as listed require a visa to travel to the UK. We are currently applying a Visa Waiver Test to all non-EEA countries by the end of 2007, with changes to the UK's visa regimes taking place over 2008-09. The Visa Waiver Test uses a range of criteria including the assessment of the level of security and integrity of each individual countries passport.

Furthermore, from 2008 onwards the UK will also start to introduce immigration documents for foreign nationals resident in the UK which will include fingerprints. Together, these measures will ensure that we can fix the identity of foreign nationals and thus check their entitlement to be in the UK.

Countries that do not currently have machine readable passports

Afghanistan
Algeria
Bahamas
Bangladesh
Bolivia
Botswana
Chad
Colombia
Congo
Cook Islands
Cote d'Ivoire
Democratic Republic of Congo
East Timor
Egypt
El Salvador
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Gabon
Ghana
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Guyana
Kiribati
North Korea
Libya
Madagascar
Marshall Islands
Mauritania
Federated States of Micronesia
Morocco
Mozambique
Nauru
Nepal
Philippines
Sao Tome
Serbia
Solomon Islands
Somalia
Sudan
Turkey
Vanuatu
Montenegro
Laos
Turkmenistan.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reason was for the reduction in the forecast of future passport volumes in the November 2007 identity cards cost report; and for what reasons her Department expects customers to delay passport renewals. [171888]

Meg Hillier: The future prediction of passport demand is updated periodically by the Identity and Passport Service to reflect actual numbers of applicants. The November 2007 Cost Report included the most recent prediction of future passport volumes. This prediction had recently been updated to reflect lower than anticipated passport renewals. There could be a number of reasons for passport renewals being increasingly delayed by customers:

Other identity documents have been improved. In particular the introduction of the photo driving licence has been introduced in the last 10 years. This would be an alternative option for those who hold a passport for proof of identity reasons;

Last minute behaviour. To a certain extent, the travel industry encourages 'last minute' behaviour and it is reasonable to believe that customers also apply this behaviour to how they apply for passports. This behaviour has also been enabled by IPS Fast Track services which have improved to meet this demand since these were first introduced in 1996;

Changes in travel trends. Official statistics confirm that passenger journeys continue to increase, but whether this is the same number of people travelling more frequently is unclear. Hence the overall total demand for passports is difficult to predict with accuracy.

The latest Cost Report may be found at:

http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity/publications-legislative.asp

I would refer the hon. Member to that report.

Passports: Applications

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many interview centres for new passport applicants are operational. [171049]

Meg Hillier: As at 5 December 2007 36 Interview Offices dealing with first time passport customers are in live operations. We anticipate that 62 offices will be fully operational by end December 2007 with a further six opening by end February 2008.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on acquiring premises for passport application interview centres. [171050]

Meg Hillier: The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) contracted Mapeley Abl Provider Limited to acquire, fit out and service manage the interview office estate capability. Following a competitive tender a contract award notice (OJEC Ref 06/5 74-77058/EN) was published on 13 April 2006 which gave a total contract

value of £71.86 million (ex VAT). To the end of November 2007 IPS incurred costs of £35.33 million (ex VAT) against this contract and total life costs for the contract are not expected to exceed the published total. An additional £1.24 million (ex VAT) has been incurred by IPS on professional services in respect of design, assurance and legal advice in delivery of the estate.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff have been recruited to work in passport interview centres. [171053]

Meg Hillier: As at 5 December 2007, 465 staff have been recruited to work in Interview Offices. We anticipate that we will reach the full complement of about 600 staff by February 2008.

Passports: Fraud

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many forged UK passports, including biometrics, have been detected and cancelled since November 2006. [169566]

Meg Hillier: Since November 2006 the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) has recorded the receipt of 1,172 passports which have been tampered with or in some way forged. All 1,172 passports have been cancelled. Over the same period the Borders and Immigration Agency (BIA) has detected 384 fraudulently used UK passports. The records collated by IPS and BIA do not distinguish between biometric and earlier types of passport.

Police

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of service is of serving police officers in England. [174718]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested cannot be calculated from the centrally collected data within the police personnel statistics series. Length of service data are collected in the following time bands only for police officers: less than six months, six months to one year, one to two years, two to three years, three to four years, four to five years, five to 10 years, 10 to 15 years, 15 to 20 years, 20 to 25 years, 25 to 26 years, 26 to 27 years, 27 to 28 years, 28 to 29 years, 29 to 30 years, 30 to 31 years, 31 to 32 years, 32 to 33 years, 33 to 34 years, 34 to 35 years, and 35 years and over.

The length of service categories with the largest numbers of police officers have been given. There were approximately 25,000 full-time equivalent police officers in the 43 police forces of England and Wales with between five and 10 years service, approximately 21,000 with 15 to 20 years service and approximately 20,000 with 10 to 15 years service as at 31 March 2007.

Police: Cumbria

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many serving police officers there were in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency in each of the last 10 years. [175386]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 18 December 2007]:* Figures for Cumbria appear in the following table. Figures for Westmorland and Lonsdale are not collected centrally, as local area police personnel figures are collected at Basic Command Unit rather than constituency level.

Number of police officers in Cumbria: 1997-2007

	Police officers[1]
As at 31 March:	
1997	1,144
1998	1,164
1999	1,126
2000	1,084
2001	1,048
2002	1,100
2003	1,140
2004	1,222
2005	1,232
2006	1,230
2007	1,244

[1] All figures are full time equivalents (FTE) rounded to the nearest whole number. They exclude officers on maternity/paternity leave and career breaks.

Police: Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the likely effect of an influenza pandemic on the operational capacity of the police service. [175142]

Mr. McNulty: The National Policing Improvement Agency is working with the Department of Health to ensure that the appropriate guidance on pandemic flu is available to all police forces. It advises all police staff, and their families, about how they can protect themselves against the disease and prevent the spread of the infection.

The Government have not made an assessment of the operational capacity of the Police Service should a serious outbreak of pandemic flu occur as this would be a matter for individual Chief Constables.

Police: Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* departmental circulars and *(c)* other documents she (i) has issued and (ii) plans to issue in the next 12 months consequential to the provisions of police legislation passed since 1996. [174045]

Mr. McNulty: In the next 12 months I intend to lay before Parliament a number of statutory instruments regarding the Police and Justice Act 2006. In early 2008 I intend to lay four sets of regulations regarding the membership, functions and planning obligations of police authorities and in spring and autumn I intend to lay orders commencing various uncommenced provisions of that Act.

Since 1996 the Government have enacted 12 pieces of police legislation which have effect in England and Wales, and several Statutory Instruments consequential to these. 65 Home Office circulars have been issued in

regard to these acts. In relation to other documents consequential to these acts, these details are not kept centrally.

A document has been prepared with a full list of these statutory instruments and Home Office circulars, and will be placed in the Library of the House.

Police: Manpower

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers worked in each London borough in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* ethnicity, *(b)* age and *(c)* sex. [167415]

Mr. McNulty: These breakdowns are not collected centrally at London borough level.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many police community support officers were employed in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since they were introduced; [174756]

(2) how many *(a)* police sergeants, *(b)* special constables and *(c)* traffic police officers were employed in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) England in each year since 1997; [174750]

(3) how many police officers were employed in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [175050]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is given in the following tables. Statistics for Jarrow constituency are not available centrally and figures for South Tyneside relate to the South Tyneside basic command unit.

Number of police officers and staff in South Tyneside, North-East region and England: 1997 to 2007

Table A: South Tyneside basic command unit (BCU)

	Police officers (FTE)[1]	Police sergeants (FTE)	Special constables (HC)	Traffic police officers (FTE)	Police community support officers (FTE)[1, 2]
31 March 2005	346	—	26	—	—
30 June 2005	—	—	—	—	13
31 March 2006	352	—	25	—	—
30 June 2006	—	—	—	—	12
31 March 2007	362	—	23	—	25

Table B: North East Region

	Police officers (FTE)[1, 3]	Police sergeants (FTE)[1,3]	Special constables (HC)[4]	Traffic police officers (FTE)[1, 5]	Police community support officers (FTE)[1]
31 March 1997	6,597	952	877	—	—
31 March 1998	6,767	966	708	—	—
31 March 1999	6,824	955	627	—	—
31 March 2000	6,750	942	617	—	—
31 March 2001	6,859	937	539	—	—
31 March 2002	7,004	959	475	—	—
31 March 2003	7,272	990	417	—	47
31 March 2004	7,459	1,004	335	—	156
31 March 2005	7,515	1,045	397	275	270
31 March 2006	7,485	1,084	445	333	296
31 March 2007	7,425	1,097	487	344	504

Table C: England

	Police officers (FTE)[1, 6]	Police sergeants (FTE)[1, 3]	Special constables (HC)[4]	Traffic police officers (FTE)[1, 5]	Police community support officers (FTE)[1]
31 March 1997	118,459	17,743	18,732	—	—
31 March 1998	118,184	17,585	17,159	—	—
31 March 1999	117,196	17,715	15,396	—	—
31 March 2000	115,323	17,438	13,512	—	—
31 March 2001	116,440	17,489	11,949	—	—
31 March 2002	120,074	17,518	10,897	—	—
31 March 2003	124,158	17,664	10,449	—	1,146
31 March 2004	129,691	17,868	10,359	—	3,309
31 March 2005	131,950	19,220	11,285	6,548	5,946

Table C: England

	Police officers (FTE)[1, 6]	*Police sergeants (FTE)*[1, 3]	*Special constables (HC)*[4]	*Traffic police officers (FTE)*[1, 5]	*Police community support officers (FTE)*[1]
31 March 2006	132,104	19,946	12,431	5,942	6,498
31 March 2007	132,474	20,736	13,221	5,832	12,856

'—' Figures not collected centrally.
[1] Full-time equivalents, rounded to the nearest whole number.
[2] Figures for PCSOs at ECU level for 30 June 2005 and 30 June 2006 were obtained via an ad hoc collection, and are not necessarily consistent with those for 30 March 2007.
[3] Excludes officers on career breaks and maternity/paternity leave prior to 2003 only.
[4] Head count figures (FTE figures not appropriate for special constables).
[5] Number of officers with the predominant function 'traffic' over the previous 12 months.
[6] Excludes officers on career breaks and maternity/paternity leave over whole period.

Police: Retirement

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average age of retirement was for police officers in England retiring in the last 12 months; and what average pension is being paid to those officers. [174719]

Mr. McNulty: An average retirement age cannot be separately identified from the available data. The available data are the age on leaving the service within the following time bands only: 25 and under, 26 to 40, 41 to 55 and over 55. Information about the average pension being paid to officers retiring in a particular year is not held centrally. The size of an officer's annual pension depends largely on his or her pensionable pay, and length of pensionable service. Under the Police Pension Scheme 1987, a lump sum is not paid out automatically but only where the officer chooses to convert (commute) part of his or her pension into a lump sum. The size of a lump sum therefore depends on the officer's annual pension, the proportion of pension that the officer chooses to commute, and the commutation factor to be applied to the surrendered portion of pension in order to convert it into a lump sum. A typical officer, retiring after 30 years' service on a final pensionable pay of £34,080 (the 2006-07 pensionable maximum for an officer of constable rank outside London), would be entitled to a pension of £17,040 per annum and a lump sum of £85,200, based on the officer commuting the maximum possible proportion of his or her pension, and using the most substantial factor. Based on the available data, the indications are that the average pre-commutation pension would be in the region of £21,500.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were *(a)* offered early retirement schemes and *(b)* accepted early retirement schemes in each of the last 10 years. [175057]

Mr. McNulty: A police officer who is a member of the Police Pension Scheme 1987 is entitled to retire with an ordinary pension after 25 years' service, payable from the age of 50. An officer who is a member of the 1987 scheme can also retire with a full and immediate pension at any age once he or she has accrued 30 years' service. The earliest age from which this would normally be possible is 48½, given the minimum entry age of 18½ for the police service. Unless an officer becomes permanently disabled for police duty, and is required to retire on ill health grounds, there is no specific early retirement scheme. In order to qualify for an ordinary pension, officers must in all cases, however, provide the police authority with one month's notice of their intention to retire, or three months in the case of chief officer ranks, although it is at the discretion of the police authority to accept a shorter notice period. As it is a matter for local discretion, there are no centrally held data on its frequency of use.

Project Semaphore

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which carriers provide both travel document information and passenger name record data under Project Semaphore. [174753]

Mr. Byrne: A number of carriers do provide both travel document information and other passenger information under Project Semaphore. The use of that data is operationally sensitive and it would not be appropriate for those details to be released.

Prosecutions: Driving Under the Influence

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many motorists were *(a)* stopped on suspicion of drink-driving and *(b)* prosecuted for drink-driving on UK roads last year. [175043]

Mr. Coaker: Information relating to Northern Ireland and Scotland is the responsibility respectively of the Northern Ireland Office and the Scottish Government.

Information on stops for suspected drink driving in England and Wales is not collected centrally. Available information relates to the number of screening breath tests and the number of prosecutions for driving after consuming alcohol or taking drug. In 2005, the latest period for which figures are available, there were 607,400 screening breath tests and 103,482 prosecutions. Data for 2006 will be available next year.

Public Order Act 1986

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prosecutions have been made and *(b)* convictions obtained for offences under sections 21 and 22 of the Public Order Act 1986 in the last three years for which figures are available. [174427]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is provided in the following table.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under sections 21 and 22 of the Public Order Act 1986[1, 2], England and Wales[1, 2, 3]

	Distributing, showing or playing a recording intended or likely to stir up racial hatred. (Public Order Act 1986 S.21)		*Broadcasting or including a programme in programme service intended or likely to stir up racial hatred. (Public Order Act 1986 S.22)*	
	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
2004	—	—	—	1
2005	—	1	2	1
2006	—	—	—	2

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The found guilty column may exceed those proceeded against as a defendant can be found guilty in a different year, or for a different offence to the one for which proceedings are originally brought.

Source:

Court Proceedings Database, Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice.

Sexual Offences

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many registered *(a)* sex offenders and *(b)* paedophiles were resident in each police authority area in each of the last five years. [176106]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Data on registered sexual offenders is published in local multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) Annual Reports which are available in the House Libraries and on the internet at:

www.probation.justice.gov.uk

These reports record that the number of registered sexual offenders in each police force area in England and Wales over the last five years is as follows:

Area	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Avon and Somerset	525	671	674	787	809
Bedfordshire	220	270	335	394	323
Cambridgeshire	282	322	353	387	407
Cheshire	390	429	474	537	577
County Durham	240	265	306	327	348
Cumbria	208	231	253	260	280
Derbyshire	459	479	554	628	609
Devon and Cornwall	637	725	808	879	920
Dorset	273	333	352	379	415
Dyfed-Powys	199	232	275	308	299
Essex	440	542	680	802	735
Gloucestershire	196	231	284	311	311
Greater Manchester	1,278	1,388	1,800	1,643	1,722
Gwent	278	319	365	391	406
Hampshire	849	999	1,035	1,118	1,190
Hertfordshire	225	280	328	428	400
Humberside	544	584	645	715	653
Kent	730	780	954	941	983
Lancashire	637	726	980	941	998
Leicestershire	413	484	508	543	534
Lincolnshire	250	328	380	401	414
London	2,085	2,272	2,657	3,113	3,151
Merseyside	657	791	941	970	975
Norfolk	416	484	547	637	546
North Wales	348	308	389	395	405
North Yorkshire	234	283	315	338	359
Northamptonshire	200	246	310	344	355
Northumbria	632	750	851	898	870
Nottinghamshire	607	651	708	712	747
South Wales	545	606	765	680	695
South Yorkshire	577	682	911	791	830
Staffordshire	365	458	538	627	676
Suffolk	279	309	368	393	413
Surrey	277	371	371	390	426
Sussex	553	581	752	804	789
Teesside	303	339	393	354	357
Thames Valley	563	763	822	936	982
Warwickshire	183	183	231	232	259
West Mercia	524	565	689	635	655
West Midlands	1,312	1,647	2,158	1,925	1,850
West Yorkshire	1,227	1,431	1,669	1,373	1,387
Wiltshire	255	234	266	316	356
Total	21,415	24,572	28,994	29,983	30,416

Data on the number of paedophiles are not collected as the term "paedophile" is not used in the criminal law. Instead, the law sets out various requirements, including registration, for those who are convicted or cautioned for a wide range of sexual offences. Some offences are defined by the age of the victim but for other offences the age of the victim is immaterial. The data in the annual reports include all registered sexual offenders.

Speed Cameras

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment has been made of the accuracy and consistency of the LTI 20-20 speed camera system. [174577]

Mr. Coaker: Under the provisions of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988 certain traffic law enforcement devices require type approval by the Secretary of State before evidence from them is admissible in court. Type approval is granted only to devices that comply with the specification laid down by the HO Scientific Development Branch (HOSDB) and successfully complete both field and scientific testing. The type approval process provides a public reassurance that a device is accurate, consistent and reliable. Three variants of the LTI 20.20 system were type approved in the 1990s. We are satisfied that the device merits its type approval and have seen no reason to conduct further assessments.

Speed Enforcement Operations

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's requirements are for the visibility and conspicuousness of speed enforcement operations; whether all police forces are subject to such rules; and if she will make a statement. [174660]

Mr. Coaker: Speed limit enforcement is an operational matter for individual chief officers of police. The law requires only that the speed limits should be correctly signed in accordance with the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002 as amended.

The Department for Transport as the lead Department for road safety issued on 31 January 2007 new guidance for local authorities, police and other local partners on the deployment of speed and red light cameras. A copy of this has been placed in the Library and is also available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/speedmanagement/pdfdftcirc0107

This guidance sets out the Government's intention of high visibility speed enforcement and encourages the use of visibility and conspicuity rules which have been shown to reduce speeds and casualties at camera sites. It does not, however, restrict or fetter the discretion which the police have always had to enforce covertly anywhere at any time.

Stop and Search

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many stop and account forms have been issued since their introduction in each police force area. [172870]

Mr. McNulty: From 1 April 2005, police officers exercising stop and account powers in accordance with paragraphs 4.11—4.20 of the PACE Code of Practice on exercise by police officers of statutory powers of stop and search (Code A) have been required to maintain a record of each encounter. Issues relating to the quality and completeness of the 2005-06 figures mean they remain subject to further work before they can be published.

Stowaways

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were seized as stowaways in trucks in each of the last 10 years. [163094]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* Only figures for 2001-06 are available. Illegal entry action is initiated against those people who are detected having entered or attempted to enter the country clandestinely. The following figures include those illegal entrants detected at ports of entry only.

	Total
2001	3,799
2002	5,666
2003	3,127
2004	4,284
2005	5,876
2006	7,552

Note
The data provided are based on locally collated management information, which may be subject to change and does not represent published national statistics.

The above figures represent those arriving within heavy goods vehicles at ports in the United Kingdom. Additionally, they include clandestines detected in France during 2001-03 in Coquelles and from 2004 in Calais, Coquelles and Dunkerque.

Terrorism

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what criteria she uses to decide whether national or regional liberation movements should be proscribed organisations under terrorism legislation; [174585]

(2) for what reasons the Baluchistan National Liberation Army was proscribed as a terrorist organisation; and if she will make a statement. [174586]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* The grounds for proscription as a terrorist organisation are set out in section 3 of the Terrorism Act 2000. They are that the Secretary of State believes the organisation to be concerned in terrorism. An organisation is considered to be concerned in terrorism if it:

(a) commits or participates in acts of terrorism,

(b) prepares for terrorism,

(c) promotes or encourages terrorism, or

(d) is otherwise concerned in terrorism.

If an organisation meets the criteria for proscription, the Secretary of State then has a discretion as to whether or not to proscribe. In exercising that discretion successive Secretaries of State have had regard to five factors in particular. They are:

1. The nature and scale of an organisation's activities
2. The specific threat that it poses to the United Kingdom
3. The specific threat that it poses to British nationals overseas
4. The extent of the organisation's presence in the United Kingdom
5. The need to support other members of the international community in the global fight against terrorism.

The Baluchistan Liberation Army was proscribed in 2006 because it met the criteria for proscription. In this regard I would refer the hon. Member to the Explanatory Memorandum to the Terrorism Act 2000 (Proscribed Organisations) (Amendment) Order 2006.

Terrorism: Olympic Games 2012

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the potential terrorist threat to the Olympic Games. [174851]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* All threats to the Olympics Games, including the potential terrorist threat, are kept under regular review.

Violence Against the Person

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the relationship between *(a)* recorded and *(b)* estimated actual levels of (i) violence against the person, (ii) rape, (iii) personal robbery, (iv) commercial robbery, (v) residential burglary, (vi) non-residential burglary, (vii) gun-related crime, (viii) motor vehicle crime, (ix) domestic crime and (x) racial crime in the most recent period for which figures are available. [171930]

Mr. Coaker: The precise information requested is not available. Estimates based on crimes covered by the British Crime Survey (BCS) and experienced by households, and adults living in such households, in England and Wales are routinely reported in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin Crime in England and Wales. The latest breakdown for the main offences covered by the BCS can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1107.pdf.

Latest estimates for commercial victims were reported in the Home Office report Crime against retail and manufacturing premises: findings from the 2002 Commercial Victimisation Survey and can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/rdsolr3705.pdf.

Visas

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the UK's implementation of the provisions of EU Directive 2004/38/EC, with particular reference to the charging of fees to those applying for spousal visas from outside the EU by UK Visas; and if she will make a statement. [174635]

Mr. Byrne: The UK has fully and correctly implemented EU Directive 2004/38/EC This directive sets out the rights of movement for EEA nationals and their family members around the EU. Applications for visas to enter and documentation confirming status in the UK are currently not chargeable cases as the directive prohibits a charge being levied where no charge is placed on our own nationals for a similar document. All other applications for entry clearance or leave to remain on the basis of marriage or a subsisting relationship must be accompanied by the appropriate fee.

TREASURY

Alcoholic Drinks: Death

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths from an alcohol-related underlying cause took place in *(a)* each nation of the UK, *(b)* each region of England and *(c)* Darlington in each of the last 10 years. [175157]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths from an alcohol-related cause took place in *(a)* each country of the UK, *(b)* each region of England and *(c)* Darlington in each of the last 10 years. (175157)

The table attached provides the number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause in *(a)* each country of the United Kingdom, *(b)* each government office region in England, and *(c)* Darlington unitary authority, from 1997 to 2006 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause of death[1], constituent countries of the United Kingdom, Government office regions in England, and Darlington unitary authority[2], 1997 to 2006[1]

Deaths (persons)

Area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
England	4,437	4,762	4,935	5,044	5,476	5,582	5,981	6,036	6,191	6,517
Wales	294	288	319	339	385	363	414	416	407	430
Scotland	1,061	1,127	1,249	1,292	1,398	1,487	1,525	1,478	1,513	1,546
Northern Ireland	152	158	174	190	206	238	208	255	246	248
Government office region										
North East	323	331	307	326	337	337	387	426	402	435
North West	860	878	922	931	1,040	1,054	1,105	1,166	1,173	1,209
Yorkshire and The Humber	405	431	446	419	489	475	573	615	643	679
East Midlands	322	307	394	410	408	434	482	482	506	505
West Midlands	497	583	578	588	655	697	737	743	776	801
East of England	319	404	390	426	441	456	484	485	492	556
London	732	773	806	794	787	832	826	758	744	824
South East	607	646	664	700	824	808	870	832	874	921
South West	372	409	428	450	495	489	517	529	581	587
Darlington UA	13	11	13	7	15	16	9	19	13	17

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for the years 1997 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) for 2001 onwards, for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and ICD-9 for the years 1997 to 1999 and ICD-10 for the years 2000 to 2006 for Scotland. The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes, are shown in the following tables.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2007.
[3] All figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year, in line with current guidance on disclosure of small area statistics.

Table 2: Alcohol-related causes of death—International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9)

Cause of death	*ICD-9 code(s)*
Alcoholic psychoses	291
Alcohol dependence syndrome	303
Non-dependent abuse of alcohol	305.0
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	425.5
Alcoholic fatty liver	571.0
Acute alcoholic hepatitis	571.1
Alcoholic cirrhosis of liver	571.2
Alcoholic liver damage, unspecified	571.3
Chronic hepatitis	571.4
Cirrhosis of liver without mention of alcohol	571.5
Other chronic non-alcoholic liver disease	571.8
Unspecified chronic liver disease without mention of alcohol	571.9
Accidental poisoning by alcohol	E860

Table 2: Alcohol-related causes of death—International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	*ICD-10 code(s)*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	F10
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	G31.2
Alcoholic polyneuropathy	G62.1
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	I42.6
Alcoholic gastritis	K29.2
Alcoholic liver disease	K70
Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified	K73
Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excluding Biliary cirrhosis)	K74 (excluding K74.3 to K74.5)
Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis	K86.0
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X45
Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X65
Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent	Y15

Capital Gains Tax

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he made of the effect of proposed changes to capital gains tax on gross revenue raised by the tax when developing the proposals; and if he will make a statement. [175736]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates of the revenue effect to the Exchequer of proposed changes to capital gains tax are published in Table B4 of the 2007 pre-Budget report.

Car Allowances

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much his Department has spent on the review of approved mileage allowance payments to date; which non-governmental individuals and organisations the review team has met since the 2007 Pre-Budget Report was published; what liaison there has been between the review team and *(a)* the Department for Transport and *(b)* the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on this; and what discussions there have been between his Department and trades union representatives on the use of private cars for work purposes by public sector employees as part of the review; [174815]

(2) what account he plans to take of the levels of carbon dioxide emissions from vehicles when next amending the approved mileage allowance payments scheme; [174816]

(3) what the reasons were for the extension of the approved mileage allowance payments review; and whether the conclusions of the review will be included in the Budget Report 2008; [175161]

(4) what effect the increases in advisory fuel rates agreed by HM Revenue and Customs on 29 November 2007 will have on his Department's review of approved mileage allowance payments; [175162]

(5) whether his Department has conducted further research into the average mileage driven for work purposes since the 2007 Pre-Budget Report; [175163]

(6) whether the approved mileage allowance payments review will take into account the effect of rising fuel costs on workers who have to use their own cars for work purposes; [175164]

(7) what account has been taken of the needs of those who live in rural areas and have to use their car for work purposes in the approved mileage allowance payments review; [175165]

(8) whether he plans to use the approved mileage allowance payments review to incentivise the purchase of newer vehicles by employers; and what effect the review will have on the access of employees to a provided vehicle, with particular reference to those working in the care sector. [175212]

Angela Eagle: AMAPs cater for a wide range of car drivers and the rates are designed to take into account all relevant factors. They strike a balance between allowing the running costs of all cars, large and small and delivering the Government's environmental policy.

The Government wants to ensure that the tax system properly reflects and supports business activity, in addition to promoting fairness and environmentally friendly business travel. We intend to consider the framework of taxation of cars used for business travel as a whole and confirmed at PBR that we will make announcements on future policy in this area, including AMAPs, in Budget 2008.

As a matter of routine, HM Revenue and Customs has liaised with other relevant Government Departments. A range of stakeholder views has also been canvassed—including from industry and user group representatives—and the Government made it clear at PBR that it will continue to consider further representations in the approach to the Budget.

Car Allowances: Public Sector

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government's policy is on the tax treatment of the provision of cars for public sector employees. [175283]

Angela Eagle: The same tax rules apply to the provision of cars for all employees whether in the public or private sector.

Carers: Census

Jessica Morden: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will ensure that no change is made in information requested about carers in the 2011 census return from that requested in the 2001 census return. [175296]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 January 2008:

As National Statistician I am replying to your recent question asking that no change is made in information requested about carers in the 2011 census return from the 2001 census return. (175296)

The value of the information on carers provided by the 2001 Census is well recognised. However, such a question is competing for space on the questionnaire with a number of other questions such as second residence, citizenship, year of entry, qualifications, industry, income and language.

Our current funding for the 2011 Census allows for 3 pages of questions per person. We are at present investigating the potential for obtaining increasing funding for a 4th page which would allow for the inclusion a question on carers.

A White Paper setting out the Government's proposals for the 2011 Census is scheduled to be published in autumn 2008. However, it will not be possible to confirm what questions and response categories are to be included in the 2011 Census until the consultation and question testing programme is complete and formal approval is given by Parliament in 2010.

Census

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether the European Commission or Eurostat will have access to the data collected by the 2011 census; [176378]

(2) what the timetable is for the census test and the publication of the conclusions from it; [176413]

(3) what research and work is being conducted by the Office for National Statistics into measuring multiple occupancy for the forthcoming census; [176419]

(4) whether the Office for National Statistics plans to use *(a)* the Ordnance Survey MasterMap product and *(b)* the National Land and Property Gazetteer in undertaking the next census as the address source for residential properties. [176421]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 January 2008:

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking (i) whether the European Commission or Eurostat will have access to the data collected in the 2011 Census; (ii) what the timetable is for the Census test and the publication of the conclusions from it; (iii) whether the Office for National Statistics plans to use *(a)* the Ordnance Survey MasterMap product and *(b)* the National Land and Property Gazetteer in undertaking the next Census as the address source for residential properties; and (iv) what research and work is being conducted into measuring multiple occupancy for the forthcoming Census. (176378, 176413, 176419, 176421)

As in previous censuses, statistics from the 2011 round of European censuses, including the UK Census, will be provided to Eurostat as part of a Programme to be agreed by the EU Statistics Programme Committee, on which, as National Statistician, I am represented. The statistics to be provided by each member state will be subject to appropriate National Statistics disclosure control measures that will protect the data from disclosure of any information that would identify an individual person or household.

A full Evaluation of the Census Test, which was carried out in May, will be published in spring 2008. An initial report on the results of an address checking exercise carried out as part of the Test—'The Coverage of address Registers for 2007 Census Test—Phase 1' is available on the National Statistics website at

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census/2011census/CollectingtheInfo/testingevaluation.asp

ONS is carrying out further research in order to determine the best approach for ensuring that the 2011 Census is supported by the most complete and up-to-date address information. There is currently no single definitive national address register for England and Wales that fulfils Census requirements. For the 2011 Census there is a need to assess the two competing address products, Ordnance Survey's MasterMap Address Layer 2 (AL2) and the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG). A final decision on the 2011 approach to create the initial address list will be made in 2009, on the basis of research of the address products, and ongoing discussions with suppliers about licensing costs.

A number of questions are being developed for the 2011 Census in England and Wales that will seek to collect information on multi-occupancy. These cover the type of accommodation and the extent of self-containment. ONS is developing a household frame for the 2011 Census, and will conduct a pre-Census address check, that will identify such addresses; so that the appropriate number of household forms are delivered to each address. Information from local authorities about areas with high levels of multiple occupancy will also be used to inform the enumeration methodology.

Child Benefit: Personal Records

Tom Brake: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people whose data were on the child benefit discs have yet to be sent a letter of apology. [175366]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs have sent letters of apology to the vast majority of households where personal data relating to the child benefit recipient, their partner and their children were on the discs.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date HM Revenue and Customs staff first searched premises of the National Audit Office looking for the missing computer discs. [176892]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC detection teams first searched the NAO offices at 151-157 Buckingham Palace Road on 14 November 2007.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many representations he received directly from banks requesting a postponement of the announcement of the loss of computer discs containing the personal data of child benefit claimants. [176893]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the statement my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer made on 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1102.

Kieran Poynter, chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers, is investigating HMRC's security processes and procedures for data handling.

The interim report was published on 17 December 2007 and is available in the Library of the House.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many calls have been received by the Child Benefit helpline since the loss of personal records by HM Revenue and Customs; and what the average length was of these calls. [176897]

Jane Kennedy: The number of calls, specifically relating to data loss, handled by the Child Benefit Helpline between 20 November and 18 December 2007 is around 71,000.

Over this same period the average call handling time for these calls, taken as the length of the conversation together with the time taken by the adviser to complete any resulting tasks, is around two and a half minutes.

Childbirth

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in which years since 1977 the number of live births in England exceeded the number of births in England in 2006. [176885]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 January 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your request to indicate in which years since 1977 the number of live births in England exceeded the number of births in England in 2006. (176885)

There were 635,748 births in England in 2006. This was exceeded in each of the years from 1987 to 1993.

Civil Servants: North East Region

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of civil service jobs in the north-east were at each grade in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [174693]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 January 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what proportion of Civil Service jobs in the North East are at each grade. (174693)

Statistics on Civil Service employment, including regional statistics, are published in Civil Service Statistics, an on-line article available from the National Statistics website.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/article.asp?id=1885

The latest period for which the statistics are available is the year to September 2006.

Statistics on responsibility level by region are not published. In order to provide this information, an ad hoc analysis has been required. This analysis is based on the Mandate survey which currently provides approximately 90 per cent coverage of Civil Service departments and agencies.

Civil service—employees in the north-east by responsibility level, 30 September 2006

Responsibility level	*Full-time equivalents Percentage*
Senior civil service	0.2
Grades 6/7	2.1
Senior executive officer/higher executive officer	9.3
Executive Officer	20.7
Administrative officer/administrative assistant	66.2
Not known	1.5

Source:
Mandate

Please note that since 1 April 1996 all departments and agencies have had delegated responsibility for the pay and grading of their employees, except for those in the Senior Civil Service (SCS).

Departments and agencies have developed their own pay and grading systems, and it has become less appropriate to present statistics in terms of the previous Service-wide grades.

The distinction between non-industrial and industrial grades has also become less meaningful as departments and agencies have introduced their own grades.

Instead, the concept of broad 'responsibility levels' is used, in which departmental grades have been assigned to levels broadly equivalent (in terms of pay and job weight) to the former Service-wide grades and in recent years it has become necessary to amalgamate some of these broad levels further.

Employees on temporary promotion are reported at the higher level rather than at their substantive grade.

Climate Change

Rob Marris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take by (i) 2012 and (ii) 2020 to adapt to the effects of climate change as they affect his Departmental responsibilities; and if he will make a statement. [165035]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 6 December 2007]:* The draft Climate Change Bill, which has just been introduced into Parliament, proposes to set out a requirement for the Government to produce the first UK risk assessment on climate change within three years. Following this, it is proposed that the Government will update the risk report and programme on a five-yearly basis, with one informing the other.

In addition, the cross-Government Adaptation Policy Framework will set out the Government's overall intentions in relation to adapting to the effects of climate change.

As a result of the impacts of climate change, the annual costs of flooding to homes, businesses and infrastructure could increase. The Government announced in the 2007 comprehensive spending review that funding for flood and coastal erosion risk management across Government will increase to £800 million in 2010-11. The Government will also introduce an adaptation toolkit of £10 million per year to assist communities in adapting to change where constructing defences is not the most appropriate means of managing flood and coastal erosion risk.

Customs Officers: Job Satisfaction

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of levels of staff satisfaction amongst customs officers in HM Revenue and Customs; and if he will make a statement. [174517]

Jane Kennedy: The latest staff survey figures for Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs are for summer 2007 and are available on the HMRC website.

Customs Officers: Manpower

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs customs officers were employed combating *(a)* missing trader intra-community and *(b)* excise fraud in each year since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [174515]

Jane Kennedy: There are no separate group of staff identified as "customs officers".

The full-time equivalents (FYE) of staff employed to tackle missing trader intra-community fraud for 2005-06 to 2006-07 and fraud in alcohol, oils and tobacco for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are shown in the following table (figures for 2003-04 to 2004-05 are not available).

	MTIC	*Excise*
2003-04	n/a	n/a
2004-05	n/a	n/a
2005-06	691	3167
2006-07	1,410	3,201

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs are responsible for monitoring and reviewing security arrangements to ensure that policy, standards and procedures for information security remain up-to-date; [169756]

(2) what dedicated security branches *(a)* the Inland Revenue and *(b)* HM Customs and Excise had; and how many officials were assigned to each of them; [169757]

(3) what dedicated security branches HM Revenue and Customs has; and how many officials are assigned to them. [169758]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC Security and Business Continuity is responsible for setting standards and policy, for providing specialist advice and guidance and personnel security vetting, and providing independent assurance on security business continuity within the Department. This central role is in addition to the responsibility of individual business units to maintain and monitor security arrangements.

At 1 December 2007 there were *(a)* 7.2 officials in HM Treasury's Group Security Unit and *(b)* 73 officials working in HM Revenue and Customs' Security and Business Continuity Team. In addition, it is the responsibility of each individual line manager to ensure that their staff follow the department's security procedures.

The Inland Revenue had a Departmental Security Unit comprising 41 officials.

HM Customs and Excise had a Departmental Security Unit comprising 50 officials.

The figures quoted are on the basis of full-time equivalent staff in post, rounded to the nearest whole number, as at 31 March 2005.

Departmental ICT

James Brokenshire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many attempted hacking, suspected cyber attacks or other malicious computer security breaches were committed against the computer systems of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last three years for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [167990]

Angela Eagle: It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for departments to confirm whether they hold information about attacks against their IT systems. This would enable individuals to deduce how successful the UK is in detecting these attacks and so assist such persons in testing the effectiveness of the UK's IT defences. This is not in the public interest.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Winter Supplementary Estimates (HC 29), if he will break down his Department's *(a)* main estimate and *(b)* winter supplementary estimate provision by subhead in (i) near cash and (ii) non-cash terms. [174985]

Angela Eagle: The following table sets out the near cash and non-cash elements of HM Treasury's 2007-08 Supply Estimates.

£000

Estimate	*RfR*	*Section*	*Near cash*	*Non cash*	*Net Total*
Main	1	A	120,692	6,916	127,608
	—	B	9,680	1,070	10,750
	—	C	3,305	0	3,305
	—	D	1,656	0	1,656
	2	A	19,000	0	19,000
	3	A	25,253	1,884	27,137
Winter	1	A	126,720	6,916	133,636

Estimate	R/R	Section	Near cash	Non cash	£000 Net Total
	—	B	9,680	1,070	10,750
	—	C	3,305	0	3,305
	—	D	1,656	0	1,656
	2	A	19,000	0	19,000
	3	A	31,793	3,835	35,628

Departmental Redundancies

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost was of redundancies in his Department in the 12 months preceding *(a)* 30 June 2004, *(b)* 30 June 2005 and *(c)* 30 June 2006. [175335]

Angela Eagle: As provided in the answer given by the then Financial Secretary (John Healey) on 2 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1574W, the costs of early severance and early retirement for the Department during the financial years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are as follows.

	£000
2003-04	2,926
2004-05	2,178
2005-06	973

Costs for the financial year 2005-06 have been restated to take account of programme early retirement costs, previously omitted in error. Reapportioned costs for 12-month periods, with a 30 June year-end, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Secondment

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many secondments of staff were made *(a)* to and *(b)* from his Department in each year since 1997; which organisations staff were seconded (i) to and (ii) from; how many staff were seconded in each year; for how long each secondment lasted; and what the cost was of each secondment in each year. [167240]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Secondments to the Department

Organisations who have seconded employees to the Department since 1997 are:

3i
Accenture
Army
Arthur Anderson
Audit Commission
Australian Department of Finance
Australian Treasury
Bank of England
Bechtel
BP
Brunswick Public Relations
BZW
Camden Council
Christian Action Research and Education
City of London
Clifford Chance
Competition Commission
Coopers/Lybrand
Deloitte Touche
Dilston Management
English Nature
Ernst and Young
Estonian Ministry of Finance
European Commission
Financial Services Authority
Health Development Agency
HM Forces
Housing Corporation
Institute of Financial Services
Institute of Fiscal Studies
IPPR
Irish Finance Ministry
Japanese Finance Ministry
Kent County Council
KPMG
Legal Services Commission
Local Government Management Board
London Borough of Lewisham
London Borough of Tower Hamlets
LSE
Manpower
Midland Bank
Morgan Stanley Asia
National Audit Office
NCVO
New Zealand Reserve Bank
New Zealand Treasury
NHS
NS and I
Pannell Kerr Foster
Partnerships UK
Patent Office
Price Waterhouse Coopers
Quality Business Management
Save the Children
Slaughter and May
Social Market Foundation
Strategic Rail Authority
Tarmac
Thurrock District Council
Tidy Britain Campaign
Tresor
UBS Warburg
Women's Budget Group
Woodrow Wyatt LLP.

The number and average length of each secondment is as follows:

	Number of secondments	Average length
1997	14	1 year 7 months
1998	18	1 year 6 months
1999	13	1 year 7 months
2000	12	1 year 6 months
2001	11	1 year 3 months

	Number of secondments	Average length
2002	11	1 year 4 months
2003	14	1 year 7 months
2004	12	1 year 5 months
2005	15	1 year 2 months
2006	23	11 months

(b) Secondments from the Department

The Department has seconded employees to the following organisations:

3i
ABI
Accenture
Astra Zeneca
Azerbaijan Ministry of Finance
Bank of England
Barclays Bank
Barnados
BBC
British Cement Association
British Embassy Washington
Bromley by Bow Centre
Capita RAS
Centrica
Charity Commission
Church House
Cisco Systems
Civil Aviation Authority
CML
Commission for Racial Equality
Commonwealth Secretariat
Croydon Council
Deloitte Touche
École Nationale d'Administration
Ernst and Young
European Bank of Reconstruction and Development
European Banking Federation
European Commission
French Finance Ministry
Gartmore Investment Management plc
German Chancellery
German Finance Ministry
Granada Media
Greater London Authority
Halifax Bank of Scotland
HSBC
IMF
Institute of Fiscal Studies
International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims
International Monetary Fund
Irish Finance Ministry
Japanese Ministry of Finance
Kent County Council
KPMG
Local Government Management Board
London Borough of Brent
London Borough of Camden
London Borough of Croydon
London Borough of Hackney
London Borough of Lewisham
London Development Agency
London School of Economics
Morgan Stanley
National Electricity Code Administrator
National Health Service
New Zealand Treasury
Ocean New Deal for Communities
Ockham Holdings
Oxfam
Pannell Kerr Foster
Personal Investment Authority
RNID
Royal Association of Disability and Rehabilitation
Royal Bank of Scotland
Sanetra
Securities and Investment Board
Social Enterprise Coalition
Social Market Foundation
South West of England Regional Development Agency
Statistics Commission
Strategic Planning Society
Suffolk County Council
Sweden Ministry of Finance
Tesco
The Giving Campaign
The World Bank
UK Business Incubation
UKREP
UN Economics Commission for Europe
Vegan Society
Whitehall and Industry Group
Youth Justice Board.

The number and average length of each secondment is as follows:

Year	Number of secondments	Average length
1997	18	1 year 1 month
1998	11	10 months
1999	27	1 year 8 months
2000	10	1 year 5 months
2001	17	1 year 10 months
2002	12	1 year 10 months
2003	20	1 year 6 months
2004	12	1 year 9 months
2005	10	1 year 6 months
2006	15	1 year 2 months

Direct Debits

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance has been provided by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Financial Services Authority to banks and building societies taking part in the direct debit guarantee on whether (a) the explicit consent of customers is needed and (b) customers should be informed in writing when a supplier or company wishes to increase the amount that can be deducted from the customer's bank account by direct debit. [175169]

Angela Eagle: Neither the Government nor the Financial Services Authority provides guidance to banks and building societies on the direct debit guarantee. This guarantee is an industry-developed scheme, operated by all banks and building societies that take part in the direct debit scheme. The efficiency and security of the scheme is monitored and protected by banks and building societies.

Disposable Income

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average UK household disposable income was in each of the last five years, broken down by region; what proportion of disposable income on average was spent on energy bills in each year; and if he will make a statement. [175533]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the average UK household disposable income was in each of the last five years, broken down by region; and what proportion of disposable income on average was spent on energy bills in each year (175533).

Estimates of average weekly household disposable income as well as expenditure on electricity, gas and other fuels appear in the ONS report "Family Spending". The latest report for 2005/06 was published on the National Statistics website on 18th January 2007 at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=361. Family Spending is the annual report on the Expenditure and Food Survey (EFS), an annual survey of approximately 7,000 households in the UK.

Table 1 shows average weekly household disposable income for each region of the United Kingdom, while table 2 shows expenditure on electricity, gas and other fuels as a percentage of household disposable income for each of these regions.

Both tables show data which have been averaged over three years, which is consistent with the presentation of regional data in Family Spending. Estimates which are based on smaller regional sub-samples are subject to larger sampling error, and so an average over three years provides more reliable estimates of regional income and expenditure. Three year averages covering three different time periods have been provided. Data are not available for earlier periods on a consistent basis due to changes in survey methodology which coincided with the introduction of the Expenditure and Food Survey which replaced the old Family Expenditure Survey in 2001-02.

Household disposable income includes all income from wages and salaries, income from self-employment, income from investment, occupational pensions and social security benefits. All these incomes are recorded after the deduction of any income tax or national insurance contributions.

Table 1: Average weekly household disposable income[1,2,3]—Three year averages, United Kingdom

£ per week

	2001-04	2002-05	2003-06
UK	453	469	484
North East	385	382	382
North West	406	435	443
Yorkshire and the Humber	393	423	436
East Midlands	439	454	463
West Midlands	418	434	462
East	478	500	525
London	591	592	609
South East	526	530	546
South West	428	449	468
Wales	388	400	411
Scotland	412	429	445
Northern Ireland	390	403	419

[1] Based on weighted data.
[2] Gross cash income less the statutory deductions and payments of income tax and national insurance contributions.
[3] Government office regions.
Source:
Expenditure and Food Survey, ONS.

Table 2: Average weekly household expenditure on electricity, gas, and other fuels as a proportion of household disposable income[1,2,3]—Three year averages, United Kingdom

Percentages

	2001-04	2002-05	2003-06
UK	3	3	3
North East	3	3	3
North West	3	3	3
Yorkshire and the Humber	3	3	3
East Midlands	3	3	3
West Midlands	3	3	3
East	2	2	2
London	2	2	2
South East	2	2	2
South West	3	3	3
Wales	3	3	3
Scotland	3	3	3
Northern Ireland	4	4	4

[1] Based on weighted data.
[2] Gross cash income less the statutory deductions and payments of income tax and national insurance contributions.
[3] Government office regions.
Source:
Expenditure and Food Survey, ONS.

Divorce

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the number of divorced women over pension age who divorced *(a)* aged under 30 years, *(b)* aged 30 to 39 years, *(c)* aged 40 to 49 years, *(d)* aged 50 to 59 years and (e) aged 60 years or over. [175579]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 January 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your request for the number of divorced women over pension age who divorced (a) aged under 30 years, (b) aged 30 to 39 years, (c) aged 40 to 49 years, (d) aged 50 to 59 years and (e) aged 60 years or over. (175579)

Population estimates by marital status are routinely available by age and sex. In 2006, there were an estimated 563,700 divorced women in England and Wales aged 60 and over. A breakdown of this figure by age at divorce is not routinely available. It could be provided only at disproportionate cost as women of pensionable age are not asked about their marital status history in large scale surveys and the census.

Employment

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the employment rate of *(a)* men and *(b)* women was in each region in each quarter of the last 10 years. [174729]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, 7 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your parliamentary question about the employment rate of *(a)* men and *(b)* women in each region in each quarter of the last 10 years. (174729)

Seasonally adjusted estimates for regional employment rates are published each month in the Labour Market Statistics First Release. Please visit the following link;

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/LMS_FR_HS/WebTable18SA.xls

Estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the employment rate for *(a)* men and *(b)* women with fewer than five GCSEs at grade A to C or equivalent in each region was in each quarter for the last 10 years. [174882]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, 7 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your parliamentary question about the employment rate of (a) men and (b) women with fewer than 5 GCSEs at A-C grade or equivalent in each region in each quarter of the last 10 years. (174882)

The attached table gives the percentage of people in the categories requested for the three month period ending June each year, from 2001 to 2007. Comparable estimates are not available prior to 2001.

The LFS estimates at this detailed level are only consistent with the UK population estimates published in February and March 2003 arid they do not incorporate the more recent population estimates that are used in the headline LFS series.

Estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Working age population[1] in employment rate[2] with fewer than 5 GCSEs[3,4] April to June 2001-07: Government Office Regions, not seasonally adjusted

		UK	North East	North West	Yorkshire and the Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands
2001	Male	70	62	65	66	74	70
	Female	59	53	58	59	60	57
	Total	64	57	61	62	66	63
2002	Male	69	56	62	67	74	71
	Female	58	55	57	57	62	56
	Total	64	55	60	62	68	63
2003	Male	71	60	68	71	75	71
	Female	58	49	57	57	60	56
	Total	64	54	62	64	67	63
2004	Male	69	59	65	68	71	69
	Female	58	50	58	58	59	57
	Total	63	54	61	63	65	62
2005	Male	69	60	65	68	71	71
	Female	57	52	54	58	58	57
	Total	63	56	59	63	64	64
2006	Male	69	60	62	69	72	69
	Female	56	53	53	57	60	55
	Total	63	56	57	63	66	62
2007	Male	70	63	65	68	72	68
	Female	56	49	51	54	58	53
	Total	63	56	58	61	65	61

		East	London	South East	South West	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
2001	Male	79	67	79	76	62	64	61
	Female	66	52	68	65	53	57	45
	Total	72	59	73	70	57	60	53
2002	Male	78	66	80	78	65	61	58

		East	London	South East	South West	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
	Female	65	50	66	67	52	59	43
	Total	71	58	73	72	58	60	50
2003	Male	79	67	77	76	64	64	61
	Female	64	49	64	65	58	60	46
	Total	71	58	70	70	61	62	53
2004	Male	77	66	77	76	65	65	58
	Female	65	48	62	64	55	60	46
	Total	71	57	69	70	60	62	51
2005	Male	77	65	77	75	63	67	60
	Female	63	49	63	66	55	57	50
	Total	70	57	70	70	59	62	55
2006	Male	74	66	78	75	64	64	62
	Female	61	44	64	65	54	58	48
	Total	67	55	71	70	59	60	55
2007	Male	77	67	76	73	67	70	66
	Female	60	47	64	66	52	61	49
	Total	68	57	70	70	59	65	58

[1] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.
[2] Number of people in employment of working age, with fewer than five GCSEs as a percentage of all persons of working age with fewer than five GCSEs.
[3] Includes all those of working age in employment with qualifications below NVQ level 2, including those with no qualifications.
[4] Qualifications below NVQ Level 2 is equivalent to fewer than five GCSEs Note: Comparable data not available for 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000.

Employment: Darlington

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the *(a)* public expenditure consequences and *(b)* economic effects of measures introduced to increase employment in Darlington since 1997. [174885]

Angela Eagle: The number of people on the key out of work benefits in Darlington has fallen by 21.5 per cent. since 1997, and the employment rate has risen by 3.8 per cent. over the same period. At a national level, the Government now spend £5 billion a year less on unemployment benefits than in 1996-97. The success of the new deal has contributed to this saving, and the National Audit Office estimates that national income has grown by between £216 million and £360 million as a result of the new deal.

Employment: Disabled

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the employment rate for disabled *(a)* men and *(b)* women was in each region in each quarter of the last 10 years. [174883]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 7 January 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the employment rate for disabled a) men and b) women in each region in each quarter of the last 10 years. I am replying in her absence. (174883)

The attached table gives the percentage of people in the categories requested for the three month period ending June each year, from 1999 to 2007. Comparable estimates are not available for 1997, 1998 and 2000.

The LFS estimates at this detailed level are only consistent with the UK population estimates published in February and March 2003 and they do not incorporate the more recent population estimates that are used in the headline LFS series.

Estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Employment rate[1] of working age[2] disabled[3] people—April to June 1999-2007—Government office regions, not seasonally adjusted

	United Kingdom	North East	North West	Yorkshire and the Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East	London	South East	South West	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
1999													
Male	48	34	44	47	50	50	58	45	64	60	38	36	30
Female	45	32	38	45	46	46	50	46	55	54	39	40	28
Total	46	33	41	46	48	48	54	46	59	57	38	38	29

Employment rate[1] of working age[2] disabled[3] people—April to June 1999-2007—Government office regions, not seasonally adjusted

	United Kingdom	North East	North West	Yorkshire and the Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East	London	South East	South West	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
2001													
Male	49	37	45	46	51	49	56	50	64	57	35	41	37
Female	44	35	44	44	46	43	53	42	57	52	32	39	28
Total	47	36	45	45	49	46	55	46	61	54	34	40	33
2002													
Male	49	36	46	50	53	53	60	48	64	57	40	38	36
Female	46	38	45	43	49	47	56	43	57	57	38	35	32
Total	48	36	45	47	51	51	58	45	61	57	39	37	34
2003													
Male	51	43	47	51	56	52	59	47	63	57	44	46	39
Female	46	35	46	48	48	44	52	40	55	57	41	42	32
Total	49	39	47	50	52	48	56	44	59	57	43	44	36
2004													
Male	52	39	48	53	55	54	61	48	66	61	43	48	39
Female	47	38	44	46	48	49	57	41	55	52	42	46	26
Total	50	39	46	50	51	52	59	44	61	57	43	47	33
2005													
Male	51	40	47	51	55	53	60	44	64	58	44	50	35
Female	48	41	46	49	50	46	55	42	60	57	42	45	32
Total	50	41	46	50	53	50	57	43	62	57	43	47	34
2006													
Male	52	43	46	53	55	52	60	45	63	61	43	47	42
Female	48	42	47	48	56	46	53	42	57	54	44	46	31
Total	50	43	47	51	56	50	57	44	60	58	44	46	36
2007													
Male	51	48	49	49	53	49	59	46	63	55	44	51	33
Female	48	41	44	47	49	47	53	40	60	58	41	48	31
Total	50	44	47	48	51	48	56	43	62	57	42	49	32

[1] Disabled people in employment as a percentage of all disabled people of working age.
[2] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.
[3] Includes those who have a long-term disability which substantially limits their day-to-day activities and those who have a long-term disability which affects the kind or amount of work they might do.
Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Employment: Ethnic Groups

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the employment rate of *(a)* male and *(b)* female members of each ethnic minority was in each region in each quarter of the last 10 years. [174839]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the employment rate of (a) male and (b) female members of each ethnic minority was in each region in each quarter of the last 10 years (174839).

Information in the form requested is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Employment: Lone Parents

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the employment rate of *(a)* male and *(b)* female lone parents was in each region in each quarter of the last 10 years. [174838]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about lone parent employment rates. (174838)

The information requested is given in the attached tables. The figures in the tables are estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) for the three month period ending in June of 1997, 1999 and 2001-2007. This information is not available for every quarter of each year. Comparable estimates are not currently available for 1998 or 2000.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Employment rate of working age[1] lone parents with dependent children[2] by region and sex, April to June 1997, 1999, 2001-07, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

	North East	North West	Yorkshire and Humberside	East Midlands	West Midlands	Eastern	London
Lone fathers							
1997	50	63	54	52	62	81	41
1998	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
1999	43	62	50	62	63	70	36
2000	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
2001	38	71	58	70	57	82	75
2002	75	70	63	79	69	79	66
2003	53	68	69	68	85	68	81
2004	54	55	73	65	59	74	63
2005	69	61	67	58	75	70	60
2006	52	65	72	64	80	68	56
2007	38	44	71	65	66	86	53
Lone mothers							
1997	41	43	48	50	43	46	35
1998	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
1999	46	43	49	50	49	52	39
2000	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
2001	43	49	52	49	50	56	43
2002	56	51	50	56	45	60	41
2003	47	52	50	51	47	56	40
2004	55	56	54	53	59	58	39
2005	54	54	55	59	54	59	45
2006	56	57	55	60	54	57	43
2007	53	56	56	62	55	62	44
All lone parents							
1997	42	45	48	50	45	51	36
1998	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
1999	46	45	49	51	50	54	39
2000	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
2001	43	50	52	52	51	59	45
2002	58	53	51	59	47	62	43
2003	47	54	52	53	49	57	43
2004	55	56	56	55	59	60	41
2005	54	54	56	59	56	60	46
2006	56	58	57	60	56	58	44
2007	52	55	58	62	56	63	45

Percentage

	South East	South West	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Total
Lone fathers						
1997	60	54	65	47	[4]	58
1998	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
1999	72	42	65	60	70	57
2000	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
2001	61	75	45	63	42	64
2002	78	59	50	59	78	68
2003	78	65	59	57	59	69
2004	72	71	67	67	49	66
2005	86	75	71	68	55	69

	South East	South West	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Percentage Total
2006	74	63	75	85	64	69
2007	81	73	49	76	45	64
Lone mothers						
1997	48	48	44	38	42	43
1998	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
1999	54	57	48	46	39	47
2000	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
2001	55	63	45	53	46	50
2002	59	63	49	55	43	52
2003	58	63	59	57	40	51
2004	59	62	49	55	47	53
2005	60	66	55	55	48	55
2006	62	58	60	57	51	55
2007	67	64	53	59	53	56
All lone parents						
1997	50	48	45	39	41	45
1998	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
1999	56	55	49	47	42	48
2000	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
2001	55	64	45	54	46	51
2002	60	62	49	56	44	53
2003	60	63	59	57	—	53
2004	61	64	50	56	47	54
2005	63	67	56	56	48	56
2006	63	59	61	59	52	56
2007	68	65	52	61	52	57

[1] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.
[2] Dependent children are those aged under 16 and those aged or 16-18 who are never-married and in full-time education.
[3] Comparable estimates for 1998 and 2000 are not currently available.
[4] Sample size too small to provide an estimate

Note:
As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.
Source:
LFS Household datasets.

Employment: Older Workers

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the employment rate of *(a)* men and *(b)* women aged over 50 years was in each region in each quarter of the last 10 years. [174840]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 January 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the employment rate of *(a)* men and *(b)* women aged over 50 was in each region in each quarter of the last 10 years. (174840)

Not-seasonally adjusted estimates for regional employment rates by age are published each quarter in the Labour Market Statistics Regional First Releases. For figures since quarter 3 2005 please visit the following link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/OnlineProducts/LMS_regional.asp

The attached table shows selected historical quarters and has been derived from the published tables. It shows the employment rate of men and women aged 50 to retirement age for the three month period ending June each year, from 1997 to 2007. These estimates are not-seasonally adjusted.

Estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Employment rate of men and women aged 50 to retirement age by region
Not seasonally adjusted, April - June 1997 to 2007

	United Kingdom	North East	North West	Yorkshire and the Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East	London	South East	South West	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
Men (50-64)													
1997	67	55	62	62	70	72	73	68	75	72	59	63	61
1999	69	54	63	63	72	71	75	69	79	74	59	62	62
2001	70	59	65	68	72	69	77	69	78	76	59	67	61

Employment rate of men and women aged 50 to retirement age by region
Not seasonally adjusted. April - June 1997 to 2007

	United Kingdom	North East	North West	Yorkshire and the Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East	London	South East	South West	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
2002	70	56	64	70	73	71	77	69	78	73	62	64	63
2003	72	61	70	70	77	73	77	70	78	76	64	70	66
2004	72	58	68	71	74	71	76	72	79	75	66	70	67
2005	72	60	65	71	73	73	78	73	79	75	63	72	66
2006	73	65	68	72	75	75	77	72	78	75	67	69	66
2007	73	68	69	69	72	73	79	70	78	76	66	74	64
Women (50-59)													
1997	61	51	56	59	64	62	66	62	67	66	56	54	51
1999	63	53	60	61	63	65	68	63	69	69	55	60	53
2001	65	62	61	65	67	65	68	65	72	68	57	64	49
2002	65	59	62	63	68	67	70	64	73	69	56	64	56
2003	67	58	68	68	68	66	71	64	72	69	63	67	57
2004	67	55	66	67	67	68	74	64	72	71	62	68	53
2005	68	63	65	69	71	67	72	67	73	72	63	67	54
2006	68	62	66	69	71	71	71	65	74	72	63	68	57
2007	69	62	65	69	70	71	72	66	77	74	64	72	55

Note:
Comparable data not available for 1998 and 2000.
Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Enterprise Investment Scheme

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the number of businesses that will be affected by the changes in the Enterprise Investment Scheme as a result of the changes in capital gains tax. [175734]

Jane Kennedy: The 2007 pre-Budget report announced a reform of the capital gains tax regime for individuals. The reliefs available under the Enterprise Investment Scheme remain unchanged. The value of EIS reliefs for investors, and thereby the impact on investee companies, will depend on individual circumstances.

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many companies used the Enterprise Investment Scheme *(a)* in 2005-06 and *(b)* in 2006-07; and how many have used it in total. [175735]

Jane Kennedy: National statistics on the number of companies that have issued shares under the Enterprise Investment Scheme, each tax year and in total, are published by HM Revenue and Customs at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/ent_invest_scheme/table8-1.xls

Published totals for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are currently incomplete because companies have up to three years to submit a return informing HM Revenue and Customs of a share issue under the scheme.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will reduce duty on petrol and diesel to reflect recent changes in oil prices. [170309]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* Budget 2007 pre-announced fuel duty rates for three years for environmental reasons, to fund public services and provide certainty alongside the other tax reforms in that Budget. The Government keeps all taxes under review and will continue to monitor developments in the oil market.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will freeze the rate of fuel duty; what recent representations he has received about the issue; and if he will make a statement. [172469]

Angela Eagle: It is the Government's policy that fuel duty rates should rise each year at least in line with inflation as the UK seeks to reduce polluting emissions and fund public services. The 2007 Budget announced fuel duty rates for the next three years. The Treasury routinely receives a range of stakeholder views in the approach to the Budget and the Chancellor considers all relevant economic, environmental and social factors when deciding taxation policy.

Foreign Workers

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people born abroad have gained employment in the UK since 1997. [174395]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 7 January 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the number of people who were born abroad and have gained employment in the United Kingdom since 1997. I am replying in her absence.

Between the second quarter of 1997 and the second quarter of 2007 there was an increase of 1.4 million foreign-born workers of working age in employment in the UK. The data to support this response was provided in PQ478 (Hansard ref 464 Column 1535) sent to Mr David Laws on 17th October 2007. This figure was also recently published in the Statistics Commission briefing 'Foreign Workers in the UK'

http://www.statscom.org.uk/C_1238.aspx.

The data for analysing migrant workers comes from the Labour Force Survey. The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad, are of working age (16-64 for men, 16-59 for women), and in employment. This question has been answered on this basis.

It is important to bear in mind that the Labour Force Survey (LFS) is not designed to cover everyone who is present in the UK. The survey may undercount the numbers of people who were born overseas.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Fuels: Prices

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the reasons for recent increases in the price of *(a)* heating oil, *(b)* petrol and *(c)* diesel; and if he will make statement. [174912]

Angela Eagle: The price of heating oil, petrol and diesel are influenced by a range of factors, including international crude oil prices, exchange rates, seasonal factors, level of stocks, refinery capacity, distribution costs and the degree of retail competition.

International oil prices have been high and volatile in recent years, more than doubling between 2004 and 2007, and this has been reflected in the retail prices of all fuels. The rise in prices has been due to a range of factors, notably strong and resilient global oil demand growth, tight refining and production capacity and geopolitical uncertainty in several key oil-producing countries. In 2007 Q4, additional factors including oil supply shortages have also contributed to increased crude oil prices.

Oil price is only one of these factors and there is typically a lag to changes in retail pump prices as retailers absorb temporary changes in oil prices in their profit margins.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of the retail price of *(a)* heating oil, *(b)* petrol and *(c)* diesel is accounted for by tax. [174913]

Angela Eagle: Liability to pay fuel duty only applies to fuel refiners or producers. This is because the point at which the duty is paid is when the finished product leaves the refinery or production plant. Fuel duty is set at a fixed monetary value per litre rather than as a percentage of the retail price.

The duty rates that refiners and producers pay to HM Revenue and Customs were set out in Budget Note 53—http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2007/bn53.htm—published by HMRC on 21 March 2007. As retail prices may vary so fuel duty expressed as a percentage of the retail price may also vary.

Government Departments: Property

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 6 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1413W, on Government Departments: Property, how much *(a)* total floor area and *(b)* vacant space was recorded on the electronic property information mapping service database for each Government Department and agency in the most recent period for which figures are available. [174811]

Angela Eagle: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries.

HM Revenue and Customs' Data

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2007, to Question 172044 on HM Revenue and Customs' data, what guidance he has given to his officials on responding to parliamentary questions on data loss during the on going review. [175417]

Jane Kennedy: I have referred to the ongoing review where it is appropriate to do so.

Housing: Prices

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average *(a)* total and *(b)* percentage change in house prices was in each region in each month in 2007. [175791]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is available on the website of the Department of Communities and Local Government at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table-590

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table-592

Immigrants: France

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of French nationals living in the UK. [172927]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 7 January 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your question concerning the number of French nationals living in the UK. I am replying in her absence. (172927)

In the twelve months to December 2006, there were an estimated 118,000 French nationals living in the UK. This figure is based on the Annual Population Survey (APS) and, as with any sample survey, APS estimates are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Insurance Companies

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will initiate an investigation into the use of captive insurance companies by accountancy firms. [175528]

Angela Eagle: The Government have no plans to establish such a committee.

Landfill Tax

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much of the revenue generated from landfill tax revenue in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07 has been allocated to the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste programme; [169403]

(2) what the total amount of landfill tax revenue was in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; and how much of that revenue in each year was allocated to his Department; [169404]

(3) what estimate has been made of the likely income from landfill tax in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; [169405]

(4) how much of the income from landfill tax in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09 has been allocated to the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste programme. [169406]

Angela Eagle: Landfill tax revenues are published on the Uktradeinfo website and are available at

http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulllandfill

The value of the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste programme was £43 million in 2005-06 and £95 million in 2006-07.

Forecast landfill tax receipts for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are published in Table B8 of the 2007 pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review available at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/F/9/pbr_csr07_annexb_305.pdf

DEFRA has allocated £125 million to the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste programme in 2007-08.

The comprehensive spending review allows for the continuation of funding for business resource efficiency. DEFRA has not yet announced allocations for 2008-09.

Migrant Workers

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) of 19 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1353-55W, on migrant workers, how many of the 0.3 million additional UK born workers of working age in work between 1997 and 2007 had previously claimed benefit. [175299]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 18 December 2007]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about how many of the 0.3 million additional UK-born workers of working age in work between 1997 and 2007 had previously claimed benefits. (175299)

The estimate of 0.3 million additional UK-born workers of working age between 1997 and 2007 was taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The LFS does not collect information on whether a person was claiming benefit before they entered employment.

National Insurance Contributions

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people paid voluntary national insurance contributions in each of the last 10 years. [175055]

Jane Kennedy: Latest available figures from 1995-96 are shown in the following table.

National insurance class 3 contributions must normally be made before the end of the sixth tax year following the one for which they were due; but the time limit has been extended for the 1995-96 to 2001-02 tax years. Customers have up to 5 April 2010 to pay if they reach state pension age before 24 October 2004, or 5 April 2009 if they reach state pension age on or after 24 October 2004. Because of this the figures detailed are likely to increase, particularly the latest years.

In respect of tax year	*Contributors (thousand)*	*National insurance class 3 contributions (£ million)*
1995-96	322	60
1996-97	406	93
1997-98	367	92
1998-99	356	91
1999-00	335	90
2000-01	304	82
2001-02	285	78
2002-03	310	78
2003-04	276	71
2004-05	213	58
2005-06	110	39
2006-07	73	24

Note:
Based on a 1 per cent. sample extracted from the National Insurance Recording System on 13 July 2007.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many computer-generated letters were sent out by HM Revenue and Customs notifying a shortfall in national insurance contributions for the 2005-06 tax year; and how many were sent in error. [175056]

Jane Kennedy: To date HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has sent 2.41 million letters to customers advising them of a potential shortfall in their National Insurance contributions for 2005-06. It expects to issue a further 340,000 in January 2008.

A relatively small number of letters will have been sent in error but it is not possible to determine precisely how many.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much is payable in annual national insurance contributions by a person with gross annual earnings of *(a)* £12,000, *(b)* £24,000, *(c)* £50,000 and *(d)* £100,000 in 2007-08. [175529]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is as follows.

Earnings[1]	*Employee national insurance payable (£)*
£12,000	745.80
£24,000	2,065.80
£50,000	3,410.64
£100,000	3,910.60

[1] Assumes that earnings are paid monthly and spread evenly throughout the year and the employee is in 'not contracted out' employment.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance his Department has provided to employers on whether employees should pay reduced national insurance contributions. [175607]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC does not provide specific guidance to employers on whether their employees should pay reduced national insurance contributions. The onus is on employees to give their employers a 'certificate of election' form. Without this certificate the employer must deduct full rate national insurance contributions.

Employers are advised to have a procedure in place to ensure employees notify them if they lose the right to reduced rate contributions, (for instance because of divorce or they have cancelled their election). The CWG2 'Employer Further Guide to PAYE and NICs'

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/guidance/cwg2.pdf

and the E13 'Day to Day Payroll' guidance

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/helpsheets/e13.pdf

provides information on what employers should do where a married women or widow is entitled to pay reduced rate contributions.

National Insurance Contributions: Females

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many women paid reduced national insurance contributions in each year since 1977. [175608]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1034W.

Oil

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what studies have been *(a)* considered and *(b)* evaluated by his Department on the economic implications of the peak oil phenomenon; and if he will make a statement. [173878]

Angela Eagle: Government constantly monitor risks to the UK economy, including from energy-related developments, as detailed in the Energy White Paper (May 2007) and the Long-term Opportunities and Challenges for the UK (November 2006).

Government are aware of a wide range of academic and industry studies which look at future world oil supplies, including the peak oil phenomenon, and meets regularly with experts to discuss this and other oil market issues. The Government's assessment is that the world's oil resources are sufficient to prevent total global oil production peaking before 2030. This is consistent with the assessment of the International Energy Agency (IEA) in its 2007 World Energy Outlook (WEO).

Pay

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people earn more than the minimum wage but less than £6.75 per hour; how many of those work in the *(a)* private and *(b)* public sector; and if he will make a statement. [174852]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, 7 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question asking how many people earn more than the minimum wage but less than £6.75 per hour; how many of those work in the *(a)* private and *(b)* public sector. (174852)

Levels of earnings are estimated from the annual survey of hours and earnings (ASHE), and are provided for employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom.

ASHE is not used to provide estimates of the numbers earning above the national minimum wage but less than £6.75 per hour, split by public and private sectors, but is used to make estimates of the proportions of employees in those categories. I attach a table providing that information.

Percentage of UK employees earning above NMW but below £6.75

	Percentage
All Employees	18
Public sector	11
Private sector	22

Figures have been calculated using hourly earnings excluding overtime and include employees on adult rates whose pay for the pay-period was not affected by absence. They apply to earnings at April 2007.

ASHE is not used to provide accurate estimates of the numbers earning above the national minimum wage but less than £6.75 per hour, split by public and private sectors, but is used to make estimates of the proportions of employees in those categories.

Prescription Drugs: Death

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people died from *(a)* overdoses of prescription medicine, *(b)* adverse interactions of prescription drugs, *(c)* overdoses of herbal medicine and *(d)* adverse interactions of herbal medicines in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [175410]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, 7 January 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people died from *(a)* overdoses of prescription medicine, *(b)* adverse interactions of prescription drugs, *(c)* overdoses of herbal medicine and *(d)* adverse interactions of herbal medicines in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. (175410)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) reports annually on the number of deaths in England and Wales from drug-related poisoning. These figures relate to the number of deaths from poisoning with any drug or medicine or certified as drug abuse or dependence. The latest report was published on 28 November in Health Statistics Quarterly 36[1] and contained figures for deaths registered between 2002 and 2006. In 2006, there were 2,570 deaths from drug-related poisoning. Although all substances mentioned on the death record are collated for these deaths, it is not possible to ascertain whether the deceased was prescribed the substances mentioned. It is also not possible to ascertain whether a substance was a herbal preparation.

Deaths from adverse interactions to prescribed or herbal medicines are not available from ONS mortality records.

[1] Office for National Statistics' (2007) Deaths related to drug poisoning: England and Wales, 2002-2006. Health Statistics Quarterly 36, 66-72.

Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what Tax Credit Office targets there are for responding to letters from right hon. and hon. Members; and how many letters received responses outside the target period in each *(a)* month and *(b)* quarter since 1 November 2006. [175158]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs has a target to respond to the majority of letters from right hon. and hon. Members within three weeks.

The number of letters that were not sent a reply within three weeks for the period requested is shown in the following table:

MP Letters

	15 working days
2006	
November	323
December	364
2007	
January	305
February	410
March	434
April	187
May	219
June	301
July	437
August	382
September	392
October	374

The TCO is working hard to improve the speed and quality of responses.

As the hon. Member is aware, the TCO is currently dealing with an administrative problem which has resulted in some delays.

Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost of sending letters to the families affected by the recent loss of data by HM Revenue and Customs. [169767]

Jane Kennedy: For the year April 2006 to March 2007 HMRC handled approximately 300 million pieces of outgoing post at a cost of around £79 million.

The cost of sending letters to the families affected by the recent loss of data by HMRC is estimated at £2.25 million including postage costs.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Poynter Review will interview Ministers in his Department as part of its work. [173350]

Jane Kennedy: The Poynter Review will interview a range of relevant parties over the course of its work.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what staff from *(a)* HM Treasury, *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(c)* other Government Departments are working on the Poynter Review. [173361]

Jane Kennedy: No Government officials are working directly on the review.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost of *(a)* deploying software and *(b)* implementing procedures to encrypt all data sent out of HM Revenue and Customs on compact disc. [173518]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC is currently assessing the costs of delivering longer term solutions.

On 20 November 2007 the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the Chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The interim report was published on 17 December 2007 and is available in the Library of the House.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what control HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has over the access to and use of data after it has left HMRC's computers and been sent to *(a)* the Student Loans Company, *(b)* the National Audit Office and *(c)* other institutions; and what records HMRC maintains of that use and access. [175751]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC protects its information by requiring bodies receiving data to seek HMRC consent before it may be used for certain purposes, or disclosed further. Controls may also be set out in memorandums of understanding, partnership agreements or other documents, defining the relationship between HMRC and the body receiving the data, including the specific procedures and protocols governing the use of information.

Once data has left HMRC it is the responsibility of the receiving body, including the Student Loans Company or National Audit Office, to ensure that any further use complies with the law including the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Human Rights Act 1998.

Revenue and Customs: Huddersfield

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the environmental implications of relocating Huddersfield HM Revenue and Customs staff from local offices to Bradford. [175473]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC is committed to reducing its environmental footprint and will in part cut its direct energy consumption through the reduction in the office space it uses, releasing buildings it no longer needs for others to use and improving the energy efficiency of those offices it retains.

Where an office is earmarked for closure an assessment is made of the travel implications for current HMRC staff of journeys to alternative offices. For some, journeys may be longer or shorter but in no case is anyone required to relocate beyond reasonable daily travel.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to reimburse staff from HM Revenue and Customs Huddersfield for increased travel costs as a result of having to relocate to the Bradford branch. [175474]

Jane Kennedy: Where HM Revenue and Customs staff face increased travel costs as a result of being required to relocate permanently to another office they will be given payment towards their additional travel costs for three years.

Revenue and Customs: Location

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to help those employees of HM Revenue and Customs who are unable to relocate to a different branch to find alternative employment. [175475]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC expects that most staff from offices that are planned for closure will be able to relocate with their teams to a new office.

Where it is agreed that it is not reasonable for individual members of staff, in their circumstances, to relocate, managers will discuss alternative options with them. These may include the provision of temporary work in their current location or a move to another business unit within HMRC. In addition HMRC will facilitate moves to other Government Departments where posts are available matching terms and conditions where they are not comparable to those in HMRC. A re-deployment workshop is also available for staff to help them maximise their prospects of finding alternative work, using a consultant to provide coaching on CV writing and interview techniques.

HMRC will continue to work with staff, managers and the departmental trade unions to seek alternative ways to ensure that HMRC staff are offered every opportunity to continue to work in the Department.

Revenue and Customs: Pay

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether employees of HM Revenue and Customs involved in the collection of tax receive bonuses related directly or indirectly to the amount of tax revenue that they have been involved in collecting. [175492]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs employees do not receive payments related to the collection of revenue.

Revenue and Customs: Postal Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by HM Revenue and Customs on *(a)* recorded post and *(b)* non-recorded post in each of the last five years. [173353]

Jane Kennedy: For the year April 2006 to March 2007, HMRC handled approximately 300 million pieces of outgoing post.

HMRC expenditure on recorded and non-recorded post since 2005 is:

	£	
	Recorded	*Non-recorded*
2005-06	513,706	78,563,963
2006-07	670,014	78,582,763
2007-08 (to 31 November 2007)	445,835	53,303,839

Sandstorm Report

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) with reference to the answer of 27 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1300W, on the Sandstorm report, what plans he has to publish the Sandstorm report; [175536]

(2) to which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations his Department provided access to (i) all and (ii) part of the Sandstorm report; [175537]

(3) with reference to the answer of 27 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1300W, on the Sandstorm report, when his Department expects to make a definitive reply to Professor Prem Sikka of the University of Essex's request of 13 March 2006 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for publication of the Sandstorm report relating to the closure of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International; and what the reasons are for the time taken to respond. [175545]

Angela Eagle: A response has been provided to Professor Prem Sikka's request of 13 March 2006. The Treasury is currently considering this case in response to an internal review request made by Professor Sikka in September 2007 under the Freedom of Information Act. A decision will be reached shortly.

Security Clearances

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department's contracts with courier and postal service providers include provisions requiring *(a)* security clearance for the employees of such providers and *(b)* a check on residence entitlement in the UK. [171490]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 6 December 2007]:* HM Revenue and Customs postal and courier service providers, as part of their recruitment policies, carry out employment checks to establish *(a)* criminal history record and *(b)* entitlement to work in the UK.

Smuggling

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance is given to HM Revenue and Customs customs officers on the exercise of powers of arrest in relation to individuals from whom seizures of goods are made; and if he will make a statement. [175819]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC is not able to seize goods illegally.

HM Revenue and Customs officers engaged in operational customs work have powers of arrest under s.138 of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 and s.24(2) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

All officers involved in work areas that require them to exercise the power of arrest, including those involved in making arrests of individuals from whom seizures of illegal goods are made, receive training in arrest procedures, policy and relevant law as part of their core training for the role. In addition, standing instructions on arrest law

and procedure are maintained as a source of reference for all officers involved in works areas that require them to exercise the power of arrest.

Only staff who have received full training in relevant law and procedure are authorised to effect an arrest.

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many seizures of illegal goods HM Revenue and Customs customs officers made in *(a)* ports, *(b)* airports, *(c)* rail terminals and *(d)* other locations in each year since 2004. [175820]

Jane Kennedy: The number of seizures of illegal goods is published in the HMRC and previously HM Customs and Excise Annual report.

The requested breakdown could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Smuggling: Tobacco

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of *(a)* the proportion of tobacco products consumed in the UK on which duty was not paid due to smuggling and fraud in each year since 1997 and *(b)* the resultant loss of income to the Exchequer. [174768]

Angela Eagle: Estimates for the market share of tobacco products that are supplied to the UK through smuggling and fraud, and the associated revenue loss to the Exchequer, are available from 2000 to 2001.

The latest estimates for the market share of illicitly supplied cigarettes and hand rolling tobacco and the associated revenue loss to the Exchequer (duty plus VAT) are estimated separately for 2001-02 to 2005-06 and are given in "Measuring Indirect Tax Losses—2007" published by HMRC in October 2007, which is available in the House of Commons Library. Estimates for 2000-01 are given in "Measuring Indirect Tax Losses—2006" which was published by HMRC in December 2006 and is also available in the House of Commons Library.

Social Security Benefits: Personal Records

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for how long information on individuals who are claimants of any benefits or tax credits is stored after they cease to be claimants; and what measures are taken to destroy these records. [168560]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* The child tax credit and working tax credit were introduced on 6 April 2003. HMRC currently hold records for tax credit claimants whether their claim has ceased or not, for making decisions on entitlement, administering payments; the recovery of overpayments and compliance purposes.

Records for Child Benefit claimants are deleted five years after the award of the youngest child in the family has ceased.

Spinal Muscular Atrophy

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people died of spinal muscular atrophy in each year since 2001. [175290]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 January 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people died of spinal muscular atrophy in each year from 2001. (175290)

The table below contains numbers of deaths where the underlying cause was spinal muscular atrophy and related syndromes in England and Wales from 2001 to 2006, the latest year for which data are available.

Number of deaths from spinal muscular atrophy and related syndromes[1] in England and Wales, 2001 to 2006[2]

	Number
2001	1,479
2002	1,518
2003	1,520
2004	1,551
2005	1,616
2006	1,702

[1] The cause of death for spinal muscular atrophy and related conditions was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code G12.
[2] Figures are for registrations of death in each calendar year.

Suicide

Mr. Vara: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many suicides there were in each 10 year age cohort in each of the last 10 years. [174841]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 January 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many suicides there were in each 10 year age cohort in each of the last 10 years. I am replying in her absence. (174841)

The table below contains numbers of suicides by age group in England and Wales from 1997 to 2006, the latest year for which data are available.

It is assumed that most deaths from injury/poisoning of undetermined intent at ages 15 and over are cases where the harm was self-inflicted but there was insufficient evidence to prove that the deceased deliberately intended to kill themselves. For this reason, ONS includes in its suicide statistics both those deaths from intentional self-harm, and those from 'injury or poisoning of undetermined intent.' The same cannot be assumed for deaths at ages under 15 and therefore deaths from injury or poisoning of undetermined intent are not included when examining suicide (intentional self-harm) in children. As there were no deaths in children aged under 13 with a suicide verdict for the period requested, the table shows the number of suicides in children aged 13 to 14, and the number of suicide and injury/poisoning of undetermined intent deaths in those aged 15 and over.

Number of deaths from suicide and injury/poisoning of undetermined intent, by age group, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006[1]

	Suicide[2]	*Suicide*[2] *and injury /poisoning of undetermined intent*[3]							
	Ages 13-14	*15-24*	*25-34*	*35-44*	*45-54*	*55-64*	*65-74*	*75-84*	*85 and over*
1997	2	590	1,111	942	857	516	389	286	123
1998	7	651	1,351	1,048	919	554	394	301	114
1999	2	550	1,205	1,115	900	574	429	326	134
2000	1	555	1,124	1,091	911	558	406	287	137
2001	5	506	1,031	1,047	917	594	376	291	129
2002	1	475	1,009	1,104	852	563	364	254	130
2003	2	492	954	1,141	847	598	347	302	115
2004	3	476	896	1,151	889	608	396	315	140
2005	3	445	830	1,131	930	633	338	260	135
2006	3	399	748	1,066	893	692	340	256	110

[1] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[2] The cause of death for suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E950-E959 for the years 1997 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84for 2001 onwards.
[3] The cause of death for injury/poisoning of undetermined intent was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E980-E989 excluding E9 88.8 for the years 1997 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes Y10-Y34 excluding Y33.9 where the Coroner's verdict was pending for 2001 onwards.

Tax Allowances

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the number of people in the UK who are eligible to claim non-domicile tax status; and if he will make a statement. [163436]

Jane Kennedy: Information on how many individuals in the UK are eligible to claim non-domicile tax status is not available. However information is available on the numbers of individuals indicating non-domicile status on their self assessment (SA) returns. The last full year's data relates to 2004-05, in which there were 115,000 indicating non-domicile status. HMRC's live systems show the latest figure (as at August 2007) for 2005-06 is 114,000 individuals.

Tax Allowances: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will introduce a fiscally-neutral scheme to *(a)* reward and *(b)* penalise manufacturers of motor vehicles according to vehicle *(i)* fuel efficiency and *(ii)* carbon dioxide emissions. [172307]

Angela Eagle: The Government have reformed Vehicle Excise Duty to provide fiscal incentives to consumers to choose lower emissions vehicles by introducing CO_2 emissions graduated rates for cars, a discount rate for early registered lower emissions vans and discount rates for reduced pollution buses and heavy good vehicles. Budget 2007 changes to Vehicle Excise Duty built on 2006 reforms, further sharpening the environmental signals to motorists to purchase more fuel-efficient vehicles and supporting development of the low-carbon market. The Government have also reformed Company Car Tax to provide further fiscal incentives for cleaner lower emissions choices.

In addition the UK will engage fully in negotiations on the European Commission's proposal to set vehicle manufacturers mandatory targets to reduce average CO_2 emissions from new cars. The Chancellor keeps all taxation policy under review as part of the Budget process.

Tax Havens

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will commission research on the levels of use of offshore tax havens by UK banks and the economic effects of that use. [175531]

Jane Kennedy: There are no plans to commission research on the levels of use of offshore tax havens by UK banks and the economic effects of that use.

Tax Yields

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of total tax revenue came from *(a)* income tax, *(b)* indirect taxes, *(c)* business taxes, *(d)* capital taxes and *(e)* other taxes in each year since 1980. [172983]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 10 December 2007]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 January 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what percentage of total tax revenue came from (a) income tax, (b) indirect taxes, (c) business taxes, (d) capital taxes and (e) other taxes in each year since 1980. (172983)

Detailed statistics about types of tax payable by UK residents to general government and the European Union for calendar years are published on a regular basis in table 11.1 of the annual ONS publication "United Kingdom National Accounts (The Blue Book)". The "Blue Book" was last published in June. However, the table was updated in the monthly "Public Sector Finances First Release", on both calendar year and financial year bases, published on 20 July. Differences between the figures in the "Blue Book" and Public Sector Finances are a result of differing revisions policies for the National Accounts and the Public Sector Finances; the latter are the more up to date. The table is not a regular feature of the First Release, although most of the figures themselves are updated every month. The data in the table below are consistent with the dataset for the "Public Sector Finances" published on 20 November 2007.

In answering this question total tax revenue has been defined consistently with the Total taxes and social contributions series in table 11.1. Similarly, Indirect taxes have been defined as Taxes on products and imports, and business taxes as Production taxes

other than on products plus non-household Taxes on Income. The financial year has been used because the UK adopts this as its fiscal base.

	A	B	C	D	E
1979-80	30.9	28.1	18.4	0.6	5.5
1980-81	30.6	27.4	18.8	0.6	5.9
1981-82	30.1	27.3	19.6	0.9	6.0
1982-83	28.9	27.8	19.5	0.5	6.4
1983-84	28.4	28.9	18.3	0.6	5.9
1984-85	27.3	30.2	18.7	0.6	5.8
1985-86	27.6	29.4	18.5	0.7	6.1
1986-87	27.4	31.0	16.5	0.7	6.4
1987-88	27.0	30.9	17.7	0.7	6.3
1988-89	26.4	30.9	17.8	0.6	6.5
1989-90	27.5	30.0	17.8	0.6	6.7
1990-91	28.6	29.9	16.2	0.6	7.7
1991-92	31.0	32.2	13.8	0.6	5.4
1992-93	30.4	32.9	12.6	0.6	6.2
1993-94	29.8	33.8	11.7	0.6	5.9
1994-95	29.3	33.7	12.8	0.6	5.8
1995-96	28.9	33.7	13.6	0.6	5.7
1996-97	27.5	33.7	15.2	0.6	5.8
1997-98	27.2	33.2	16.1	0.6	5.7
1998-99	28.0	32.9	15.6	0.6	5.8
1999-2000	28.2	33.2	15.6	0.6	5.8
2000-01	29.2	32.4	15.0	0.6	5.7
2001-02	29.2	32.5	14.7	0.6	6.1
2002-03	29.2	33.4	13.6	0.6	6.4
2003-04	27.8	33.5	12.8	0.6	6.6
2004-05	28.1	32.5	13.5	0.7	6.6
2005-06	28.3	31.1	15.0	0.7	6.5
2006-07	28.5	31.0	15.1	0.7	6.3

A. Household income taxes as a percentage of total taxes and social contributions payable by UK residents.
B. Taxes on products and imports as a percentage of total taxes and social contributions payable by UK residents.
C. Production taxes other than on products plus non-household Taxes on Income as a percentage of total taxes and social contributions payable by UK residents.
D. Capital taxes as a percentage of total taxes and social contributions payable by UK residents.
E. Other taxes as a percentage of total taxes and social contributions payable by UK residents.

Taxation

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's estimate of the tax gap is; and what model his Department uses to estimate the gap. [175527]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs do not produce estimates for the total tax gap. The most recent estimate of the indirect tax gap is given in "Measuring Indirect Tax Losses—2007", published by HMRC in October 2007 and is available in the House of Commons Library.

There are currently no reliable estimates for the direct tax gap. However, HMRC published a discussion paper on the methodologies for estimating elements of the direct tax gap in October 2007. "Developing Methodologies for Measuring Direct Losses" is also available in the House of Commons Library.

Taxation: Domicil

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assumptions he made in estimating the revenue raised from modernisation of residence and domicile taxation in table B4, page 164 of the pre-Budget report, about *(a)* the number of non-domiciles who would pay the new £30,000 charge, *(b)* the gain from non-domiciles who choose to bring their tax affairs on-shore and *(c)* other factors, for (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [162314]

Jane Kennedy: The assumptions underpinning the proposed tax charge on remittance basis users, and the resulting figures, are set out in the consultation document 'Paying a Fairer Share: a consultation on residence and Domicile' which was published on 6 December.

Taxation: Pensioners

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people over the age of 65 were overtaxed by HM Revenue and Customs and the Inland Revenue in each year since 1997. [175067]

Jane Kennedy: Details of numbers of individuals who have overpaid are not available by age group.

Tobacco: Price Elasticity

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the price elasticity of demand for tobacco. [174769]

Angela Eagle: The latest assessment is in GES Working Paper 150 "The Demand for Tobacco Products in the UK" on the HMRC website.

Unpaid Taxes: Pensioners

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people over the age of 65 were issued bills for unpaid tax in each year since 1997. [175066]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs do not maintain details of unpaid tax for different age groups.

Voluntary Organisations: Finance

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he plans to have with his ministerial counterparts in the devolved institutions in Great Britain and Northern Ireland on funding over the next three-year comprehensive spending review period for the voluntary and community sector, with particular reference to projects to improve disadvantaged areas judged to be at risk of social exclusion. [175567]

Andy Burnham: In devolved areas of policy, it is for the devolved Administrations to determine their own priorities and policies within their block budgets announced in the 2007 comprehensive spending review.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overseas Residence

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likelihood of tax credit claimants not telling HM Revenue and Customs when they take up residence abroad; how many tax credit claims were found to be invalid because a claimant has gone abroad in the latest period for which figures are available; what research has been carried out into the effectiveness of checks to protect against wrong or fraudulent claims by workers who have gone abroad; and if he will make a statement. [172848]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available.

HM Revenue and Customs has robust strategies in place for tackling non-compliance including a range of checks throughout the life of each claim. And it continually refines and develops its processes to ensure it can tackle those who seek to claim awards to which they are not entitled, and respond quickly when new compliance risks are identified.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 8 January 2008

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Housing

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations he has received on the quality of accommodation for members of the armed forces in the UK. [169910]

Derek Twigg: Ministers have received a number of representations from right hon. and hon. Members and members of the public. For example, during the last six months 125 items of correspondence were received.

Defence: Ireland

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements are in place to facilitate co-operation with the Irish defence forces following the decision to withdraw the UK defence attaché from the British embassy in Dublin. [174703]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* Alternative arrangements have been put in place to ensure that our relationship is maintained. The defence attaché Dublin is now the Director of Defence Diplomacy based in London; he has an important remit to fulfil the role of defence attaché on a non-residental basis. He and his team are working in close cooperation with the ambassador and his staff at the embassy. The Irish defence forces were consulted before these arrangements were put in place and are content with how the defence relationship is now being handled.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's original estimate was of the overall projected cost of the Defence Information Infrastructure; what his current estimate is of the overall projected cost; and if he will make a statement. [176095]

Derek Twigg: The Defence Information Infrastructure Programme is being delivered incrementally; the current approved costs for the on-contract Increments 1 and 2a (which support the Fixed environment) and 2b (which supports Deployed) are, rounded to the nearest £0.1 billion, £4.1 billion and £0.4 billion respectively, giving a total of £4.5 billion. This is within 3 per cent of original programme estimates at Main Gate.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what savings the Defence Information Infrastructure made in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [176096]

Derek Twigg: The Defence Information Infrastructure Programme has delivered the £170 million efficiency savings projected at the Main Gate approval point for its first three years, comprising £40 million in financial year 2005-06; £80 million in financial year 2006-07 and £50 million projected in financial year 2007-08.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much and what proportion of its waste his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [174421]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1457W.

United Kingdom Hydrographic Office

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence why the his Department's review of the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office does not incorporate any of the recommendations made in the 2006 Office of Fair Trading report—The Commercial Use of Public Sector Information. [176700]

Derek Twigg: The Government published a response to the Office of Fair Trade report, Commercial Use of Public Sector Information, in June 2007. The recommendation for the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office to remain an Executive Agency financed through a Trading Fund took the response by Government fully into account.

United Kingdom Hydrographic Office: Standards

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason the decision was made to complete and publish his Department's review of the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office before the Government-commissioned review of Trading Funds, currently being carried out by Cambridge University, had been completed. [176699]

Derek Twigg: The conclusions of the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office structural and ownership options review have a direct impact on staff and international allies. For this reason the conclusions were announced at the earliest opportunity. The conclusion to remain a Trading Fund was not dependent on the outcome of policy considerations in pricing policy for public information.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Redundancies

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the cost was of redundancies in his Department in the 12 months preceding *(a)* 30 June 2004, *(b)* 30 June 2005 and *(c)* 30 June 2006. [175479]

David Cairns: All the staff in the Scotland Office are on loan from other Government Departments and redundancy issues are a matter for the parent Departments.

Regulation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland for which regulators and inspectorates his Department has had responsibility in each year since 1997; what the budget was of each such body in each year; and what the cost to the public purse was of any restructuring of each such body in each year. [175305]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999 and is not responsible for any regulators and inspectorates.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Corporate Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality on how many occasions she has accepted corporate hospitality in the last 12 months. [171313]

Barbara Follett: Ministers are required to notify their permanent secretary and it should be declared in the Register of Members' or Peers' Interests. Registration of hospitality would normally be required for hospitality over £600 in value for the Commons and £1,000 for the Lords. No notifications have been required since the Deputy Minister for Women and Equality took up her post.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Basra Development Commission

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what development projects have been identified for funding by the Basra Development Commission; and if he will make a statement; [174171]

(2) how many officials from his Department are seconded to the Basra Development Commission; where these officials are based; and how much has been spent by his Department on the Commission. [174172]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Basra Development Commission (BDC) has not identified any development projects. So far one Commissioner has been appointed (Michael Wareing, international CEO of KPMG) and the Government of Iraq and Basra Provincial Council (BPC) are expected to appoint further Commissioners in the coming weeks. Moreover, the Commission's role will be to provide guidance and advice on economic issues, not to identify development projects.

No DFID officials have been seconded to the BDC. The Commission is expected to consist of several Commissioners and a small Secretariat. DFID has not allocated any funds specifically for expenditure on the BDC. Some logistical support for the Commission is being provided through existing DFID programmes for Basra, but no financial assistance.

Departmental Manpower

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many and what proportion of posts in his Department have been recategorised from back office to frontline posts as classified by the Gershon efficiency review in each year since 2004. [172257]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to achieving work force reductions of 297 posts by the end of 2007-08. This is a net target and no posts have been reclassified under this initiative.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid was given to Sudan in each of the last five years; what conditions were attached to the aid provided; and if he will make a statement. [172037]

Mr. Thomas: DFID does not give funds directly to the Government of Sudan. DFID's aid to Sudan is primarily delivered as humanitarian assistance through civil society organisations and multilateral institutions and not subject to conditionality.

As with all DFID aid, however, monitoring arrangements are in place to ensure that it is spent as intended and achieves its objectives. NGO and UN partners monitor humanitarian assistance on our behalf to ensure it reached beneficiaries.

Information on UK aid to Sudan is available in the DFID publication "Statistics on International Development 2007". This publication is available online at www.dfid.gov.uk. Relevant figures are reproduced in the following tables.

Table 1: UK total bilateral gross public expenditure on development 2002-03 to 2006-07

	Sudan (£000)
2002-03	19,222
2003-04	24,663
2004-05	83,964
2005-06	117,114
2006-07	109,917

Table 2: Imputed UK share of multilateral official development assistance (ODA) 2001-05

	Sudan (£000)
2001	3,020
2002	2,650
2003	20,032
2004	6,892
2005	18,343

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Coal Fired Power Stations: Carbon Sequestration

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received from industry on the *(a)* costs and *(b)* expected dates of retrofitting carbon capture and storage to new build coal fired power stations. [174685]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government have undertaken two formal consultations with industry on these matters. These are the 2005 Carbon Abatement Technology (CAT) Strategy and the 2006 HMT consultation on the barriers to CCS, the responses of which can be found on the HMT website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk./media/7/3/carbon_2_dr_freund.02.pdf

In addition, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has also held informal consultations on this matter with industry leading up to, and following, the launch on 19 November 2007 of the UK's CCS demonstration competition.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Alcoholic Drinks: Advertising

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will take steps to prohibit the advertising of alcohol in the cinema before films with a lower than 18 certificate. [176845]

Margaret Hodge: The Government take the issue of alcohol abuse among children and young people very seriously and as part of our national alcohol strategy, "Safe. Sensible. Social." we are reviewing the evidence on the relationship between alcohol price, promotion and harm.

Advertising regulations must be robust and based on best evidence. If new evidence emerged which clearly highlighted problems in relation to consumer harm caused by alcohol advertising, then the regulators would need to consider this fully and take appropriate action.

Climate Change

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* intends to take by (i) 2012 and (ii) 2020 in relation to adaptation to the effects of climate change as they affect his departmental responsibilities; and if he will make a statement. [166424]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 6 December 2007]:* My Department is carrying out a project to identify potential climate change impacts on our sectors. We started this work last June, in advance of the Climate Change Bill. We recognised that over the longer-term climate change may impose significant costs and challenges for the preservation of the country's historic environment, the design of new buildings and much of the sport and leisure infrastructure, such as public parks and playing fields. We are working closely with our sponsored bodies to explore mitigation and adaptation practices. Our findings will inform the targets for our next Sustainable Development Action Plan and our future climate change policy.

In connection with the 2012 Olympic Games and their legacy, the London 2012 Sustainability Plan—Towards a One Planet 2012—launched on 26 November, includes commitments that new permanent venues in the Olympic Park will respond to climate change challenges. These commitments also apply to the new parkland and will influence the development of the whole site.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding will be provided to local authorities to cover the cost of digital switchover of communal TV systems in local authority-owned properties. [176715]

James Purnell: Digital television services were first introduced in 1998. Since then local authorities with housing stock as well as other social and private sector landlords, have been taking action to provide residents with access to these services by ensuring that communal television systems are capable of relaying digital television services. No additional funding has been, or will be, provided to local authorities for the costs of modernising communal televisions systems.

Flags

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to announce the results of the consultation on the rules on flying the Union Flag on public buildings. [176153]

Margaret Hodge: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport plans to publish the summary of responses to the consultation shortly and the Government response will follow.

Opinion Leader Research

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 105WS, on the correction to written parliamentary Question 16520, what *(a)* discussions and *(b)* meetings his Department had with (i) the Central Office of Information and (ii) Opinion Leader Research while preparing (A) the answer to Question 165260 and (B) the written ministerial statement. [176953]

Margaret Hodge: An official from my Department had a telephone conversation with an official from the Central Office of Information (COI). The purpose was to confirm the facts given in the corrected answer and written statement. There were no meetings. There has been no contact with Opinion Leader Research.

S4C

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will consider transferring responsibility for S4C to the Welsh Executive. [176149]

James Purnell: Broadcasting in the United Kingdom is a reserved matter and the Government currently have no plans to transfer responsibility for S4C to the Welsh Executive.

Television

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what criteria were used by the Central Office of Information to choose Opinion Leader Research to produce the qualitative research project on the BBC Trust and the television licence fee in December 2005; [176951]

(2) what the tendering process was for the qualitative research project on the BBC Trust and the television licence fee, produced by Opinion Leader Research in December 2005. [176952]

Margaret Hodge: The Department used the expertise of the Central Office of Information and its well established roster system to allocate the project.

Opinion Leader Research was selected for this project by the Central Office of Information from its roster as the most appropriate agency available to conduct this research, taking into account its previous experience, expertise, and most importantly, its capacity and availability for a project which needed to be completed within a short timescale.

The Central Office of Information sets up framework agreements with companies in a manner fully compliant with the procurement rules of the European Union. The framework agreements are advertised in the Official Journal of the European Journal and are refreshed on a regular basis.

Suppliers are appointed to the frameworks on the basis of their expertise, capability and value for money.

Tourism

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* overseas and *(b)* UK tourists visiting (i) Cumbria and (ii) Copeland in the last five years. [175611]

Margaret Hodge: The following tables show (i) the number of overseas visits to Cumbria and (ii) the number of domestic overnight trips to the North West region for the latest years for which data are available.

Information on visits at constituency level by foreign and domestic tourists is not available.

Overseas Visits: Cumbria

	Thousand
2002	180
2003	199
2004	203
2005	210
2006	226

Source:
International Passenger Survey (ONS).

Domestic Overnight Trips by UK Residents[1]

	Million
2002	14.5
2003	16.0
2004	12.9
2005	15.3
2006	13.5

[1] The methodology for the UKTS changed in 2005 meaning that comparisons with previous years should be treated with caution. This change occurred as a result of concerns with the quality of 2004 data, which is thought to be an under-representation of the true position.

Source:
UK Tourism Survey (National Tourist Boards).

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the average length of stay by *(a)* domestic tourists and *(b)* foreign tourists visiting Copeland over the last five years. [175933]

Margaret Hodge: The tables show the average length of stay by (i) domestic overnight tourists in the North West region and (ii) overseas visitors in Cumbria for the last five years for which data are available.

Information at constituency level is not available.

Average number of nights spent by domestic tourists[1] *(2002-06)*

North West	*Average*
2002	2.7
2003	2.8
2004	3.0
2005	2.9
2006	2.8

[1] The methodology for the UKTS changed in 2005 meaning that comparisons with previous years should be treated with caution. This change occurred as a result of concerns with the quality of 2004 data, which is thought to be an under-representation of the true position.

Source:
UK Tourism Survey (National Tourist Boards)

Average number of nights spent by overseas residents (2002-06)

Cumbria	*Average*
2002	5
2003	6
2004	6
2005	7
2006	7

Source:
International Passenger Survey (ONS)

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the proportion of the gross value added of Copeland that has been generated by domestic visitors over the last five years. [175934]

Margaret Hodge: Information on the proportion of the gross value added of Copeland generated by domestic visitors is not available.

However, the English regions "First Steps Tourism Satellite Account" report (August 2005) estimated that the contribution of tourism to the North West was £2.7 billion (2.75 per cent. of gross value added) in 2003.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of visitor beds that were available in Copeland constituency in each of the last five years. [176727]

Margaret Hodge: Information on the latest estimates of bed spaces available in Copeland is shown in the table. Consistent figures for previous years are unavailable due to improvements to the method of recording accommodation stock that were implemented by Cumbria Tourism following a review in 2006.

Number of bed spaces in Copeland (April 2007)

Accommodation type	*Number of bed spaces*
Serviced accommodation	2,090
Non-serviced accommodation	4,872

Source:
Cumbria Tourism DMS files, April 2007

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate his Department has made of the number of people in Copeland constituency who were employed in the tourism sector in each of the last five years. [176728]

Margaret Hodge: Information on employment in the tourism sector in Copeland is shown in the table.

Employment in the tourism-related sector[1] (2002-06)

Copeland	*Number*
2002	1,700
2003	1,800
2004	1,900
2005	2,100
2006	2,100

[1] Tourism-related jobs include employment in hotels, camping sites, restaurants, bars, activities of travel agencies, libraries, archives, museums, sporting activities and other recreational activities.

Source:
Annual Business Inquiry employee analysis, ONS

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate his Department has made of the number of people who were involved in work-based training in the tourism sector in Copeland constituency in each of the last five years. [176729]

Margaret Hodge: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) North West has provided data for each of the last three years on the number of people in work-based learning in Travel and Tourism and in Hospitality and Catering in Copeland, Cumbria and the North West. The LSC has also provided data on the number undertaking learning through Train to Gain since it was rolled out nationally in 2006. The LSC also holds data on the number of people in these areas undertaking learning in further education.

In 2004-05, 25 people were involved in work-based learning in Travel and Tourism and in Hospitality and Catering in Copeland, 259 people in Cumbria and 3,042 in the North West; in 2005-06, 17 people were involved in Copeland, 230 in Cumbria and 2,544 in the North West; and in 2006-07, 24 people were involved in Copeland, 238 in Cumbria and 2,254 in the North West. In 2006-07, seven people also started learning through Train to Gain in Copeland, 97 in Cumbria and 2,271 in the North West.

My Department expects data for 2002-03 and 2003-04 to become available shortly and I will write to the hon. Member separately with this information.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department has made an estimate of the average spend per head of domestic tourists visiting Copeland in the last five years. [176758]

Margaret Hodge: The table shows average expenditure per head of domestic overnight tourists visiting the North West.

Information at constituency level is not available.

Average expenditure[1] of domestic overnight tourists[2] (2002-06)

	North West
2002	160
2003	163
2004	181
2005	167
2006	170

[1] Expenditure includes items such as package holidays, accommodation, travel to and from the destination and during the trip, services and advice, buying clothes, eating and drinking out, shopping, entertainment and other items relating to the trip.

[2] The methodology for the UKTS changed in 2005 meaning that comparisons with previous years should be treated with caution. This change occurred as a result of concerns with the quality of 2004 data, which is thought to be an under-representation of the true position.

Source:
UK Tourism Survey (National Tourist Boards)

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the average expenditure per head by overseas tourists visiting *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland in the last five years. [175612]

Margaret Hodge: The table shows the average expenditure per head by overseas visitors to Cumbria in the last five years for which data are available.

Information at constituency level is not available.

Average expenditure[1] per head by overseas residents (2002-06)

Cumbria	*£*
2002	227
2003	251
2004	251
2005	276
2006	261

[1] Expenditure excludes fares for travel to and from the UK.

Source:
International Passenger Survey (ONS).

TRANSPORT

Cars: Safety

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations she has received on faulty bonnet catches on Renault Clios; and what discussions *(a)* she and *(b)* her officials have had with the manufacturers on a possible product recall. [175956]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) is responsible for managing vehicle safety recalls in GB. VOSA has received two formal vehicle safety defect reports from customers alleging faulty bonnet catches on Renault Clios. VOSA does not record the number of customer contacts asking for information or advice but estimates that its Vehicle Safety Branch has handled 50 such enquiries in the last six months.

The Secretary of State has not met with Renault on this matter. VOSA does not keep a tally of the number

of discussions it has with a manufacturer. Officials at VOSA have worked closely with Renault since the bonnet opening incidents were first reported and I can confirm they have had numerous face-to-face meetings and telephone contacts with Renault UK and Renault Headquarters in France on this matter during the last two years.

Christmas

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her Department's policy is on the selection of *(a)* real and *(b)* artificial Christmas trees for her Department's festive decorations; and how real trees are disposed of. [173510]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has no specific policy on this matter and both real and artificial Christmas trees are used on departmental premises. Real trees are purchased in accordance with Government procurement rules and are disposed of via recycling. Artificial trees are not disposed of and continue to be re-used every year.

Dartford Tunnel: Fees and Charges

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make a statement on the Dartford Crossing charging regime for people in *(a)* Castle Point and *(b)* South Essex. [176035]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In April 2007 the Department announced that it would develop a local discount scheme for the Dartford-Thurrock River Crossing for consultation later in the year. A consultation on a discount scheme for local residents will be announced shortly.

Driving: Disabled

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Blue Badge disabled drivers permits have been issued in Copeland over the last five years. [176642]

Ms Rosie Winterton: 7,165 disabled drivers permits (Blue Badges) were issued in Copeland in the five year period between 1 January 2003 and 31 December 2007.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many letters her Department received from hon. Members and Peers in each session of Parliament since 1997. [174943]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of departments in replying to Members/ Peers correspondence. Information relating to 2007 will be published as soon as it has been collated. The report for 2006 was published on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 101-04WS. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

Metronet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which companies made up Metronet in the period before it went into administration. [176785]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Before going into administration, Metronet Rail BCV Ltd. And Metronet Rail SSL Ltd. were owned by the same consortium of five shareholders, each shareholder holding 20 per cent. of each company. These five shareholders are:

Bombardier
Balfour Beatty
Atkins
EDF Energy
Thames Water

Minimum Wage

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many London-based staff are employed by her Department on the national minimum wage. [175973]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department does not have any London based staff employed on the national minimum wage.

Motorways

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consultation will be undertaken with *(a)* local residents and *(b)* those with business premises between junctions 26 to 30 of the M25 motorway. [176783]

Mr. Tom Harris: A series of five public exhibitions on the proposals for the widening of the M25 from Junction 27-30 were held during November and December 2007 to support the publication of the Environmental Statement. The comment period ends on 7 February 2008.

Similar exhibitions will be held for the section from Junction 26-27 as part of the consultation for the M25 Junction 23-27 widening. It is currently proposed that the Environmental Statement for this section will be published in 2011-12.

Public Transport: Concessions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects the Minister of State to reply to the letter of 21 November requesting a meeting with representatives from Worthing Borough Council to discuss the effect of the concessionary fares scheme in Worthing. [176804]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member today.

Roads

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the M25 near Romford will be widened. [176784]

Mr. Tom Harris: The M25 near Romford will be improved as part of the M25 Junction 27-30 widening. Subject to the satisfactory completion of the necessary statutory processes and the availability of funding, the current proposed start of works for this section of widening is 2009-10.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the M25 will be widened throughout its length. [176787]

Mr. Tom Harris: The current proposals for widening the M25 relate to the following sections:

Scheme	*Proposed start of works*	*Expected completion*
Junctions 1b-3	2008	2009
Junctions 5-7	2012	2015
Junctions 16-23	2009	2012
Junctions 23-27	2012	2015
Junctions 27-30	2009-10	2012

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans there are to improve the M25 near the junction 27 (Romford) turn off. [176788]

Mr. Tom Harris: The M25 near Junction 27 will be improved as part of the Junction 27-30 widening. Subject to the satisfactory completion of the necessary statutory processes and availability of funding, start of works are planned for 2009-10.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the percentage of road accidents within the Copeland area which were caused by drivers using hand-held mobile telephones in the last five years. [176644]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Information on the percentage of reported personal injury road accidents within Great Britain that had 'Driver using mobile phone' recorded as a contributory factor can be found in table 4b of the "Contributory factors to road accidents" article in "Road Casualties Great Britain" at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/162259/162469/221412/221549/227755/rcgb2006v1.pdf

These data are not available at local authority level and are not available prior to 2005. The contributory factor 'Driver using mobile phone' includes 'hand held' and 'hands free' phones.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the planned cost is of the road and road bridge due to replace the underpass connecting Down's Road and Hog Lane on the A2 trunk road in Gravesham. [176776]

Mr. Tom Harris: The estimated cost of the new Downs Road including the new bridge over the realigned section of A2 in Gravesham is £1.1 million.

Roads: Safety

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much Government funding was provided for road safety schemes in *(a)* North East Lincolnshire and *(b)* North Lincolnshire in each year since 2001-02. [176864]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government have provided specific road safety grants of £372,868 for North East Lincolnshire council and £427,793 for North Lincolnshire council in 2007-08. The grants replaced a scheme, in operation from 2000-01 to 2006-07, for the local use of income generated by safety camera partnerships.

Central Government have provided financial support for local authorities to invest in road safety within the integrated transport block, which can be used for a wide range of investment in transport according to local authorities' policies and priorities. Typically local authorities spend about one fifth of their integrated transport block on road safety projects. The figures for North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire are shown in table 1.

Table 1: integrated transport block

£ million

	N.E. Lincolnshire	*N. Lincolnshire*
2001-02	2.1	1.2
2002-03	4.7	2.2
2003-04	3.6	2.9
2004-05	3.22	3.156
2005-06	2.0	2.7
2006-07	2.185	1.67
2007-08	2.231	1.795

In addition local authorities receive support for road safety services via unhypothecated formula grant (including revenue support grant).

Written Questions

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she will answer Questions 169010 to 169015, tabled by the hon. Member for Richmond Park on 23 November 2007, on personal information. [175778]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I replied to the hon. Member on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1169-70W.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

A12: Fires

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department received a request for the penetration by high velocity round of the oxyacetylene cylinder in the fire incident on the A12 at Eight Ash Green on 5 October; for what reasons the request was refused; and if she will make a statement. [175987]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 7 January 2008 (PQ175549).

Boyhood to Manhood Foundation

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) when she expects to meet representatives from the Boyhood to Manhood Foundation; [173470]

(2) what discussions her Department has had with the Boyhood to Manhood Foundation in the last 12 months. [173471]

Mr. Dhanda: Officials from the Department have had several discussions with the Boyhood to Manhood Foundation and have also visited the foundation to observe and participate in frontline service delivery.

Community Relations: Religion

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings her officials have had on combating violent extremism in Britain since 2005. [175633]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government took on responsibility for the community-led response to violent extremism as part of the machinery of Government changes in May 2006. Since then, officials have met regularly with partners across central and local government and internationally, and a wide range of community stakeholders.

Council Tax: Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to reduce the council tax discount on empty homes. [176459]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1132W.

Council Tax: Greater London

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Band D council tax was on *(a)* the fire/police precept and *(b)* the GLA precept in London in each year since 1997-98. [176164]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 539W.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the change was in Band D council tax in each London borough in each year since 1997-98. [176745]

John Healey: Details of the percentage change in Band D council tax in *(a)* London and *(b)* each London borough in each year since 1997-98 are available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/ctax/data/ctaxtimes.xls

Council Tax: Lee Valley

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether council tax precepts issued by the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority are subject to the capping regime. [176189]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 540W.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what exchanges of personal data have taken place between her Department and local authorities in the last 12 months; and what physical or electronic media were used in each such exchange. [174546]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government holds some anonymous and aggregated personal data relating to particular policy areas which is collected by local authorities. These are used to support the monitoring implementation and success of these policies. The data consist of information about individuals' personal attributes and circumstances and reasons for service provision but the individual cannot be identified.

These data are transferred to the Department either using a secure portal or via encrypted discs which are signed for on delivery. Like other Departments, we are currently carrying out a review of arrangements in relation to the sharing and holding of personal data and these specific arrangements will be reviewed as part of that process.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the strategic objectives for her Department will be published, further to the publication of the Public Service Agreement delivery agreement for her Department. [176176]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department's Departmental Strategic Objectives (DSOS) were published as part of the CSR07 settlement announced on 9 October 2007. They are available via the CLG external website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/about/howwework/publicserviceagreements/

Empty Property: Fires

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many unoccupied domestic properties in England and Wales were damaged or affected by fire in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [176903]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* The information requested is in the following table.

Fires in unoccupied dwellings, England and Wales, 2002-06

	Number
2002	3,031
2003	2,827
2004	2,286
2005	1,592
2006	1,424

Note:
Data for 2006 are provisional. Excludes incidents not recorded during periods of industrial action in 2002 and 03.

EU Grants and Loans

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people employed in her Department work on administering EU structural funds; and what the cost of such staff was in 2006-07. [176044]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government employed a division of 28 people in 2006-07 to administer England's European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) grant programmes. The staff cost for that year was £1.2 million.

The division has been reorganised during 2007-08 and the number of staff employed is currently being reduced.

Fire Services

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were *(a)* on duty and *(b)* recalled in each fire and rescue service in the 72 hour period commencing 00:00 on 20 July 2007. [176808]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fire Services: Contracts

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what minimum contractual periods are contained within the contracts for the *(a)* FireControl and *(b)* Firelink projects; and whether the contracts allow for early termination of the agreements. [176602]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 683-84W.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for contracts to be finalised for the *(a)* FireControl and *(b)* Firelink projects. [176609]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 683W.

Fire Services: Risk Assessment

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many project risks are listed for the *(a)* FireLink and *(b)* FireControl project; how many of these risks are rated as high or above; and what the risks rated as high or above are. [175564]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* There are 76 project risks on the Firelink Risk Register, of which some 20 per cent. are rated high or above. These risks are actively managed and mitigated in order to reduce their impact ratings. They fall into the following broad areas:

Contractor performance;

User acceptance;

Technical integration with other projects;

The ability of emergency services to develop joint procedures to maximise the potential of the network;

Sufficiency of network capacity;

Operational continuity of legacy systems until rollout of the whole programme is complete, and

continuity in consultancy support and capabilities.

There are 130 project risks on the FiReControl Risk Register, of which some 6 per cent. are rated high or above. These risks are actively managed and mitigated in order to reduce their impact ratings. They fall into the following broad areas:

Local/regional resource capacity/capability

Strategic change/impacts

Technical integration with other projects

Contractor performance

User acceptance.

Fires: Chemicals

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department decided to consider whether to amend its guidance on the handling of fires involving oxyacetylene; what consultants have been employed on the matter; and when revised guidance will be published. [175986]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today (PQ175548).

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to amend guidance to fire authorities on the handling of fires involving oxyacetylene; and if she will make a statement. [175548]

Mr. Dhanda: There are no plans to amend the current guidance to fire authorities on the handling of fires involving acetylene.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department began recording fires involving oxyacetylene as fires of special interest; and how many such fires have been recorded. [175555]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government started to record reported incidents involving acetylene during March 2007, 30 incidents have been recorded to date.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research her Department has commissioned on the most effective ways of handling fires involving oxyacetylene. [175556]

Mr. Dhanda: In February 2007, Communities and Local Government published a review of research carried out in investigating how acetylene cylinders involved in a fire are dealt with by fire services around the world and in identifying gaps in existing knowledge. This review is published on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/safetyacetylene

Greater London Authority: Buildings

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the financial liability the public purse will bear for the cost of City Hall at the end of the 25 year lease signed by the then Secretary of State for Environment, Transport and the Regions. [176737]

Mr. Dhanda: The Government have not made any estimate of the financial liability the public purse will have for the cost of City Hall at the end of the 25 year lease. Responsibility for the City Hall lease was transferred from the Secretary of State to the Greater London Authority in 2004.

Green Belt: South East Region

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recommendations on *(a)* review and *(b)* removal of green belt designations have been made in the panel reports on the regional spatial strategies for the *(a)* South East and *(b)* East Midlands. [174539]

Mr. Dhanda: A summary of the policies in the draft South East and East Midlands RSSs and Panel Reports relating to the reviews of green belts are as follows:

South East

Policy CC10a, states that the existing green belt in the region will be retained and supported and the opportunity should be taken to improve their land-use management and access as part of initiatives to improve urban rural fringe. If there are any cases for small scale local review, these can be pursued through LDF process.

East Midlands

The panel report into the East Midlands regional spatial strategy, published on 28 November 2007 stated that the existing green belt which currently encircles Nottingham should be recast to protect only the area between Nottingham and Derby and therefore to remove areas north, east and south of Nottingham from the green belt. In reaching this conclusion the panel took into account the purposes and objectives of green belt in PPG2 and also the pressures for growth in and around the Nottingham conurbation.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what records her Department keeps of the number and location of zero carbon homes. [176171]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government do not currently keep records of individual homes built to a zero carbon standard.

However, the Government are committed to making it mandatory for all new homes to have a rating against the Code for Sustainable Homes. Once this comes into force all code certificates which are issued will be logged on a central database and will indicate where homes have achieved the zero carbon standards and the location of those homes. Access to and use of this data is subject to existing data protection safeguards.

Local Authorities: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes have been made to best value performance indicators in the last three years in relation to recording and measuring user satisfaction with local authorities. [176165]

John Healey: Within the set of best value performance indicators, there are currently 12 indicators that are used to measure resident and user satisfaction. There were no changes to these best value performance indicators between 2003 and 2006.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Electoral Commission's proposed 13 performance indicators for local authority electoral registration departments will be in addition to the new 198 performance indicators for local authorities. [176200]

John Healey: The 198 national indicators announced on 11 October will be the only ones against which central Government will require local government, working on its own or in partnership, to report. The Electoral Commission is independent of central Government and has statutory powers to set performance standards for electoral registration officers and has consulted on a number of possible indicators on electoral registration which would be in addition to the Government's 198 national indicators.

The Government are committed to reducing the performance reporting and data collection burdens faced by local authorities. We will be working with the Electoral Commission as their proposals are developed and implemented to see how the exercise of the Commission's statutory powers could best be aligned with the Government's wider aims in this respect.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for publishing *(a)* draft and *(b)* final best value performance indicator data for each local authority for 2006-07. [176746]

John Healey: Each local authority is required to publish data on its performance against best value performance indicators (BVPIs) as part of its best value performance plan (BVPP). Outturn data for 2006-07 were included in 2007-08 BVPPs, which authorities were required to publish by 30 June 2007. BVPI data published in BVPPs are audited by the Audit Commission, which makes the final audited data available on its website. Audited data for 2006-07 were published at http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/performance/dataprovision.asp on 11 December 2007.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of local government revenue expenditure will be locally financed in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [176228]

John Healey: In 2007-08, local authorities in England have planned to finance 25 per cent. of their revenue expenditure through council tax. Data for 2008-09 are not yet available.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which specific grants to local government will *(a)* no longer be and *(b)* remain ring fenced. [176241]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1331-32W.

The following specific revenue grants will remain ring fenced:

AIDS Support
Aiming High for Disabled Children
Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement
Basic Command Units
Bus Challenge and Kickstart
City Challenge
Contact Point[1]
Counter Terrorism
Crime Fighting Fund
Dedicated Schools Grant
Early Years: Increasing Flexibility of Entitlement for 3-4 year olds
eCommon Assessment Framework
Ethnic Minority Achievement
Extended Schools—Academic Focused Study Support
Extended Schools—Subsidy
Extended Schools—Sustainability
Initial Police Learning and Development Programme
Learning Disability Campus Closure Programme
Making Good Progress
Music Grant
Neighbourhood Policing Fund and Community Support Officers
Parenting Practitioner Grant
Playing for Success
School Development Grant
School Lunch Grant
Social Care Reform
Supporting People[2]
Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare
Targeted Mental Health in Schools Grant
Targeted Support for Primary and Secondary Strategy
Urban Congestion
Waste Management Pilots
Youth Opportunity Fund

[1] The Department for Children, Schools and Families aim to include Contact Point in Area Based Grant from 2010-11. Area Based Grant is not ring fenced.

[2] Communities and Local Government aim to include Supporting People programme grant in Area Based Grant from 2009-10, dependent on pilots in 2008-09 not raising serious concerns.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether councils with above-average collection rates for *(a)* council tax and *(b)* business rates receive additional revenue as a consequence. [176615]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1332W.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the £5 billion of reduction in ring-fenced and specific grants by 2010-11 will be re-allocated to *(a)* Revenue Support Grant and *(b)* Area-Based Grant. [176623]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 899W.

Milton Keynes Partnerships: Public Appointments

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* procedures and *(b)* timetable are for the appointment of the new Chairman of Milton Keynes Partnerships. [175606]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* The new independent chairman of the Milton Keynes Partnership will be appointed on merit following fair and open competition.

Although the chairman is not one of the appointments that the Commissioner for Public Appointments regulates, the appointments procedure will follow the principles set out in the Commissioner's Code of Practice.

The timetable to recruit a successor to the current chairman, Sir Bob Reid, will commence shortly and the aim is to have a new chairman in post by June 2008.

Neighbourhood Wardens: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of the 210 local authorities which received central Government funding for community/neighbourhood wardens are still funding the warden schemes. [176754]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 685W.

Neighbourhood Wardens: Young People

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much funding is being provided to local authorities to run junior neighbourhood wardens in 2007-08; [176750]

(2) what guidance has been given to local authorities on setting up junior neighbourhood wardens schemes; [176748]

(3) what police and school records children must have in order to be eligible to become a junior neighbourhood warden; [176743]

(4) what the recommended minimum age is at which an individual can become a junior neighbourhood warden. [176741]

John Healey: Junior warden schemes have developed in some areas as part of existing neighbourhood warden initiatives.

Funding for warden schemes has now been pooled within area based grants. Local authorities now have flexibility to spend these resources in whatever way they see fit to deliver their local area agreement outcomes. Information is not collected at the centre about the number and type of schemes that are being supported through area based grants.

Communities and Local Government (CLG) has not issued specific guidance on how junior warden schemes should be set up and managed, however the action plan for community empowerment, which CLG published jointly with the Local Government Association in October 2007, included a case study of the Rochdale junior warden scheme, illustrating how young people can make a positive contribution to their communities.

Opinion Leader Research

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many contracts were awarded by her Department to Opinion Leader Research in each year since 1997; and in respect of each what was *(a)* the title and purpose, *(b)* the cost to the public purse and *(c)* the date of (i) tender, (ii) award, (iii) operation and (iv) completion and report to the Department. [165262]

Hazel Blears: The Department's financial systems show that no contracts for projects have been entered into with Opinion Leader Research (OLR) since May 2002. Records prior to that could be recovered only at disproportionate cost.

My Department recently arranged through the Central Office of Information (COI) for OLR to organise two citizens' juries, which took place on 10 and 11 December 2007 in London and Hull. This was a joint project between the Department for Communities and Local Government, and the Department for Innovation Universities and Skills. The purpose of the citizens' juries was to explore how the provision of English for Speakers of Other Languages can be focused to reach those areas and people in the greatest need, and how it can support community cohesion. The final cost, to be shared between the two Departments, will be about £78,000. COI went out to tender on 8 November 2007. OLR was selected as the preferred contractor on 16 November and awarded the contract on 30 November. OLR is due to make a final report at the end of January 2008.

Planning Permission: Public Buildings

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what planning applications her Department has submitted on requests for planning permission on its departmental properties in the last 12 months; for what buildings; and for what purpose. [176587]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 554W.

Public Bodies: Data Protection

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research her Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* commissioned on the development of XML Schema for the sharing of data between public authorities. [176591]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1342W.

Regional Government: Ministers

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department is the lead department co-ordinating the work of regional Ministers. [176526]

Mr. Dhanda: The network of regional Ministers operates under the joint chairmanship of the Secretaries of State for Communities and Local Government, and Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform; with officials from these departments providing a secretariat. The Network has regular meetings to discuss their work.

Regional Planning and Development: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding her Department has provided to each of the Regional Centres of Excellence and Regional Improvement Partnerships. [176757]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1158W.

Regional Planning and Development: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* indicators and *(b)* targets will be contained within each local area agreement; and whether these will be in addition to national indicators. [176192]

John Healey: A local area agreement can include any number of targets. A maximum of 35 targets will be negotiated with Government and become 'designated' by the Secretary of State. Designated targets will be subject to separate reporting requirements and different procedures should they need to be revised during the life of the LAA. The national indicators are not themselves included as part of the local area agreement, but each designated target will be set against one of the 198 national indicators.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agricultural Products: Exports

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what guidance is available to farmers on the rules on the export of agricultural products to *(a)* EU and *(b)* non-EU countries; and if he will make a statement; [174438]

(2) what guidance is available to farmers on the rules on the movement of livestock in restricted areas; and if he will make a statement. [174439]

Jonathan Shaw: A large amount of guidance for farmers on the export of agricultural products and livestock movements is available on the DEFRA website and from local animal health divisional offices.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what effect there was on the level of expenditure on single farm payments made by the Rural Payments Agency in 2006-07 from the resizing of fields. [173857]

Jonathan Shaw: Payments are determined by the entitlements held by a customer which were based on the land area established and claimed in 2005. Therefore any increase in the size of a field would not change the expenditure unless the customer had sufficient entitlements to activate any claim on the increased area. During 2005 and 2006 the Rural Land Register was subject to a process of validation which in some cases resulted in field sizes changing. Where this impacted on individual claims, a process of reworking is under way, designed, where appropriate, to correct the land area and the number of entitlements established. Increase in land area may result in individual farmers being able to activate more entitlements. Effects on the level of expenditure of single payment scheme payments in 2006-07 cannot be determined until the evaluation of reworked cases, currently under way, is completed.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Rural Payments Agency on making faster single farm payments to farmers who have been affected by the recent flooding; and if he will make a statement. [174275]

Jonathan Shaw: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and my noble and right hon. Friend Lord Rooker have regular meetings the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) chief executive, during which they confirmed then their support for the significant efforts being made by the Agency, in relation to the 2007 Single Payment Scheme, to make more full payments, to more farmers, earlier than under the 2006 scheme. The announcement by RPA on 10 December, that live testing of the payments system was under way, is an encouraging sign that the Agency is on track to meet its formal targets of making 75 per cent. of full 2007 scheme payments, by value, by the end of March and 90 per cent. by end of May 2008.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how the amounts paid to farmers under the single farm payment scheme have been calculated; and if he will make a statement. [174276]

Jonathan Shaw: The annual payments made to English farmers under the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) are based on the total value of the entitlements on which a valid claim is made, with adjustments then made to reflect the application of reductions such as modulation and penalties for breaches of eligibility or cross-compliance rules.

The number of entitlements allocated to English farmers is in turn based on the number of eligible hectares that they declared on their application form under the 2005 SPS. The value of those entitlements under the 2005 scheme was calculated in two parts. First a flat rate per entitlement was established by dividing the total number of entitlements created in each English area into a sum representing 10 per cent. of the available funds. The remaining 90 per cent. of the available funds was then used to fund an individual reference amount for each farmer based on historic subsidy receipts. The value of each entitlement will be adjusted each year until 2012 to allocate a higher percentage of available funds to calculate the flat rate value. By 2012, the entire value of each entitlement will be based on a common flat rate amount in each area. Farmers may use the '2007 Entitlements Calculator' on the RPA website (www.rpa.gov.uk) to assist in the calculation of an approximate value of their entitlements for the 2007 scheme.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Government have paid in fines to the EU as a result of late payments made under the single farm payment scheme for 2005; what fines he expects the Government to have to make for late payments arising from 2006; and if he will make a statement. [174277]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has included accruals totalling £63 million in its 2006-07 resource accounts in respect of late payment penalties imposed for SPS 2005, which has now been paid. A further £7 million was noted as a contingent liability in those resource accounts but no further amounts have been paid.

There will be no late payment penalties for SPS2006 as the Rural Payments Agency met the EC target of making 96.154 per cent. of payments by 30 June 2007.

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) has made in administering the single farm payment scheme (SPS); and whether the RPA has cleared all the claims that needed to be revisited for SPS 2005 and 2006 where errors had been generated. [174287]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 107WS.

Animal Welfare Act 2006

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* convictions and *(b)* prosecutions there have been under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, broken down by offence; and if he will make a statement. [174483]

Jonathan Shaw: The Animal Welfare Act 2006 came into force in Wales on 27 March and in England on 6 April 2007. The figures for convictions and prosecutions for offences under the Act will not be available until the latter half of 2008.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to bring forward secondary legislation under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 on *(a)* pet fairs, *(b)* wild animals in circuses, *(c)* cats, *(d)* dogs, *(e)* pet shops, *(f)* game birds, *(g)* animal boarding, *(h)* tethering of horses, *(i)* riding schools, *(j)* livery yards, *(k)* animal sanctuaries and *(l)* performing animals; and if he will make a statement. [174484]

Jonathan Shaw: During the Animal Welfare Act's passage through Parliament it became clear that hon. Members and peers wanted to give priority to a number of issues on which a commitment had been given for secondary legislation and/or codes of practice. These were wild animal acts in circuses, the welfare of racing greyhounds, pet fairs, the keeping of gamebirds, cats and dogs and non-human primates as pets. We anticipate introducing regulations and codes for these during the next three years, although following the publication of the recent report into the use of wild animal acts in circuses, it is necessary to give further thought as to how this matter is taken forward.

The Government remain committed to regulating animal boarding, livery yards, animal sanctuaries and performing animals as soon as possible subject to available resources.

I also refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 610W.

Beef

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of the UK's beef consumption was sourced from the UK in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [173976]

Jonathan Shaw: In 2006 UK home-fed production of beef and veal accounted for 81 per cent. of the total new supply of beef and veal for use in the UK.

Birds: Imports

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the ban on wild bird imports on the illegal trade in wild birds. [172694]

Jonathan Shaw: There is currently a lack of information to form an assessment of the effect of the ban on illegal trade and the livelihoods of those trappers involved in developing countries. DEFRA has let a research contract to address this, which is expected to report early in 2008.

Bluetongue Disease: Disease Control

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures are in place to prevent the insect-related spread of bluetongue. [174252]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has been working in close partnership with the industry and stakeholders to develop the Bluetongue Control Strategy and has jointly been involved in raising awareness of this disease. It is our main objective to minimise the economic impact and spread of the disease.

The control measures set out in the Bluetongue Control Strategy are aimed at minimising disease spread. Movement of susceptible animals out of the control zones are banned except under licence (although animals can move freely within these zones).

DEFRA currently funds an extensive programme of research on bluetongue (including work on serotype 8) that supports disease control policies. This includes researching vector mitigation measures which may help protect animals against midges biting.

More information and guidance can be found on the DEFRA website, which is regularly updated with the latest developments and progress.

Canals: Expenditure

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the *(a)* economic and *(b)* other effects of public spending on canals with particular reference to effects on (i) regeneration, (ii) flood management and (iii) tourism and leisure. [174142]

Mr. Woolas: We fully recognise the economic, environmental and social benefits of the inland waterways and the role they can play in supporting Government objectives in health, recreation, regeneration, social inclusion, conservation of heritage and the environment. British Waterways has been involved in over £2 billion worth of urban and rural regeneration over the last decade and a further £7 billion of waterside regeneration is under way. Its canals also contribute to flood mitigation. In terms of tourism and leisure use, there were 268 million visits to British Waterways last year by boaters, anglers, cyclists and walkers.

DEFRA is working with British Waterways to agree a sustainable and affordable strategy for the waterways while maximising public benefits from the resources available.

Combined Heat and Power

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what feasibility studies have been carried out on potential growth of combined heat and power plants. [175423]

Mr. Woolas: A number of studies have been carried out on potential growth of combined heat and power plants in the UK. The most recent is the "Analysis of the National Potential for High-efficiency Cogeneration" which was prepared by AEA Technology to allow my Department to meet the reporting requirements of the EU cogeneration directive. This study is available on the DEFRA website.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 700-1W, on the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, how many attacks on people there were by dogs designated as dangerous under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in each year since 1997 in London. [175389]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 18 December 2007]*: I refer the hon. Member to table 2, 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 701W, citing the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts in Greater London for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in each year from 1997 to 2006. We do not hold information on whether the dogs involved were held in contravention of the law.

Departmental Manpower

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women are employed by his Department, broken down by civil service grade. [172688]

Jonathan Shaw: The latest published information on the gender breakdown of civil servants by Department is as at 30 September 2006 and is available in tables H at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/2006CivilServiceStatistics.pdf

and

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/CivilService2006TablesandCharts.xls

Departmental Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff work in his Department's parliamentary branch; and what proportion of their time is spent on dealing with *(a)* parliamentary questions and *(b)* correspondence from hon. Members and Peers. [174954]

Jonathan Shaw: There are eight members of staff in parliamentary branch, two of whom work solely on parliamentary questions.

Correspondence from hon. Members and peers is handled by the Department's customer contact unit.

Departmental Pay

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people in his Department and its predecessors earned a salary over £100,000 in each year since 1997. [167191]

Jonathan Shaw: Details of the number of people in the Department who have been paid a salary of £100,000 or more, since 2002, are given in the following table. Data prior to 2002 are not centrally held and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The information covers people in core-DEFRA and the following DEFRA Executive Agencies: Animal Health, Pesticides Safety Directorate, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Marine Fisheries Agency, Government Decontamination Service, Rural Payments Agency, Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Central Science Laboratory and Centre for the Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science.

	Number of people paid £100,000 or more
2002	8
2003	10
2004	12
2005	19
2006	20
2007	25

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what budget was planned for his Department in 2007-08; how much his Department has spent in the year to date; and what the projected expenditure outturn for the year is. [175013]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 17 December 2007]*: DEFRA's budget (resource and capital DEL less depreciation) for 2007-08 is £3,617 million. It is for Ministers and the Department to manage its affairs during the year and to report on outturn to Parliament. The Department is currently addressing those pressures arising from the summer floods (£30 million) and the animal disease outbreaks (£35 million). However, action is being taken by the Department to manage down these cost pressures.

Departmental Publicity

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many full-time equivalent staff are responsible for brand management and marketing in his Department and its agencies. [165237]

Jonathan Shaw: Within the Communications Directorate in core DEFRA there are 17 full-time members of staff involved in the management of corporate branding and marketing. This includes work undertaken on:

The Act on CO_2 campaign—which includes the Climate Change, the Act on CO_2 calculator, the Climate Change Champions, events, Waste and Sustainable Consumption and Production.

Food and Farming—which covers the Year of Food and Farming, Food partnerships, Farming Link, Animal Welfare, agricultural shows and events, animal disease prevention and personal food imports.

Natural Environment—which covers Biodiversity, Marine and Fisheries, Rural Affairs as well as land and water use.

Individual records of staff for DEFRA'S non-departmental public bodies, agencies and financially sponsored organisations are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [167958]

Jonathan Shaw: For the financial year 2006-07, core DEFRA spent £568,728 on advertising.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* volume and *(b)* percentage of its waste his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [172514]

Mr. Woolas: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) can confirm that his Department recycled the following amounts of waste in each of the last five years.

	Waste Recovered (tonnes)	*Percentage Waste Recovered*
2002-03	1,021	46
2003-04	2,560	55
2004-05	2,210	52
2005-06	2,429	47
2006-07	2,891	55

These figures represent waste that is recovered, which includes recycled, composted, reused or incinerated with energy recovery.

DEFRA has already exceeded the 2010 target of recycling 40 per cent. of waste and is on course to recycle 75 per cent. of all waste by 2020.

Environmental Information Regulations Provisions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department produced on whether environmental information regulations provisions apply to regional chambers. [176579]

Joan Ruddock: Regional chambers are not specifically mentioned in our current detailed guidance on the environmental information regulations (EIRs) (www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/opengov/eir/guidance/full-guidance/pdf/guidance-2.pdf) but this does make clear that all bodies which carry out functions of public administration and bodies that are under the control of a public authority and have responsibilities, exercise functions or provide public services relating to the environment are covered by the regulations. The guidance also explains that bodies can seek more detailed advice on the interpretation of the regulations from the DEFRA telephone helpline and a central e-mail address, though the final determination of the extent to which they are covered would be for the Information Commissioner and the Information Tribunal to decide.

Exhaust Emissions: Transport

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to encourage the European Commission to include carbon emissions from transport under the evaluative criteria for the European eco-label; and if he will encourage the Commission to promote water-borne freight as a means of cutting these emissions. [176093]

Joan Ruddock: The Government want to see reliable methods established for measuring the greenhouse gas emissions embodied in products (from the extraction, transport and processing of raw materials right through to the finished product) and we are actively supporting work by the British Standards Institution to enable this. The European Commission is also running a study on how carbon emissions "embodied" in products can be better reflected in future criteria under the EU ecolabelling scheme. Officials in my Department have had positive discussions with their counterparts in the Commission about the development of suitable methods for measuring these embodied emissions and the scope for wider improvements to the ecolabelling scheme to help focus on the key life-cycle impacts of particular types of product.

Farms: Utilities

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what obligation there is on utility companies to observe cross-compliance regulations when entering farm land; and if he will make a statement. [174452]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* Domestic legislation in England (SI 2005 No. 3459) provides for a claimant to be exempted from a cross compliance standard where the laying, construction or maintenance of a pipeline, cable or pylon under statutory authority is incompatible with meeting the standard (paragraph 4 (3)(a) and (b)). Ordinarily, if a claimant thinks such work might be incompatible with meeting a standard, in advance of the work being carried out, they should approach the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) for an exemption. This should safeguard the position of both the statutory undertaker and the claimant.

There will be emergency situations where such advance requests are not possible. In such circumstances, if a claimant finds the work was incompatible with a standard, they would be advised to write to RPA to safeguard their position.

Fisheries: Navy

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reason the number of patrol days carried out by the Hunt class inshore patrol vessels, Island class offshore patrol vessels and River class offshore patrol vessels for the 2006-07 period stated in the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 61W, on Fisheries: Navy, were different to those stated in the answer of 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1058W. [176275]

Jonathan Shaw: The answers of 22 November and 10 December both stated that the total number of patrol days carried out by patrol vessels of the Fishery Protection Squadron in 2006-07 was 845 days.

The answer on 10 December on behalf of the Secretary of State for Defence recorded 227 days by Island class vessels and 618 days by River class vessels. This should have read 227 days by Hunt class vessels.

The answer on 22 November on behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs recorded 225 days by Hunt class vessels and 620 days by River class vessels.

The difference in allocation of two days by the two departments resulted from a minor correction to records as a product of staff changes.

The minor statistical difference between departments has no impact on the payment or the performance of the Fisheries Protection Squadron during that period.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1058W, on Fisheries: Navy, whether the unused contracted Royal Navy Fishery Protection Squadron patrol days may be *(a)* carried over to future years and *(b)* refunded to his Department; and if he will make a statement. [176276]

Jonathan Shaw: Unused patrol days cannot be carried over from one year to the next.

Fisheries: Protection

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 409W, on Fisheries: Protection, (1) whether the Ministry of Defence provides replacement vessels in the event of a Davit fault; and if he will make a statement; [176133]

(2) under what circumstances the Ministry of Defence would provide replacement vessels; what his definition is of extended time off task; and if he will make a statement; [176137]

(3) for how many patrol days a River class offshore patrol vessel would need to be unavailable for the Ministry of Defence to provide a replacement; and if he will make a statement. [176138]

Jonathan Shaw: There is no specific requirement for the Ministry of Defence to provide a replacement patrol vessel in the event of a Davit fault. It is difficult to be precise as to how many patrol days would need to be missed before a replacement vessel could be provided. Provision of a replacement vessel will depend on a number of operational factors including:

(i) the time that a River class vessel is off task or unable to undertake full operational duties;

(ii) the availability of a suitable replacement ship and crew with British Sea Fisheries Officers on board; and

(iii) the importance operationally at the time of having full fisheries patrol capability available.

Time off task is regarded as any time when the patrol vessel is not undertaking patrol activity at sea either because of routine stand-off or for other reasons, for example, technical problems.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 649-59W on Fisheries: Protection, whether the annual cost of the new contract with the Royal Navy Fishery Protection Squadron, beginning on 1 April 2008, will vary depending on the number of patrol days contracted in each year; and if he will make a statement. [176342]

Jonathan Shaw: The annual cost will depend on the number of patrol days delivered to the Marine and Fisheries Agency by the Royal Navy, the platform daily rate and an annual review of the daily rate.

Fixed Penalties: Greater London

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fixed penalty notices were *(a)* issued, *(b)* cancelled, *(c)* unpaid after 28 days, *(d)* unpaid and resulting in court action and *(e)* unpaid and resulting in no further action to date for (i) nuisance parking, (ii) abandoned vehicles, (iii) litter, (iv) street litter control, (v) litter clearance notices, (vi) graffiti, (vii) fly-tipping, (viii) inappropriate use of waste, (ix) dog fouling, (x) noise during the day, (xi) inappropriate disposal of chewing gum and (xii) noise at night in each London borough in each year since 1998. [172638]

Jonathan Shaw: Tables containing the number of fixed penalty notices issued in each London borough in each year since 1998 are available on the DEFRA website. I have arranged for copies of the tables to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

I am unable to say how many notices were unpaid after 28 days as DEFRA does not collect the information at that level of detail.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on implementing *(a)* a more holistic approach, *(b)* better management of risk, *(c)* land use planning, *(d)* integrated urban drainage management and *(e)* addressing coastal issues, as set out in Making Space for Water; and if he will make a statement. [171155]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency has strategic overview of all flood and coastal erosion risk management. The coastal role has been announced and the role for inland flooding is being developed.

A range of projects ensure better management of risk, including improving and extending risk mapping and broadening approaches to risk management beyond the provision of defences.

The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) published Planning Policy Statement 25, (Development and Flood Risk) in 2006. The Environment Agency became a statutory consultee on planning applications where flood risk is an issue and the Secretary of State for CLG can call in applications where the planning authority is minded to approve an application against sustained Environment Agency objections.

DEFRA will review approaches to urban drainage as part of its new water strategy. This will take account of the independent Pitt review of the summer flooding

and the 15 integrated urban drainage pilot studies taking place around the country.

Further work is also taking place in developing tools to help coastal and other communities adapt to the challenges of climate change.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department provides guidance to local authorities on standards of flood proofing for private properties; and if he will make a statement. [171964]

Mr. Woolas: The Government provide guidance to local authorities, among others, on standards of flood-proofing for private properties. Details are available via the DEFRA website and the planning portal.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the lowest economic rate of return is for an approved flood defence project; and how many unapproved projects for which calculations had been made the projected rate of return was equal to or higher than that figure. [173539]

Mr. Woolas: The lowest ratio of economic benefits to cost for ongoing projects (excluding those exempt from prioritisation due to legal or other requirements) is 6.3. Medium term plan returns for all flood management operating authorities have recently been collated by the Environment Agency and these include 39 projects with a benefit to cost ratio in excess of this not currently approved for funding. It should be noted that the benefit cost ratio is only one of the issues considered in prioritising projects for funding and that the medium term plan includes projects in different stages of development, intended for funding up to 10 years into the future.

FloodRanger: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding has been provided by his Department for the development of FloodRanger by Discovery Software. [176580]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 31W.

Floods: Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what requests the Environment Agency has made to local authorities to increase the council tax precept to pay for increased flood defences in the 2008-09 financial year. [176538]

Mr. Woolas: Grant in aid from DEFRA funds the majority of the Environment Agency's flood risk management activities (£436 million in 2007-08). The Agency may raise additional sums through levies on local authorities. These are set by Regional Flood Defence Committees (RFDCs) on which local authorities have a majority. Around £25 million is raised in levies nationally each year and they are used to fund locally important projects which do not have sufficient priority to be funded via DEFRA grant in aid. These levies are supported by the local government funding mechanisms operated by Communities and Local Government.

Levies are set by RFDCs in January each year and, while decisions have yet to be taken on their levels for 2008-09, the Environment Agency anticipates that the increase in local levies nationally for 2008-09 may be around 2.5 per cent., raising an additional £0.6 million.

Floods: Sewers

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effect of combined sewers on flooding; and what estimate his Department has made of the cost of *(a)* removing and *(b)* phasing out combined sewers. [175988]

Mr. Woolas: The Government's Foresight (2004) 'Future Flooding' report estimated that currently 80,000 properties are at very high risk from surface water flooding (10 per cent. annual chance), causing on average £270 million of damage each year.

Water and sewerage companies have a statutory duty under section 94 of the Water industry Act 1991 to ensure that their area is effectually drained. The water industry sponsors research on a range of projects related to sewerage systems and the organisation, UK Water Industry Research is, I understand, undertaking one specifically "exploring the cost benefit of separating surface water".

Floods: Thames Gateway

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which areas in the designated Thames Gateway area are classified as flood plains; [175542]

(2) what percentage of land in the Thames Gateway area is flood plain; [175551]

(3) how many houses in the Thames Gateway area are expected to be built on a flood plain. [175552]

Mr. Woolas: The Thames Gateway regeneration zone runs alongside the Thames and Medway estuaries. A map showing the floodplain has been placed in the Library of the House.

Around 35 per cent. of the Thames Gateway lies within the tidal and fluvial floodplain. The standard of protection afforded by the defences to protect against tidal flooding in the main estuary is higher than anywhere else in the country. There are over 300 kilometres of defences and eight major tidal barriers which include the Thames barrier.

The Thames Gateway delivery plan has proposed 160,000 new homes for the Thames Gateway by 2016 but it does not dictate their exact location.

Fly-tipping

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library the data from Flycapture for the *(a)* number of fly-tipping incidents and *(b)* proportion of

incidents which involved household waste in each local authority in England in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06 and (iii) 2006-07. [176767]

Joan Ruddock: I am arranging for the information requested to be placed in the House Library.

Foot and Mouth Disease: Compensation

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how compensation related to foot and mouth disease has been distributed; and if he will make a statement; [174442]

(2) what compensation is available to farmers who lose livestock due to foot and mouth where the cause of the outbreak has been traced to leaks from the Pirbright centre; and if he will make a statement. [174441]

Jonathan Shaw: The Animal Health Act 1981 and Human Rights legislation requires that compensation is paid for animals compulsorily culled and property confiscated and subsequently destroyed to prevent the spread of disease. It requires that for foot and mouth disease (FMD), compensation is paid for all animals compulsorily slaughtered at the market value before the animal became infected. The farmers whose animals were culled have all received compensation on this basis.

Greenbelt

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proposals Natural England have made to remove or change green belt protection. [176531]

Jonathan Shaw: Natural England has made no proposals to remove or change green belt protection.

Heathrow Airport: Noise

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether *(a)* BAA, *(b)* Department for Transport officials, *(c)* Department of Transport Ministers and *(d)* other non-departmental staff were involved in the production of Putting noise on the map, airport maps relating to Heathrow airport published on 18 December 2007; and if he will make a statement; [176957]

(2) whether any of his Departmental staff who were involved in preparing the Putting noise on the map airport noise maps published by his Department on 18 December 2007, contributed to the Project for Sustainable Development of Heathrow within the Department for Transport; and if he will make a statement. [176959]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* The noise maps published on 18 December were produced by the operators of non-designated airports and by the Civil Aviation Authority for airports designated under section 78 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982. They were approved by DEFRA to ensure compliance with the Environmental Noise Directive. No DEFRA staff contributed to the Project for Sustainable Development of Heathrow.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what meetings his Department had with the Department for Transport on the outcome of the Putting noise on the map airport noise maps published by his Department on 18 January 2007, prior to the Government's launch of the Adding Capacity at Heathrow public consultation; and if he will make a statement. [176960]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* The Department for Transport is represented on the DEFRA Programme Board that oversees the implementation of the European Environmental Noise Directive (END) 2002/49 EC in England. The Programme Board meets regularly to monitor progress with noise mapping for major roads, rail, airports and major agglomerations.

The consultation document on Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport drew attention to the requirements of the END directive for major airports to produce strategic noise maps. Given that Heathrow is a designated airport under section 78 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982, the noise map for Heathrow was produced by the Civil Aviation Authority not the airport operator.

Livestock: Disease Control

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with trading standards departments on the movement of livestock in restricted areas; and if he will make a statement. [174440]

Jonathan Shaw: Throughout the recent animal disease outbreaks, DEFRA has worked closely with the Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS), which represents trading standards officers in local authorities. Trading Standards are updated on changes to movement restrictions by LACORS, which is a key operational partner that always participates actively in the National Disease Control Centre. They have been closely involved in changes to the movement regimes and have advised DEFRA on enforcement and licensing regimes.

Livestock: Transport

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance he has issued on legislative requirements for farmers who wish to move livestock by road to take a written test on the welfare of animals during transport; and if he will make a statement. [174246]

Jonathan Shaw: Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations came into force in January 2007. It is implemented in the UK by The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 and parallel legislation in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The regulation requires that by 5 January 2008 those that transport cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses and poultry by road on journeys over 65 km in connection with an economic activity must have passed an examination (set by independent examiners) on their competence.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the *(a)* implementation and *(b)* enforcement of EC legislation on the welfare of animals during transport in EU member states; [174247]

(2) what assessments were made of the likely effects of the requirement for a written test on the welfare of animals during transport prior to its introduction; what the findings were of such assessments; and if he will make a statement; [174248]

(3) what criteria he has established to assess the contribution of the written test on the welfare of animals to *(a)* animal welfare and *(b)* road safety; and if he will make a statement. [174249]

Jonathan Shaw: In 2006, DEFRA conducted a public consultation on proposals for the implementation of Regulation 1/2005 in England (with the devolved Administrations conducting similar consultations in their territories). This was sent to over 1,400 interested organisations, key stakeholders and individuals and published on our website. For competence assessment, DEFRA proposed that assessment for short journeys under eight hours would be by means of a theory test with assessment for journeys over eight hours having an additional practical element for demonstration of animal handling and driving skills. None of the consultation responses necessitated deviation from the broad principles outlined. Consultation findings were sent to those who had responded and posted on our website.

The regulation's provisions relating to competence testing and certification do not come into effect until January 2008 and so it would be premature to conduct an assessment of the regulation at this stage. However, the regulation includes a provision for a Europe-wide review on its impact on the welfare of animals during transport in 2011. Early indications are that this is likely to be brought forward to 2009.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals to exempt experienced drivers from the requirement to take a written test on the welfare of animals during transport; and if he will make a statement. [174250]

Jonathan Shaw: There are no proposals to exempt experienced drivers from the requirement to have their competence assessed. Such an exemption would be contrary to the requirements of Regulation 1/2005.

Livestock: Wales

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on the movement to Wales of livestock ordinarily pastured on Welsh farms but temporarily pastured in the Shropshire bluetongue protection zone; and if he will make a statement. [174251]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has worked closely with the Welsh Assembly Government and has had a range of discussions on this and a number of other issues concerning bluetongue.

It may be possible during a vector free period, should that be declared, to move animals out of the zone following pre-movement tests, at the farmers' expense.

The issue of whether to extend the bluetongue surveillance zone into Wales to enable free movement across the border is a devolved matter for the Welsh Assembly Government, but we are working closely to co-ordinate our disease control strategy to prevent the spread of bluetongue.

Nitrate Sensitive Areas

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the agricultural industry of the nitrate vulnerable zone consultation; [175227]

(2) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* financial costs and *(b)* environmental costs of proposals arising from the nitrate vulnerable zone consultation; and what assessment he has made of the compatibility of those proposals with other schemes to establish wintered cover crops. [175232]

Mr. Woolas: The regulatory impact assessment (RIA) published in support of the consultation on the implementation of the nitrates directive in England sets out my Department's assessment of the likely financial and environmental impacts of the proposed action programme measures.

The partial RIA estimates that the likely financial impact on agriculture of implementing the proposed measures would be within the range of £52.8 million to £105.5 million per year. This assumes that the action programme is applied within proposed nitrate vulnerable zones covering 70 per cent. of England, and costs would be higher if the decision is taken to apply the action programme to the whole of England. These costs could be reduced if DEFRA is successful in obtaining a derogation from the 170kgN/ha/yr whole farm limit for livestock manures—one of the more burdensome requirements of the proposals.

Estimates of the impact of the main measures on losses of pollutants from agriculture are provided in the following table.

	Percentage change in pollutant losses
Nitrate	-5.5 to -15.5
Phosphorus	0 to -4.5
Ammonia	0.2 to 2.0

This assessment does not cover all the action programme measures, and therefore the anticipated reduction in nitrate and phosphorus is expected to be greater.

My Department is aware of links between the proposed cover crops measure and the maintenance of overwintered stubbles, as required by some environmental stewardship agreements. Officials are working with stakeholders to ensure that implementation of this measure is compatible with the requirements of existing agreements.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what basis areas are to be selected for inclusion in the nitrate vulnerable zone designations. [175228]

Mr. Woolas: The nitrates directive requires all known areas of land to be designated as nitrate vulnerable zones (NVZs) if they drain to:

surface freshwaters or groundwaters which contain or could contain, if preventative action is not taken, nitrate concentrations greater than 50mg/l; or

natural freshwater lakes, or other freshwater bodies, estuaries, coastal waters and marine waters which are eutrophic or may become so in the near future if protective action is not taken.

The document 'G1—Summary of methodology for identifying NVZs 2006', which is available on the DEFRA website, provides a description of how water quality monitoring data, collected by the Environment Agency from a network of monitoring points and boreholes, are assessed against the above criteria to identify nitrate-polluted waters, and how areas of land draining to these waters were identified for designation as NVZs.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether Government grants will be available to meet the costs of implementation of proposals arising from the nitrate vulnerable zone consultation, with particular reference to winter slurry storage. [175229]

Mr. Woolas: No new central Government money will be made available to assist farmers with the costs of constructing any new or additional manure storage capacity required under the proposed action programme. This position was set out in the public consultation on the implementation of the nitrates directive in England.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made of the effect of ammonia emissions into the atmosphere from the additional winter slurry storage likely to result from proposals arising from the nitrate vulnerable zone consultation. [175230]

Mr. Woolas: The regulatory impact assessment and paper 'D5—Impact of the proposed NVZ Action Programme measures', published in support of the consultation on implementation of the nitrates directive in England, provide details of my Department's assessment of the likely environmental impact of the proposed measures. This is available on the DEFRA website.

It is estimated that the closed period for organic manure, which requires the storage of slurry over the autumn and winter, would increase ammonia emissions from agriculture by between 0.5 per cent. and 2 per cent. However, this is likely to be an overestimate as the assessment did not reflect the impacts of all the proposed action programme measures, some of which are expected to reduce ammonia emissions (for example, the incorporation of manure within 24 hours of application).

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the possible loss of habitat of overwintered stubbles as a result of proposals arising from the nitrate vulnerable zone consultation. [175231]

Mr. Woolas: The regulatory impact assessment, published in support of the consultation on the implementation of the nitrates directive in England, sets out my Department's assessment of the likely environmental impact of proposed Action Programme measures.

It is likely that one of the principal benefits of the proposed Action Programme would be improved natural habitats due to a reduction in the nutrient enrichment of waters and associated eutrophication.

My Department is aware of links between the proposed cover crops measure and the maintenance of over-wintered stubbles. Officials are working with stakeholders to ensure that implementation of this measure does not lead to the loss of habitat.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of proposals arising from the nitrate vulnerable zone consultation on organic farms. [175233]

Mr. Woolas: The partial regulatory impact assessment and paper 'G4— Assistance on the partial RIA including extended Nitrate Vulnerable Zones', published in support of the consultation on implementation of the nitrates directive in England, provide details of my Department's assessment of the likely cost to all farmers of the proposed nitrates action programme measures. This document is available on the DEFRA website.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to ensure that no additional requirement over and above those in the EU directive is being made in relation to proposals arising from the nitrate vulnerable zone consultation. [175234]

Mr. Woolas: The proposed action programme measures, as set out in our consultation on the implementation of the nitrates directive in England, represent what my Department considers as the best way to fulfil our obligations under the nitrates directive while maintaining a sustainable agricultural industry. The measures were developed to reflect good agricultural practice and the best available science.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice the Government have received from the Environment Agency on the proposed nitrate vulnerable zones directive. [175754]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* The Environment Agency is the competent authority for the enforcement of the action programme established in England under the nitrates directive. The Environment Agency also advises the Government on technical and scientific issues regarding water quality and how this affects the designation of nitrate vulnerable zones.

The Environment Agency responded fully to DEFRA's recent consultation on proposals to implement the nitrates directive in England. The response is available to view on their website.

Produce Prices

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent assessment he has made of the trend in chicken *(a)* meat and *(b)* feed prices in the UK; and if he will make a statement; [173973]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the trend in grain prices in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [173974]

Jonathan Shaw: The increase in UK grain prices reflects the rise in global wheat prices following two successive smaller world harvests and increasing demand for cereals for food, feed and fuel purposes. Current high grain prices, combined with policy changes such as the removal of the set-aside requirement for the 2008 harvest, will undoubtedly stimulate production and lead to a moderation of prices, but it may take a number of years to rebuild stocks to levels that markets are comfortable with, and periods of price volatility are likely to occur for the foreseeable future.

In the poultry (and pig) sectors, feed costs, and by implication, total production costs, are largely determined by world prices for cereals, oilseeds and other commodities (recognising that there is some limited scope to reformulate feed in response to relative price movements to reduce costs). The latest set of animal feed statistics contains details of the price of poultry feed up to June 2007 and can be found at:

http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/statnot/mcompspn.pdf

Estimates of poultry feed costs through to September 2007, which will cover the period of significantly rising grain prices, are due to be published on 17 January 2008.

Weekly wholesale prices for poultry can be found at:

http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/publications/amr/poultry_eggs.xls

but it should be recognised that these represent only a small proportion of the overall market.

A fuller and wider assessment of the rise in commodity prices can be found in our report "Implications of rising agricultural commodity prices" published at the end of September which can be found at:

http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/publications/monthly%20brief/Annex%201%20Food%20and%20farming%20brief%20-%20impact%20of%20high%20commodity%20prices.pdf.

The first full set of farm income statistics, including an estimate of the income for specialist poultry farms, will be published at the end of January 2008.

Rural Payments Agency: Redundancy

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost has been of recent redundancies made by the Rural Payments Agency; and if he will make a statement. [174449]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* No compulsory redundancies have been made in the Rural Payments Agency since its creation in 2001. However the cost of the voluntary exit of staff during the Agency's recent Change Programme ending in 2006 has been £38.9 million.

Severn Estuary: Nature Conservation

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Severn estuary was notified to the European Commission as a candidate special area of conservation as defined under the Habitats Directive; and if he will make a statement. [175045]

Joan Ruddock: The Severn estuary was notified to the European Commission as a candidate special area of conservation, as defined under the habitats directive, on 31 August 2007.

Telephone Services

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information his Department has collected on the number of calls *(a)* received, *(b)* answered and *(c)* abandoned to phonelines operated by his Department and its agencies, broken down by subject matter of call. [173098]

Jonathan Shaw: Calls to RPA helplines can be split into two categories, single payment scheme (SPS) and animal traceability inquiries. They generally cover the following subject matter.

SPS

SPS—calls relating to farmers entitlement and claim for the scheme.

RLE—general advice on completing the RLE 1 form.

RLR—guidance on mapping queries.

Rural Stress—used by RPA staff and rural support groups when they want to make a referral.

Counterfraud—used by staff and public when they suspect that fraud is taking place.

Animal traceability

BCMS helpdesk—English and Welsh calls relating to the cattle tracing system.

Livestock ID—inquiries about identification of sheep, pigs and goats.

ETAS—used by ear tag manufacturers to log details of all orders processed and despatched to keepers.

WFA—provides an integrated access point to DEFRA and related agencies with the aim of helping to take the paperwork out of farming.

TSE—registers on-farm dead animals to be collected from the farm, brain-stem sampled and disposed of at a registered disposal site.

NFSS—registers farmers as members onto the national fallen stock scheme.

Details of calls received, answered and abandoned are detailed as follows.

	Calls received	*Calls answered*	*Calls Abandoned*
BCMS English	255,706	251,183	4,261
BCMS Welsh	10,805	10,225	497
Livestock ID	1,549	1,492	45
ETAS	7,275	6,840	161
TSE	260,883	247,110	13,426
TSE Sheep[1]	1,894	1,833	37

	Calls received	Calls answered	Calls Abandoned
TSE Collectors	5,243	5,111	104
WFA	8,265	7,568	637
NFSS	20,037	19,295	676
NFSS Collectors	3,908	3,789	107
RLE[2]	10,736	10,715	35
RLR	29,700	28,808	892
SPS	214,051	206,505	7,541
Rural Stress	488	437	51
Counterfraud	324	284	40
Total	830,864	801,195	28,510
Percentage abandoned	—	—	3.43

[1] TSE Sheep helpline went live on 9 October 2007.
[2] RLE calls diverted to the SPS helpline in September 2007.
Notes:
1. Figures provided are between 10 December 2006 and 9 December 2007.
2. Please note calls abandoned in the first 10 seconds are not counted in the abandoned total.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether individuals on council tax benefit are expected to receive a full exemption from the proposed new charges for domestic rubbish collections. [176534]

Joan Ruddock: As stated in the Climate Change Bill, local authorities which pilot a waste incentive scheme must take account of disadvantaged groups.

It will be the responsibility of each local authority to decide whether individuals receiving council tax benefit (or any other groups) should be treated differently under a waste incentive scheme and, if so, how. My Department will work with stakeholders to develop guidance on this issue.

Wellbeing Indicators Group

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what work the Wellbeing Indicators Group has undertaken; [171358]

(2) whether the Wellbeing Indicators Group has *(a)* a business plan and *(b)* objectives; [171359]

(3) what the *(a)* titles and *(b)* qualifications are of the academics on the Wellbeing Indicators Group; [171360]

(4) what role the Wellbeing Indicators Group has in the formulation of Government policy; what cross-departmental representation the group has; and if he will make a statement; [171361]

(5) how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* members the Wellbeing Indicators Group has; [171362]

(6) what the budget of the Wellbeing Indicators Group has been in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [171363]

Mr. Woolas: The Wellbeing Indicators Group has provided technical advice and co-ordination on the establishment of measures of wellbeing for inclusion in the UK Government's sustainable development indicators, as committed to in the UK Government's Sustainable Development Strategy (2005) and in the UK Framework for Sustainable Development shared with the devolved Administrations.

The Wellbeing Indicators Group has agreed terms of reference.

Academic representatives on the Wellbeing Indicators Group are currently:

Tim Jackson—Professor of Sustainable Development at the University of Surrey; and also sits on the Sustainable Development Commission;

Paul Dolan—Professor of Economics at Imperial College, University of London;

Nic Marks MSc, MA—Founder of the Centre for Wellbeing at the New Economics Foundation.

The Wellbeing Indicators Group does not advise on policy formulation; its role is to advise on how well-being might be measured. Information on the use of indicators and concepts of well-being in policy can be found on the Government's Sustainable development website:

www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/what/priority/wellbeing/index.htm

The following central Government Departments and administrations have been represented in the Wellbeing Indicators Group:

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs;

Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform;

Department for Children, Schools and Families;

Department for Communities and Local Government;

Department for Culture, Media and Sport;

Department for Health;

Home Office;

Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills;

Department for Transport;

Department for Work and Pensions;

Office of National Statistics;

Scottish Government;

Welsh Assembly Government;

Northern Ireland Assembly.

DEFRA chairs and provides the secretariat for the Wellbeing Indicators Group, which principally involves two members of staff and accounts for only a small proportion of the time of each. There are around 25 individuals attending meetings or receiving papers.

The Wellbeing Indicators Group does not have its own budget allocation and cannot incur expenditure. The group's inception was in December 2006 and it has met five times.

Whales: Japan

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he last met the Japanese ambassador to discuss the Japanese whaling fleet's intention to kill 935 minke whales, 50 fin whales and 50 humpback whales. [175264]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 18 December 2007]:* I will shortly meet Japanese embassy officials to express the UK's outrage over Japan's plans to kill endangered whales in the Antarctic. I have had no recent discussions with the Japanese ambassador on this issue.

The UK has consistently criticised Japan for her lethal whaling operations that are authorised under

special permits (so called "scientific" whaling) and urged Japan to end its scientific whaling activities.

We are considering a high level diplomatic protest to the Japanese Government, following consultation with like-minded anti-whaling countries.

Whales: Romania

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has had discussions with the Romanian Prime Minister on Romania's possible membership of the International Whaling Commission; and if he will make a statement. [175297]

Jonathan Shaw: There have been no recent discussions with the Romanian Prime Minster on this issue. British embassies abroad will shortly deliver an updated version of the UK publication 'Protecting Whales—A Global Responsibility', endorsed by the Prime Minister and Sir David Attenborough, to all EU countries, which are not current members of the International Whaling Commission. This is to encourage them to join the effort to protect all cetacean species.

UK embassies and Ministers across Government will continue to lobby nations on this issue in the run-up to the next annual meeting of the IWC in Chile in June 2008.

Wind Power: Planning

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what responsibility the proposed Marine Management Organisation will have over planning consents for offshore wind turbines; and if he will make a statement. [174149]

Jonathan Shaw: The proposed Marine Management Organisation (MMO) would make development consent decisions, where the UK Government have responsibility, for offshore renewable energy projects capable of generating 100 megawatts or less of power.

The proposed Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) would determine applications for development consent for offshore renewable energy projects capable of generating more than 100 megawatts of power. The MMO will advise the IPC on these projects, including on conditions on developments, and will also monitor and enforce compliance.

Wind Power: Seas and Oceans

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what provision for wind farms he expects will be made in the draft Marine Bill; and if he will make a statement. [174150]

Jonathan Shaw: The draft Marine Bill will make specific provisions to streamline marine consents for renewable energy as set out in the Marine Bill White Paper. It will also provide a framework that will allow translation of Government policies and priorities, including, for instance, those on climate change and renewable energy generation, into decisions on marine development and protection.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Adoption

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many adoptions took place in each year since 1997. [174304]

Kevin Brennan: Statistical information on the total number of adoptions in England and Wales by age of child for the years 1995 to 2005 is included in Table 6.2b in the Statistics Series "Marriage, divorce and adoptions", Volume FM2, published by the Office for National Statistics. A copy of this publication is available on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/themepopulation/FM2no32/FM2 32.pdf.

The number of children entered into the Adopted Children Register following court orders made in 2006, and other relevant statistics was published on 8 November 2007 by ONS at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/CCI/nugget.asp?ID=592&Pos=1&ColRank=1&Rank=358.

Children in Care

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were in care at the latest date for which figures are available in the age groups *(a)* 0 to five, *(b)* five to nine, *(c)* nine to 12 and *(d)* 12 to 16 years. [174305]

Kevin Brennan: The information is provided in table 1 as follows.

Table 1: children looked after at 31 March 2007 by age at 31 March[1,2,3]

Numbers

		Age at 31 March 2007 (years)				
	All ages	*0 to 4*	*5 to 8*	*9 to 11*	*12 to 15*	*16 and over*
All children looked after at 31 March 2007	60,000	11,800	8,300	8,800	19,300	11,800

[1] Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.

[2] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

[3] To ensure that no individual can be identified from statistical tables, we use conventions for the rounding and suppression of very small numbers. All numbers which appear in national tables have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise. Numbers from 1 to 5 inclusive have been suppressed, being replaced in the table by a hyphen (-). It has been necessary to suppress other figures whenever it would be possible to calculate the value of a suppressed number by a means of simple arithmetic. The rule applied in these circumstances has been to suppress the next smallest data item provided its value is strictly less than 20.

Children: Counselling

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools are participating in the peer mentoring and befriending scheme; and what criteria are being used to assess the effectiveness of this scheme. [173835]

Kevin Brennan: A list of schools who are participating in the Department's Peer Mentoring programme has been placed in the Library. This programme is managed on behalf of the Department by the Mentoring and Befriending Foundation.

Since 2006, the Department has been evaluating the impact of the Peer Mentoring programme through pilot projects in 180 schools. This two-year evaluation has been externally commissioned. Each school taking part in the pilot chose an outcome for their project, from the following list:

Improved academic performance or attainment;

Improved behaviour;

Improved attendance; and

Reductions in bullying.

The pilots are being evaluated against these outcomes.

Children: Day Care

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of child care providers were registered with Ofsted in each region in each year since 1997. [174727]

Beverley Hughes: The information is not available in the form requested.

Since 2003 Ofsted has been responsible for the registration and inspection of child care providers. The table shows the number of providers registered with Ofsted each year.

Number [1,2] of registered child care providers for children under 8 years of age by type of care Government office region in England Position as at 31 March each year: 2003-07

	2003						2004				
	Childminders	*Full day care*	*Sessional day care*	*Out of school day care*	*Creche day care*	*All*	*Childminders*	*Full day care*	*Sessional day care*	*Out of school day care*	*Creche day care*
England	68,200	9,600	11,600	8,000	1,900	99,300	72,400	11,000	11,300	9,200	2,200
East of England	8,100	900	1,700	800	100	11,500	8,700	1,000	1,700	900	300
East Midlands	5,700	800	1,100	600	200	8,300	6,000	900	1,100	700	200
London	10,200	1,500	1,200	1,100	300	14,300	11,700	1,700	1,200	1,300	300
Inner London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Outer London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North East and Yorkshire	9,600	1,200	1,300	1,100	400	13,600	10,100	1,400	1,200	1,200	500
North East	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yorkshire and the Humber	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North West England	8,200	1,300	1,300	1,300	200	12,400	8,700	1,500	1,300	1,600	300
South East England	12,900	1,700	2,300	1,200	300	18,400	13,700	2,000	2,300	1,300	300
South West England	6,900	1,100	1,700	800	200	10,600	6,800	1,300	1,600	900	200
West Midlands	6,600	1,200	1,100	1,100	200	10,200	6,800	1,300	1,000	1,300	200

	2005						2006				
	Childminders	*Full day care*	*Sessional day care*	*Out of school day care*	*Creche day care*	*All*	*Childminders*	*Full day care*	*Sessional day care*	*Out of school day care*	*Creche day care*
England	70,200	12,100	10,200	9,700	2,500	104,700	71,600	13,100	9,700	10,500	2,700
East of England	8,400	1,100	1,600	900	300	12,300	8,500	1,200	1,500	1,000	400
East Midlands	5,800	900	1,000	700	200	8,600	5,900	1,000	1,000	700	200
London	11,400	1,800	1,100	1,400	300	16,100	—	—	—	—	—
Inner London	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,600	900	300	700	200
Outer London	—	—	—	—	—	—	8,200	1,000	700	900	200
North East and Yorkshire	10,100	1,600	1,100	1,200	500	14,500	—	—	—	—	—
North East	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,600	500	300	400	300

	2005						2006				
	Childminders	*Full day care*	*Sessional day care*	*Out of school day care*	*Creche day care*	*All*	*Childminders*	*Full day care*	*Sessional day care*	*Out of school day care*	*Creche day care*
Yorkshire and the Humber	—	—	—	—	—	—	6,800	1,200	700	1,000	300
North West England	8,200	1,600	1,100	1,700	400	13,000	8,300	1,800	1,000	1,800	400
South East England	13,400	2,300	2,200	1,400	400	19,500	13,800	2,300	2,000	1,600	400
South West England	6,500	1,400	1,400	1,000	200	10,500	6,700	1,500	1,300	1,100	200
West Midlands	6,400	1,500	900	1,200	200	10,200	6,200	1,600	800	1,300	300

	2007					
	Childminders	*Full day care*	*Sessional day care*	*Out of school day care*	*Creche day care*	*All*
England	69,925	13,814	8,998	10,608	2,767	106,112
East of England	8,522	1,263	1,463	1,004	388	12,640
East Midlands	5,863	1,099	919	770	197	8,848
London	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inner London	3,693	914	268	691	234	5,800
Outer London	8,008	1,066	716	956	182	10,928
North East and Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
North East	3,474	542	251	467	283	5,017
Yorkshire and the Humber	6,534	1,323	665	979	270	9,771
North West England	8,072	1,869	930	1,898	423	13,192
South East England	13,218	2,430	1,869	1,533	366	19,416
South West England	6,387	1,642	1,169	1,012	168	10,378
West Midlands	6,154	1,666	748	1,298	256	10,122

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.
[2] Data Source: Ofsted

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding was provided for child care within Copeland in each of the last 10 years. [175948]

Beverley Hughes: The data on funding for child care cannot be broken down by constituency. The information provided in the following table is for Cumbria local authority.

	Child care expenditure
1997-98	4.8
1998-99	11.4
1999-2000	12.5
2000-01	16.6
2001-02	18.3
2002-03	19.1
2003-04	27.5
2004-05	29.8
2005-06	33.7
2006-07	36.7
2007-08	41.0

Notes:
1. Extra funding through the School Standards Grant and Standards Fund is not included in the figures as it is not possible to identify how much of these grants are spent on the under 5s.
2. The data include Under 5s and Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare (Revenue and Capital) elements.
3. For the under 5s element included in the total three different funding methods existed between 1997-98 and 2007-08:
Prior to 2003-04, Early Education funding for four-year-olds was via School Spending Assessments (SSA). Places for three-year-olds in the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sectors were funded directly via Nursery Education Grant (NEG). New three-year-old places created in the maintained sector were funded via SSA.
Between 2003-04 and 2005-06 LAs received funding to provide free nursery education for three and four-year-olds through the under-fives sub-block of their Education Formula Spending Share (EFSS).
From 2006-07 LAs receive funding for all three to 15-year-olds through the DSG. Funding for under 5s is not separately identified as it is up to local authorities to decide how to distribute their funding.
4. The Sure Start Early Years and Childcare data source is audited returns from the local authority. For years up to and including 2001-02, funding allocation have been quoted as audited data are not available.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what his forecast is of his Department's spending on child care in each quarter to 2011, broken down by region; [176683]

(2) what the real term in his Department's spending on child care was in each quarter since 1997, broken down by region. [176685]

Beverley Hughes: The information available on forecast spending to 2011 is shown in the following table.

Expenditure forecasts

	£ million, cash terms
	Child care
2006-07	5,221
2007-08	5,747
2008-09	5,729
2009-10	6,230
2010-11	6,686

Notes:
1. Forecast data is not readily available below national level and is only available on an annual basis.
2. The data includes under-fives and Sure Start, early years and child care (revenue and capital) elements.
3. The data includes funding from 2008-09 for the additional 2.5 hours free entitlement for three and four-year-olds.
4. The under-fives element included in the total includes funding both from DCSF and other sources.

The information available on spending on child care since 1997 is shown in the following table.

	Cash		*Real terms*	
	Child care Expenditure	*GDP deflator (20 December 2007)*	*Child care expenditure*	*Increase from 1997-98*
1997-98	1,690	80.366	2,103	—
1998-99	1,944	82.400	2,359	256
1999-2000	2,223	84.063	2,644	542
2000-01	2,601	85.260	3,051	948
2001-02	3,165	87.301	3,625	1,523
2002-03	3,437	90.033	3,817	1,715
2003-04	3,760	92.642	4,059	1,956
2004-05	4,196	95.200	4,408	2,305
2005-06	4,673	97.211	4,807	2,704

Notes:
1. This information can only be provided at national level. The data is only available annually so it cannot be broken down by quarter.
2. The data includes under-fives and Sure Start, early years and child care (revenue and capital) elements.
3. The under-fives element included is for total expenditure on under-fives and will include funding both from this Department and other sources.
4. Figures have been adjusted in line with the latest GDP deflators (20 December 2007). 2006-07 has been used as the baseline.
5. 2005-06 figures are provisional.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the average cost of child care in each quarter since 1997, broken down by region. [176684]

Beverley Hughes: The information is not available in the form requested. Data on the average hourly costs of child care from Ofsted registered providers is collected as part of the child care and early years providers survey. The figures on average hourly cost by region from the 2006 child care and early years providers survey are provided in the following table. Figures are not available for earlier years.

Average hourly fees charged by region

	Full day care	*Sessional*	*After school clubs*	*Holiday clubs*	*Childminders*
Overall average hourly fee	2.70	1.90	2.30	1.70	3.20
East Midlands	2.70	1.60	2.30	1.20	2.90
East	2.60	2.00	2.50	1.70	3.30
London	2.90	2.10	2.00	1.40	3.90
North East, Yorkshire and Humberside	2.60	1.60	2.30	1.30	3.00
North West	2.60	1.60	2.10	1.50	2.90
South East	2.80	2.20	2.40	1.60	3.40
SouthWest	2.80	1.90	2.30	1.50	3.10
West Midlands	2.70	2.40	2.40	1.20	2.80

The fees data collected in this survey should be treated with caution as the figures have been derived from a number of variables. In addition a large number of providers who responded to the survey were unwilling or unable to provide details on the fees they charged.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what definition of a child care place his Department uses. [176686]

Beverley Hughes: Child care in England is defined in legislation for the first time in Section 18 of the Childcare Act 2006. This defines child care as, "any form of care for a child" including "education ... and any other supervised activity" but excluding:

education or activities provided by a school for a pupil during school hours, unless that pupil has not yet started key stage 1 (thereby including nursery and reception classes);

care provided for a child by a parent, step-parent or person with parental responsibility; or any relative; or foster parent (local authority or private); or

care provided by a children's home, a care home, a hospital or a residential family centre, a young offenders' institution, a secure training centre, or a secure care home within any of those establishments.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many child care places were available in each year since 1997, broken down by region. [176687]

Beverley Hughes: The information is not available in the form requested.

Since 2003 Ofsted has been responsible for the registration and inspection of child care providers. The table shows the number of places registered with Ofsted each year.

Number[1, 2] of registered child care places for children under eight years of age by type of care[3], Government office region in England: position as at 31 March each year 2003 to 2007

	2003				*2004*			
	Childminders	*Full day care*	*Sessional day care*	*Out of school day care*	*Childminders*	*Full day care*	*Sessional day care*	*Out of school day care*
England	300,900	381,600	280,800	285,400	319,700	456,300	274,100	326,700

Number[1, 2] of registered child care places for children under eight years of age by type of care[3], Government office region in England: position as at 31 March each year 2003 to 2007

	2003				2004			
	Childminders	*Full day care*	*Sessional day care*	*Out of school day care*	*Childminders*	*Full day care*	*Sessional day care*	*Out of school day care*
North East and Yorkshire	45,900	48,800	29,500	32,900	48,700	61,800	28,600	37,800
North East	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yorkshire and the Humber	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North West	37,300	57,200	31,300	46,400	39,800	69,300	30,000	56,300
East Midlands	26,100	34,500	26,100	22,600	28,300	40,800	25,700	24,200
West Midlands	31,200	45,000	25,400	37,700	32,200	52,100	22,900	42,700
East of England	34,700	35,400	41,300	25,800	37,500	43,500	42,000	31,400
London	36,600	54,300	28,900	40,900	40,700	62,100	28,900	47,200
Inner London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Outer London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South East	57,900	68,000	60,400	52,100	61,500	80,800	60,500	57,600
South West	31,200	38,300	37,900	27,100	31,100	45,800	35,500	29,600

	2005				2006			
	Childminders	*Full day care*	*Sessional day care*	*Out of school day care*	*Childminders*	*Full day care*	*Sessional day care*	*Out of school day care*
England	316,100	518,000	249,600	341,200	322,200	565,700	237,100	366,500
North East and Yorkshire	49,300	71,400	24,700	38,100	—	—	—	—
North East	—	—	—	—	17,400	24,200	6,100	14,300
Yorkshire and the Humber	—	—	—	—	33,200	53,700	17,100	27,600
North West	38,600	77,100	26,000	60,400	39,600	83,900	24,800	64,800
East Midlands	28,200	46,500	24,400	23,300	28,700	50,800	23,400	25,200
West Midlands	31,200	59,000	20,200	42,200	30,200	65,300	19,400	44,200
East of England	37,100	49,400	40,000	32,000	37,800	53,900	38,300	33,100
London	40,500	71,600	26,900	52,200	—	—	—	—
Inner London	—	—	—	—	12,000	35,400	6,000	25,700
Outer London	—	—	—	—	29,900	42,100	20,200	33,300
South East	60,800	91,300	55,800	61,300	62,300	99,400	52,300	65,500
South West	30,300	51,700	31,700	31,700	31 ,000	57,000	29,600	32,800

	2007			
	Childminders	*Full day care*	*Sessional day care*	*Out of school day care*
England	317,700	598,700	221,600	365,400
North East and Yorkshire	—	—	—	—
North East	17,300	27,100	5,700	15,100
Yorkshire and the Humber	32,100	57,900	15,500	28,300
North West	38,900	89,300	22,600	66,600
East Midlands	28,600	54,200	22,700	26,000
West Midlands	30,000	70,300	17,700	43,500
East of England	38,000	55,500	36,800	33,900

	2007			
	Childminders	*Full day care*	*Sessional day care*	*Out of school day care*
London	—	—	—	—
Inner London	12,200	37,300	5,600	25,900
Outer London	30,000	43,000	19,700	33,400
South East	60,200	103,300	48,700	61,400
South West	30,100	60,900	26,700	31,200

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.
[2] Data Source: Ofsted
[3] Excludes the number of child care places in creche day care.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what forecast he has made of the number of child care places available in each year to 2011, broken down by region; [176688]

(2) what forecast he has made of the average number of hours of child care that will be taken up by a family using child care in each of the next 10 years, broken down by *(a)* income decile, *(b)* ethnicity and *(c)* region. [176693]

Beverley Hughes: Section 11 of the Childcare Act 2006, which came into force in April 2007, placed a duty on local authorities to complete a child care sufficiency assessment before April 2008. They will have to complete an assessment at least every three years, and keep it under review between assessments, especially where there are key demographic changes or as new data become available.

The assessment process will give local authorities the evidence and information they need to facilitate and shape a child care market that is flexible, sustainable and responsive to parents' needs. It will also help local authorities to develop their strategies for meeting the new duty to secure sufficient child care which will start in April 2008.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* one and *(b)* two parent families taking up child care places in each year since 1997, broken down by (i) income decile, (ii) ethnicity, (iii) region and (iv) family size. [176690]

Beverley Hughes: Estimates of the proportion of one and two parent families taking up child care places in the last year by household income, ethnic group, region and family size are available from the 2004 Parents' Childcare Survey[1] and these figures are provided in the following table. Estimates in this form are not available for earlier years.

[1] Childcare and Early Years Provision: A Study of Parents' Use, Views and Experiences, Research Report 723; DfES. Bryson, C., Kazimirski, A. and Southwood, H. (2006). This report is available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RR723.pdf

Proportion of lone parents and couples that used child care in the last year by household income, ethnicity, region and family size

	Couples	*Percentage Lone parents*
Under £10, 000	75	81
£10,000-£19,999	82	88
£20,000-£31,999	88	92
£32,000+	92	88
White	89	86
Black and Minority Ethnic Groups	75	80
East Midlands	87	80
East of England	89	83
London	77	78
North East	87	96
North West	84	79
South East	93	90
South West	89	87
West Midlands	87	87
Yorkshire and the Humber	88	90
1 child	82	82
2 children	89	86
3 or more children	91	89
All families	87	85

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what forecast he has made of the number of *(a)* one and *(b)* two parent families taking up child care places in each quarter in each of the next 10 years, broken down by (i) income decile, (ii) ethnicity and (iii) region, (iv) family size. [176691]

Beverley Hughes: Section 11 of the Childcare Act 2006, which came into force in April 2007, placed a duty on local authorities to complete a child care sufficiency assessment before April 2008. They will have to complete an assessment at least every three years, and keep it under review between assessments, especially where there are key demographic changes or as new data become available.

The assessment process will give local authorities the evidence and information they need to facilitate and shape a child care market that is flexible, sustainable and responsive to parents' needs. It will also help local authorities to develop their strategies for meeting the new duty to secure sufficient child care which will start in April 2008.

Estimates of the proportion of one and two parent families taking up child care places in 2004 by

household income, ethnic group, region and family size are available from the 2004 Parents' Childcare Survey[1] and these figures are provided in the following table.

[1] Childcare and Early Years Provision: A Study of Parents' Use, Views and Experiences, Research Report 723; DfES. Bryson, C., Kazimirski, A. and Southwood, H. (2006). This report is available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RR723.pdf

Proportion of lone parents and couples that used child care in the last year by household income, ethnicity, region and family size

	Percentage	
	Couples	*Lone parents*
Under £10,000	75	81
£10,000-£19,999	82	88
£20,000-£31,999	88	92
£32,000+	92	88
White	89	86
Black and Minority Ethnic Groups	75	80
East Midlands	87	80
East of England	89	83
London	77	78
North East	87	96
North West	84	79
South East	93	90
South West	89	87
West Midlands	87	87
Yorkshire and the Humber	88	90
1 child	82	82
2 children	89	86
3 or more children	91	89
All families	87	85

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many hours of child care on average a family using child care received in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* income decile, *(b)* ethnicity and *(c)* region. [176692]

Beverley Hughes: The Parents' Childcare Survey collects information on hours of child care used by all children in the family in the last week. Details about number of hours of child care used in the last year are not collected as this would place too great a burden on respondents.

The 2004 Parents' Childcare Survey[1] estimated that on average each family using child care used 26 hours of child care in the week before their interview.

The average number of hours of child care used in the last week by household income, ethnic group and region is shown in the following table. Income deciles cannot be calculated as the income data are collected in bands rather than actual amounts.

Estimates in this form are not available for earlier years.

[1] Childcare and Early Years Provision: A Study of Parents' Use, Views and Experiences, Research Report 723; DfES. Bryson, C., Kazimirski, A. and Southwood, H. (2006). This report is available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RR723.pdf

Average hours of child care used in the last week, among all families using child care, by household income, ethnicity and region

	Mean hours of childcare used
Under £10,000	26
£10,000-£19,999	28
£20,000-£31,999	24
£32,000+	27
White	26
Black and Minority Ethnic Group	27
North East	26
North West	27
Yorkshire and Humber	26
East Midlands	26
West Midlands	28
East	24
London	28
South East	27
South West	22
All families	26

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the average cost of an hour of child care from an Ofsted registered provider, broken down by region. [176694]

Beverley Hughes: Data on the average hourly costs of child care from Ofsted registered providers are collected as part of the Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey. The following table shows the estimated average hourly fees charged by Ofsted registered childcare providers by region, based on the 2006 childcare and early years providers survey.

Average hourly fees charged by region

	Full day care	*Sessional*	*After school clubs*	*Holiday clubs*	*Childminders*
Overall average hourly fee	2.70	1.90	2.30	1.70	3.20
East Midlands	2.70	1.60	2.30	1.20	2.90
East	2.60	2.00	2.50	1.70	3.30
London	2.90	2.10	2.00	1.40	3.90
North East, Yorkshire and Humberside	2.60	1.60	2.30	1.30	3.00
NorthWest	2.60	1.60	2.10	1.50	2.90
South East	2.80	2.20	2.40	1.60	3.40
SouthWest	2.80	1.90	2.30	1.50	3.10

Average hourly fees charged by region

	Full day care	*Sessional*	*After school clubs*	*Holiday clubs*	*Childminders*
West Midlands	2.70	2.40	2.40	1.20	2.80

The fees data collected in this survey should be treated with caution as the figures have been derived from a number of variables. In addition a large number of providers who responded to the survey were unwilling or unable to provide details on the fees they charged.

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent by his Department on international flights since it was established. [174351]

Kevin Brennan: Since 1999 the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the current financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. From next year, the list will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Information in respect of flights taken by officials could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Consultants

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was paid in consultancy fees by his Department and its predecessors in each year since 1997. [171996]

Kevin Brennan: Historical figures are not available for the Department for Children, Schools and Families and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Figures for the Department for Education and Skills show that it spent £66.6 million on consultancy from 2005-06 to 2006-07. This figure comprises £7.6 million charged to administration budgets; and £59 million charged to programme budgets.

Figures for the Department for Education and Skills show that the following costs of consultancy were charged to administration budgets from 1997:

	£ million
1997-98	3.9
1998-99	5.0
1999-2000	3.7
2000-01	4.3
2001-02	5.0
2002-03	4.0
2003-04	4.7
2004-05	3.9
2005-06	3.5
2006-07	4.1

The costs of consultancy charged to programme budgets before November 2004 were not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The total cost of consultancy charged to programme budgets from November to March 2004-05 was £4.4 million, and from April 2005 to March 2007 was £59 million.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many press officers are employed by his Department. [163211]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families currently employs the full-time equivalent of 23 press officers. This team provides a 24 hour service to national, regional and specialist sector media.

Departmental Manpower

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of posts in his Department were recategorised from back office to frontline posts as classified by the Gershon efficiency review in each year since 2004. [172248]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families is committed to achieving its workforce reduction target, shared with the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills, by the end of 2007/08. This is a net target and no posts will be reallocated to the frontline as part of it.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women of each Civil Service grade are employed by his Department. [172730]

Kevin Brennan: The following table sets out how many men and women are employed in each civil service grade in my Department:

Grade	*(a) Men*	*(b) Women*	*Total*
Support Grade Band 1	9	6	15
Support Grade Band 2	35	11	46
Executive Assistant (EA)[1]	106	299	405
Executive Officer (EO) and equivalents	220	426	646
Higher Executive Officer (HEO) and equivalents	288	353	641
Senior Executive Officer (SEO) and equivalents	200	242	442
Grade 7 and equivalents	230	242	472
Grade 6	76	73	149
Senior Civil Service (SCS)	60	47	107
DCSF total	1,224	1,699	2,923

[1] The Department for Children, Schools and Families has recently merged the Administrative Assistant (AA) and Administrative Officer (AO) Civil Service grades into an Executive Assistant (EA) role.

Departmental Publicity

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [167962]

Kevin Brennan: In 2006-07 the Department (then the Department for Education and Skills) spent £6.265 million on advertising as part of information campaigns. Additionally, the Department's spend in advertising vacancies at senior civil service level for the last financial year was £97,605.00. The costs for advertising vacancies below senior civil service level are not recorded in the same way and figures could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff in his Department have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last five years. [163679]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested is as follows:

	Staff disciplined	*Employment terminated*
2006	1	1
2005	1	1
2004	2	1
2003	0	0
2002	0	0

Educational Psychology

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what progress is being made on the implementation of recommendations from the Children's Workforce Development Council on the training of educational psychologists; [174592]

(2) what plans he has to ensure adequate numbers of educational psychologists over the next 10 years; and if he will take steps to ensure that their numbers do not fall below the current level; [174593]

(3) how many educational psychologists are employed by local authorities in England; [174595]

(4) what assessment he has made of the role of educational psychologists in the education system; [174733]

(5) whether agreement has been reached between his Department and the Local Government Association on funding for the training of educational psychologists. [174734]

Kevin Brennan: My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools and Learners has signalled his support for the recommendations contained within the Children's Workforce Development Council's (CWDC) paper on educational psychologists (EPs), which identified a number of options for the future funding and administration arrangements in relation to the initial entry training of EPs.

We have asked the CWDC and the Local Government Association, as the representative body of the local authority employers, to take matters forward in terms of the funding and administration of trainee EP places/courses commencing in September 2008. Further information can be accessed via the CWDC website at:

www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/educationalpsychology

The full-time equivalent number of EPs in post in local authorities in England, as at January 2007, was 2,352, with 73 full-time vacancies. EPs are employed by local authorities, and it is for those authorities to determine how many to employ in light of their assessment of local needs and available resources, and to plan for future needs. It is not the role of the Department to undertake any manpower planning or funding assessment for this group of local authority employees.

EPs play an important role in assessing special educational needs and in helping to formulate support arrangements for children with a wide range of needs, including those with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties. The value of their contribution was confirmed in an independent study, conducted by the School of Education, University of Manchester, published by the Department on 31 August 2006. A copy of the report, "A Review of the Functions and Contribution of Educational Psychologists in England and Wales in light of Every Child Matters: Change for Children" (Research Report No. 792) was placed in the House of Commons Library, and can also be accessed via the Department's research website:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/research.

Further Education: Truancy

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of persistent truants went on to post-16 education in the latest period for which figures are available. [174205]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Truancy

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of persistent truants gained five A* to C grades including English and mathematics in the last year. [174294]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Illegal Immigrants

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many illegal immigrants have been discovered working for his Department and its agencies in the last year for which figures are available. [170480]

Kevin Brennan: No illegal immigrants have been discovered working for my Department or its agencies.

Nurseries: Copeland

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many free nursery places have been provided within Copeland over the last five years. [175943]

Beverley Hughes: The available information is shown in the table.

The table provides information about the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds in Copeland parliamentary constituency area. Data are provided for 2004-07 only because data are not available at constituency level for 2003.

Number of part-time funded places[1, 2, 3] filled by three and four-year-olds, parliamentary constituency: Copeland, position in January

	Three-year-olds			Four-year-olds		
	Maintained nursery and primary schools[4]	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers[5]*	*Total three-year-olds*	*Maintained nursery and primary schools[6]*	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers[7]*	*Total four-year-olds*
2004	380	240	630	630	90	720
2005	400	250	640	610	90	690
2006	400	240	630	580	100	690
2007	390	270	660	600	90	690

[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[3] Prior to 2004, information on early education places was derived from returns made by local authorities as part of the nursery education grant (NEG) data collection exercise. These data were collected at local authority level, therefore, data for this parliamentary constituency for 2003 is not available.
[4] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Schools Census.
[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the Schools Census.
[6] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Schools Census.
[7] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the Schools Census.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 19/2007 "Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2007", available on my Department's website at www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/

Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of fixed period exclusions were given to pupils *(a)* with special educational needs and *(b)* entitled to free school meals in (i) secondary and (ii) primary schools in (A) Uxbridge constituency, (B) each London borough and (C) England in each year since 1997; [171482]

(2) what percentage of secondary school sessions were missed through unauthorised absences in *(a)* Uxbridge constituency, *(b)* each London borough and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [171483]

Kevin Brennan: The requested information on fixed period exclusions can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on unauthorised absence has been published, at school level, as part of the achievement and attainment tables. This can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/performancetables/

The latest available information on absence covers autumn term 2006 and spring term 2007 and includes information at national and regional level. This is published at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000756/index.shtml

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary pupils received a permanent exclusion in the last three years, broken down by age. [174220]

Kevin Brennan: The readily available information requested is shown in the table.

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2]: Number of permanent exclusions by age, England, 2003/04 to 2005/06 (Estimates)[3]

	Number of Permanent Exclusions		
	2003/04	*2004/05*	*2005/06*
Number of exclusions			
Age[4]:			
4 and under	20	60	10
5	50	40	50
6	90	60	80
7	160	110	120
8	230	190	180
9	370	300	270
10	410	420	290
11	680	650	640
12	1,540	1,590	1,520
13	2,470	2,410	2,340
14	2,750	2,580	2,600
15	1,070	980	970
16	30	40	30
17	20	10	20
18	*	*	*
19 and over	*	0	0

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2]: Number of permanent exclusions by age, England, 2003/04 to 2005/06 (Estimates)[3]

	Number of Permanent Exclusions		
	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Total	9,880	9,440	9,170
Percentage of school population[5]			
Age[4]:			
4 and under	0.00	0.01	0.00
5	0.01	0.01	0.01
6	0.02	0.01	0.01
7	0.03	0.02	0.02
8	0.04	0.03	0.03
9	0.06	0.05	0.05
10	0.07	0.07	0.05
11	0.11	0.11	0.11
12	0.25	0.26	0.26
13	0.41	0.40	0.39
14	0.46	0.43	0.43
15	0.18	0.17	0.16
16	0.01	0.02	0.02
17	0.01	0.01	0.02
18	*	*	*
19 and over	*	0.00	0.00
Total	0.13	0.12	0.12

* = Less than 5, or a rate based on less than 5.
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes both maintained and non-maintained special schools.
[3] Figures relating to permanent exclusions are estimates based on incomplete pupil-level data.
[4] Age as at 31 August prior to start of academic year.
[5] The number of exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of pupils of each age in primary, secondary and special schools (excluding dually registered pupils in special schools) in January 2003.
Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils received a fixed period exclusion in the last three years, broken down by age. [174221]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The latest available information on the number of fixed period exclusions by age is shown in the table. This relates to local authority maintained secondary schools only and to the number of episodes of fixed period exclusion. Some pupils will have several episodes of fixed period exclusion during the academic year.

Maintained secondary schools[1, 2]: Number of fixed period exclusions by age—England 2005/06

	Fixed period exclusions		
	Boys	Girls	Total
Number of exclusions			
Age[3]:			
4 and under	0	0	0
5	0	0	0
6	0	0	0
7	0	0	0
8	[4]	0	[4]
9	530	80	610
10	860	90	950
11	31,830	6,690	38,530
12	49,370	16,850	66,230
13	61,000	27,730	88,720
14	64,220	28,390	92,610
15	40,030	14,640	54,670
16	760	200	950
17	300	80	380
18	20	10	30
19 and over	10	[4]	10
Total[5]	248,950	94,750	343,840
Percentage of school population[6]			
Age[3]:			
4 and under	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	[4]	0.00	[4]
9	4.36	0.69	2.57
10	6.16	0.64	3.46
11	11.15	2.43	6.87
12	16.98	5.97	11.56
13	20.26	9.51	14.97
14	21.35	9.67	15.58
15	13.67	5.11	9.44
16	0.84	0.19	0.50
17	0.43	0.09	0.25
18	0.33	0.21	0.27
19 and over	1.98	[4]	1.00
Total[5]	14.96	5.77	10.40

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] For the 2005/06 school year, information on fixed period exclusions from secondary schools was collected via the School Census for the first time (the Termly Exclusions Survey has been discontinued). For exclusions during 2006/07, information on fixed period exclusions will also be collected from primary and special schools. See Notes to Editors 2.
[3] Age as at 31 August 2005.
[4] Less than 5, or a rate based on less than 5.
[5] There were 143 exclusions for which gender and age was unclassified. These have been included in the total only.
[6] The number of exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of pupils of each age in secondary schools as at January 2006.
Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many exclusions there were of *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls from schools in England in each year since 1997. [174534]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested for permanent exclusions is shown in the table.

Information on fixed period exclusions was collected for the first time for the academic year 2003/04. The number of fixed period exclusions for maintained primary, maintained secondary and all special schools for 2003/04 and 2004/05 and the number of fixed period exclusions for maintained secondary schools only for 2005/06 are shown in the tables.

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1,2]: Number of permanent exclusions by gender—England, 1997/98 to 2005/06 (Estimates)[3]

	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01[3]	2001/02[3]	2002/03[3]	2003/04[3]	2004/05[3]	2005/06[3]
Number of permanent exclusions									
Total[4]	12,300	10,440	8,320	9,140	9,540	9,290	9,880	9,440	9,170
Boys	10,270	8,650	7,030	7,550	7,810	7,580	7,960	7,490	7,290
Girls	2,030	1,790	1,290	1,580	1,720	1,710	1,930	1,940	1,860
Percentage of permanent exclusions[5]									
Total[4]	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Boys	84	83	84	83	82	82	81	79	79
Girls	16	17	16	17	18	18	19	21	20
Percentage of school population[6]									
Total	0.16	0.14	0.11	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.12
Boys	0.26	0.22	0.18	0.19	0.20	0.19	0.20	0.19	0.19
Girls	0.05	0.05	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes both maintained and non-maintained special schools.
[3] Estimates based on incomplete pupil-level data. See Notes to Editors 4
[4] In 2005/06 there were 26 exclusions for which gender was not classified—these are included in the total column only.
[5] The number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of the total number of permanent exclusions.
[6] The number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of all pupils in primary, secondary and special schools (excluding dually registered pupils in special schools) in January of each year.
Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source: School Census.

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1,2]: Number of fixed period exclusions by gender—England 2003/04 and 2004/05

	2003/04[3]	2004/05
Number of fixed period exclusions		
Total[4]	344,510	389,560
Boys	263,900	292,290
Girls	80,610	94,270
Percentage of fixed period exclusions[5]		
Total	100	100
Boys	77	75
Girls	23	24
Percentage of school population[6]		
Total	4.49	5.12
Boys	6.76	7.62
Girls	2.14	2.53

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes both maintained and non-maintained special schools.
[3] The number of fixed period exclusions expressed as a percentage of the total number of fixed period exclusions.
[4] The number of fixed period exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of all pupils in primary, secondary and special schools (excluding dually registered pupils in special schools) in January of each year.
Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Termly exclusions survey.

Maintained secondary schools[1,2]: Number of fixed period exclusions by gender—England 2005/06[3]

	Fixed period exclusions		
	Boys	Girls	Total
Number of exclusions	248,950	94,750	343,840
Percentage of school population[4]	14.96	5.77	10.40

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed. [2] For the 2005/06 school year, information on fixed period exclusions from secondary schools was collected via the School Census for the first time (the Termly Exclusions Survey has been discontinued). For exclusions during 2006/07, information on fixed period exclusions will also be collected from primary and special schools. [3] There were 140 exclusions for which gender was unclassified. These have been included in the total only. [4] The number of exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of pupils of each age in secondary schools as at January 2006. # less than 5, or a rate based on less than 5. *Note:* Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. *Source:* School Census.

Pupil Exclusions: Free School Meals

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils received a *(a)* fixed period and *(b)* permanent exclusion in the last 12 month period for which figures are available, broken down by (i) ethnicity and (ii) sex; and how many of each were in receipt of free school meals at the time of their exclusion. [174291]

Kevin Brennan: The readily available information is shown in the tables. The provision of further information on excluded pupils free school meal eligibility would involve disproportionate cost.

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1,2]: Number of permanent exclusions by ethnic group and gender[3], England, 2005/06 (Estimates)[4]

	Boys		Girls		Permanent exclusions[4] Total	
	Number	Percentage of school population[5]	Number	Percentage of school population[5]	Number	Percentage of school population[5]
White	5,720	0.20	1,510	0.06	7,230	0.13
White British	5,520	0.20	1,470	0.06	6,990	0.13
Irish	20	0.18	10	0.05	30	0.11
Traveller of Irish heritage	10	0.66	0	0.05	10	0.36
Gypsy/Roma	20	0.64	10	0.23	30	0.44
Any other White background	130	0.16	30	0.04	160	0.10
Mixed	350	0.34	100	0.10	450	0.22
White and Black Caribbean	200	0.57	60	0.15	260	0.36
White and Black African	20	0.23	10	0.13	40	0.18
White and Asian	20	0.08	10	0.05	30	0.06
Any other Mixed background	100	0.29	30	0.07	130	0.18
Asian	300	0.12	30	0.01	330	0.07
Indian	60	0.07	10	0.01	60	0.04
Pakistani	140	0.14	10	0.02	160	0.08
Bangladeshi	60	0.16	*	*	70	0.08
Any other Asian background	30	0.12	*	*	40	0.06
Black	560	0.42	140	0.10	700	0.26
Black Caribbean	300	0.66	70	0.16	380	0.41
Black African	190	0.26	40	0.06	230	0.16
Any other Black background	70	0.44	20	0.14	90	0.30
Chinese	*	*	0	0.00	*	*
Any other ethnic group	60	0.16	10	0.03	70	0.10
Unclassified[6]	290	—	70	—	360	—
Minority Ethnic Pupils	1,460	0.23	320	0.05	1,780	0.14
All pupils[7]	7,270	0.21	1,860	0.06	9,130	0.14

* = Less than 5, or a rate based on less than 5 exclusions
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes both maintained and non-maintained special schools.
[3] Includes pupils of compulsory school age and above only, so totals shown here will not match those given previously. Excludes dually registered pupils. Also excludes pupils for whom age is unclassified (27 cases of permanent exclusion).
[4] Figures relating to permanent exclusions are estimates based on incomplete pupil-level data. See Notes to Editors 3.
[5] The number of excluded pupils expressed as a percentage of the school population of compulsory school age and above in each ethnic group.
[6] Includes pupils whose ethnic information was not sought or refused.

Notes:
1. Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. The number of exclusions by ethnicity in secondary schools has been derived from the National Pupil Database. Pupils' ethnicity and gender has been established by linking to their most recent 'on roll1 entry in the School Census

Maintained secondary schools[1]: Number of fixed period exclusions by ethnic group and gender[2], England, 2005/06

	Fixed period exclusions					
	Boys		Girls		Total	
	Number	Percentage of school population[3]	Number	Percentage of school population[3]	Number	Percentage of school population[3]
White	170,650	12.27	65,820	4.79	236,480	8.56
White British	165,600	12.30	63,720	4.80	229,320	8.58
Irish	810	13.55	350	5.59	1,160	9.49
Traveller of Irish heritage	240	45.47	90	16.51	330	30.64
Gypsy/Roma	530	46.59	310	26.93	840	36.71
Any other White background	3,470	925	1,360	3.66	4,820	6.47
Mixed	7,790	18.83	3,910	9.11	11,690	13.89
White and Black Caribbean	3,970	27.02	2,140	13.54	6,110	20.04
White and Black African	740	18.79	350	8.56	1,090	13.60
White and Asian	870	10.34	380	4.46	1,250	7.41
Any other Mixed background	2,200	15.44	1,040	7.16	3,240	11.25
Asian	8,810	7.85	1,640	1.51	10,460	4.73
Indian	1,810	4.50	350	0.90	2,150	2.74
Pakistani	4,750	11.20	860	2.12	5,610	6.77
Bangladeshi	1,410	8.77	260	1.57	1,670	5.10
Any other Asian background	850	6.17	180	1.35	1,030	3.81
Black	10,790	18.87	4,610	7.67	15,410	13.13
Black Caribbean	5,040	24.25	2,270	10.20	7,320	16.99
Black African	4,170	14.22	1,760	5.63	5,920	9.79
Any other Black background	1,580	22.28	590	8.72	2,170	15.69
Chinese	120	1.84	30	0.50	150	1.18
Any other ethnic group	1,430	9.28	380	2.69	1,810	6.11
Unclassified[6]	49,350	—	18,350	—	67,700	—
Minority Ethnic Pupils	33,990	12.23	12,680	4.57	46,670	8.40
All pupils[3]	248,940	14.96	94,750	5.77	343,690	10.39

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes pupils of compulsory school age and above only, so totals shown here will not match those given previously. Excludes dually registered pupils. Also excludes pupils for whom age is unclassified (140 cases of fixed period exclusion).
[3] The number of excluded pupils expressed as a percentage of the school population of compulsory school age and above in each ethnic group.
[4] Includes pupils whose ethnic information was not sought or refused.
Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census.

Pupil Referral Units

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of pupil referral units; and if he will make a statement. [173244]

Kevin Brennan: The effectiveness of pupil referral units is judged by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) as part of the normal regime for the inspection of schools. Ofsted's latest annual report (2006/07) showed that 52 per cent. of pupil referral units were good or outstanding overall. 33 per cent. were satisfactory and 14 per cent. were inadequate.

Schools: Intimidation

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many incidents of bullying occurred in schools in each local education authority area of England in each year since 1997. [167718]

Kevin Brennan: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Tables showing the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions in each local authority area by reason for exclusion have been placed in the library. This includes a category relating to bullying.

Schools: Sports

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to encourage more school students to participate in competitive sport; and what plans he has to take steps further to improve the rate. [173254]

Kevin Brennan: Increasing inter and intra-school sporting opportunities is a key component of the national school sport strategy, which is delivered jointly by the Department for Children Schools and Families and the Department for Culture Media and Sport.

The 2006-07 school sport survey showed that:

98 per cent. of schools held a competitive sports day,

58 per cent. of pupils were involved in intra-school competition, and

35 per cent. of all pupils were involved in inter-school competition.

Earlier this year the Prime Minister announced extra funding to extend the number of competition managers to at least 225 by the beginning of 2009. Competition managers are creating a stronger framework for competitive sport and working across primary and secondary schools to increase the amount of competitive sport they offer.

In addition we are introducing a new national school sport week, championed by Dame Kelly Holmes, to encourage all schools to run sports days and tournaments. This will build on the success of the UK School Games and its impact on motivating young people to take part in competitive sport.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government has taken, to assist schools increasing participation in extra-curricular sports. [174160]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 18 December 2007]:* The Departments for Culture, Media and Sport, and Children, Schools and Families, are working together to deliver the National School Sport Strategy. The strategy's current aim is to increase the percentage of five to 16-year-olds participating in at least two hours a week of high quality PE and sport at school and, from 2008/09, the percentage of five to 19-year-olds participating in at least three further hours a week of sporting opportunities, in and out of school.

Secondary Education: Truancy

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* absence rate and *(b)* unauthorised absence rate was in secondary schools with (i) up to and including 500 pupils, (ii) 501 to 1,000 pupils, (iii) 1,001 to 1,500 pupils, (iv) 1,501 to 2,000 pupils and (v) more than 2,000 pupils in the latest period for which figures are available. [174190]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Sure Start Programme: Copeland

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much funding to support the work of Sure Start within Copeland has been provided over the last five years; [175944]

(2) how many families have accessed health and support from the Sure Start programme within Copeland over the last five years. [175945]

Beverley Hughes: The Sure Start Local Programme in Whitehaven, Copeland, received revenue and capital funding directly from the then Department for Education and Skills until March 2006. Since April 2006 revenue funding for all Sure Start Local Programmes (SSLPs) has been included in the General Sure Start Grant allocated to local authorities.

Funding for Copeland is therefore not allocated separately but is included in Cumbria county council's

General Sure Start Grant (from April 2008 the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant) which includes revenue and capital for Sure Start Children's Centres. Local authorities are responsible for allocating the children's centre funding that they receive from my Department to the Sure Start Children's Centres in their area. In 2006-07 this grant included £3,482,237 in ringfenced revenue funding to support five SSLPs in Cumbria. Cumbria county council, like all other local authorities with ringfenced SSLP funding, has the freedom to determine the level of resource for each individual SSLP in its area. The following table shows allocations for the five financial years between 2002 and 2007.

Cumbria Sure Start allocations

	Revenue			*Capital*	
	Copeland/Whitehaven	*All Sure Start local programmes in Cumbria*	*All Sure Start children's centres in Cumbria*	*Copeland/Whitehaven*	*All Sure Start children's centres in Cumbria*
2002-06[1]	3,294,487	–	831,214	332,196	3,051,844
2006-07[2]		3,482,237	2,353,801		2,277,971

[1] Figures for 'Copeland/Whitehaven' relate to the revenue and capital grant allocated directly to the Sure Start Local programme in Whitehaven for the four financial years between 2002 and 2006. Figures for 'All Sure Start Children's Centres in Cumbria' show revenue and capital funding for the two financial years between 2004 and 2006.

[2] The capital allocation for 'All Children's Centres in Cumbria' in 2006-07 includes capital funding for childcare sustainability and extended schools as well as Sure Start Children's Centres. The local authority had the flexibility to decide how much of this capital funding it spent on centres.

Data on the number of families accessing health and support services in Sure Start centres are not collected centrally. Sure Start Whitehaven was originally set up to support 706 children under four and their families, but when it became a Sure Start Children's Centre in 2005 its 'catchment area' was increased to support 900 children under five and their families. Cumbria county council has developed sixteen Sure Start Children's Centres, four of which (including the one based on Sure Start Whitehaven) are in the Copeland area. According to information from Cumbria county council these four centres serve 1,753 children under five and their families.

Truancy

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools have been classed as persistent truants in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [174295]

Kevin Brennan: Data which enabled analysis of absence data to include information on persistent absentees were collected for the first time, from secondary schools only, for the academic year 2005/06. The information was published as part of SFR 11/2007 which can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000718/index.shtml

The latest published data cover autumn term 2006 and spring term 2007 and include data for primary schools. This was published as part of SFR 36/11 and can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000756/index.shtml

Written Questions

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he will reply to the questions *(a)* 168899 on services provided by Capita and *(b)* 165763 on CfBT Education Trust tabled by the hon. Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton on 21 November. [174731]

Kevin Brennan: I responded to parliamentary question 165763 on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 952W and parliamentary question 168899 on 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1254W.

PRIME MINISTER

Deborah Mattinson

Mrs. May: To ask the Prime Minister whether Deborah Mattinson has *(a)* a desk, *(b)* a telephone, *(c)* office facilities and *(d)* administrative support provided in No. 10 Downing street. [172751]

The Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to her by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Edward Miliband) on 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1285W.

Departmental Publicity

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Prime Minister how much his Office spent on managing its corporate identity in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167343]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron) on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 86W.

WALES

Departmental Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff work in his Department's parliamentary branch; and what proportion of their time is spent on dealing with *(a)* Parliamentary Questions and *(b)* correspondence from hon. Members and Peers. [174963]

Mr. Hain: My parliamentary branch consists of two full-time members of staff. Written parliamentary questions take up an estimated 30 per cent. of their time and correspondence an estimated 5 per cent.

Members' Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many letters his Department received from hon. Members and Peers in each session of Parliament since 1997. [174930]

Mr. Hain: Correspondence statistics prior to 2005 can be provided only at a disproportionate cost. The figures for 2005 and 2006 are:

	January-December 2005	*January-December 2006*
Hon. Members	148	48
Peers	6	26

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Charities: Student Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance the Charity Commission has produced on political campaigning by student unions which have charitable status; and when it was last revised. [175168]

Gillian Merron: This is a matter for the Charity Commission as the non-ministerial Government Department responsible for the regulation of charities in England and Wales. The chief executive of the Charity Commission will write to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library for the reference of Members.

Delivery Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which companies are under contract to *(a)* the Cabinet Office, *(b)* the Prime Minister's Office and *(c)* the Leader of the House's Office to provide mail services. [170178]

Gillian Merron: The Prime Minister's Office and the Leader of the House's Office form an integral part of the Cabinet Office Estate. The vast majority of external mail services for the Cabinet Office are provided by Royal Mail. Commercial delivery services are used when a 'same day' service is required within the UK and for time sensitive international deliveries. There are no formal contracts with these companies.

Internal postal services are provided by the Cabinet Office's total facilities management provider (Ecovert FM). Following a competitive tendering exercise, the Cabinet Office entered into a total facilities management contract with Ecovert FM in April 2002 for a period of seven years, with the option to extend by a further three years.

Departmental Consultants

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was paid in consultancy fees by his Department in each year since 1997. [172083]

Gillian Merron: Expenditure on consultancy fees incurred in my Department in each year since 1997-98 can be found in the following table.

	£ million
1997-98	5.5
1998-99	7.4
1999-2000	10.2
2000-01	10.9
2001-02	16.9
2002-03	13.4
2003-04	15.9
2004-05	12.7
2005-06	22.0
2006-07	14.3

The increased costs in 2005-06 relate mainly to expenditure on shared services feasibility work, SCOPE cross-departmental information strategy, development of the Government Gateway and departmental capability reviews.

Emergencies: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what plans the Government has to release a civil contingencies response to a severe flooding scenario. [174280]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

DEFRA's Lead Government Department Plan for flooding in England, which is published on the DEFRA website, draws on the arrangements in the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. At national level, flood events will be co-ordinated by DEFRA with escalation of serious flooding to Cabinet Office briefing room (COBR). The operational response is led by the police in Gold Command.

At the local level, responders are required to assess the risk of flooding and prepare contingency plans accordingly. Where required, the operational response is led by the police in conjunction with other emergency services, local authorities and others including the Environment Agency.

Russell Commission

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) which organisations have received grants from the Russell Commission since March 2006; and if he will make a statement; [173625]

(2) what assessment he has made of the performance of organisations that have received grants from the Russell Commission since March 2006; and if he will make a statement. [173626]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Phil Hope) on 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 849W.

Voluntary Organisations: Finance

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how voluntary organisations that help communities are informed of what funding is available to them. [176835]

Gillian Merron: Advice for third sector organisations on where to start looking for funding and finance opportunities is available on the Office of the Third Sector's website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/funding_finance_support/funding_finance_guidance.aspx

This site includes details on how third sector organisations can access advice and training to help them apply for funding, as well as providing links to useful documents including, "Guide to Government Assistance to the Third Sector", published by the Treasury in 2006. The site also includes links to external sources of information including the Government Funding Portal, an online resource that details central Government grants available to third sector organisations across all Departments, and to Directgov, which includes other useful information, including guidance on how to find local sources of funding.

JUSTICE

Electoral Register

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to bring forward proposals for automatic voter registration to tackle under-representation by minority groups; and if he will make a statement. [176396]

Bridget Prentice: The Government want to ensure that every eligible elector is presented with the opportunity to register to vote through a simple and convenient registration process. However, at present the Government have no plans to introduce automatic electoral registration.

The franchise arrangements for elections in the UK vary by nationality. In practice, electoral registration officers would not be able to identify an individual's entitlement to vote in each type of election when they come into contact with the local authority because they would also require details of that person's age and nationality to ensure their franchise rights were correctly established. Current legislation also requires an elector to provide a signature when completing the annual canvass form or a rolling registration form. This is an important security requirement.

The Government want to protect the rights of every eligible person to participate in the UK's democratic process by ensuring complete, accurate and secure electoral registration. The Government continue to monitor electoral registration in the UK to ensure that this is being achieved.

Fraud: Elections

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if the Government will introduce the Northern Ireland system of individual electoral registration in Great Britain to tackle postal vote fraud. [176524]

Bridget Prentice: The Government agree with the principle of individual registration but is not yet convinced that it could be implemented in Great Britain (GB) without causing a significant number of eligible electors to fall off the register. Individual registration was introduced in NI in response to specific concerns about the integrity of the electoral register. Any new system of electoral registration in GB would need to be tailored to current circumstances, and in particular would need to address the challenge of under registration in GB, where an estimated 3.5 million eligible electors are not registered to vote.

The Government have taken extensive steps to tackle postal voting fraud. In the Electoral Administration Act 2006 the Government introduced a number of new measures to tackle postal voting fraud. These include:

Creating a new offence of falsely applying for a postal vote;

Requiring postal voters to provide their signature and date of birth, both when they apply for a postal vote and when they return their postal vote at an election; and

Imposing a duty on the Electoral Registration Officer to ensure electoral registers are accurate and comprehensive.

Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the outcome has been of the examination of individual liability through the review of the Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act 1974, with reference to the statement of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State of 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 705, on corporate manslaughter and homicide. [171345]

Mrs. McGuire: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are keeping under review the need for further legislation placing duties on individual directors.

Following its review in 2006, the Health and Safety Commission took steps to strengthen the existing arrangements on directors' responsibilities for health and safety. The Commission will evaluate the impact on directors' behaviour of these steps in the context of wider developments such as the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act, and advise Ministers.

Land Registry

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his timetable is for the settlement of the pay award for 2007 for Land Registry staff; for what reasons the settlement has not yet been reached; what the timetable is for the 2008 settlement; and if he will make a statement. [175618]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry made a formal pay offer to the Unions on 21 December and is aiming to pay the award to staff in February 2008.

After the publication of the remit guidance preliminary meetings were held with the Unions to obtain their views on what Land Registry should request in its pay remit. The pay remit was initially submitted to the Treasury on 10 August 2007 and, after correspondence with Treasury officials, was resubmitted on 5 October 2007. Land Registry staff have been kept regularly informed of progress of the

pay review. Clearance of the pay remit was received from the Treasury on 3 December 2007. Meetings were then held with the Unions on 6 December, 11 December and 19 December.

Until the 2007 pay review is settled, Land Registry will continue to apply the rules agreed for the 2006 pay settlement that ended on 31 May 2007.

Land Registry is not in a position to confirm the timetable for the 2008 pay award. However, the target settlement date remains 1 June 2008 and Land Registry will do its utmost to work with the Unions to reach a conclusion as close to 1 June as possible.

Angela Browning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost to the Land Registry was of processing a land registry search for a domestic property in England for the purposes of a sale in 2006-07. [174019]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry is a trading fund and is required to recover the costs of its operation from fee income, together with a return on average capital employed, currently 3.5 per cent. In 2006-07 Land Registry dealt with 4.38 million official searches in England and Wales. It is not possible to distinguish whether these were on domestic or other types of properties. The estimated cost was £16.25 million, including the return on average capital employed of 3.5 per cent. This gives an average cost of £3.71 per transaction. It is important to note that this information is obtained from sampling exercises and is purely an estimate. Sampling exercises are carried out to inform the required level of Land Registry fees charged to customers. Currently, the fee charged for an Official Search of the Land Register for England and Wales is £3 if the application is made electronically or £6 if made by post or in person. Land Registry does not collect detailed information on resource utilization for non-electronic applications for its statutory land registration services as the administrative cost of doing so would be significant and would have to be passed on to its customers.

Prisoners: Drugs

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the highest number was of drug-related offences committed by one individual in the latest period for which figures are available; [174737]

(2) how many offences were drug related, including those not charged but taken into account, in the latest period for which figures are available; [174738]

(3) what proportion of the total number of offences recorded in the last 12 months were drug related. [174740]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

Data collected centrally on recorded crime do not identify whether offences are drug related. We are unable to provide information on drug related offences committed by individuals or those taken into account. The recorded crime statistics do include the number of specific drug offences; there were 194,302 drug offences, in total, recorded in England and Wales in 2006-07.

Sexual Orientation Regulations 2007

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many claims of discrimination have been made under the Sexual Orientation Regulations 2007 to date. [172327]

Barbara Follett: I have been asked to reply.

We do not hold this data centrally, but to date we are not aware of any claims having been brought.

Voting Rights

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to ensure that 100 per cent. of identifiers of postal votes are checked in election counts for the 2008 local and London elections. [176519]

Bridget Prentice: Returning officers are currently required to check personal identifiers on at least 20 per cent. of returned postal votes at elections though they have discretion to check a higher proportion, or all, of the returned postal votes. The Government have indicated in their response to the Electoral Commission's evaluation report 'The introduction of absent voting personal identifiers in England and Wales'(www.justice.gov.uk/publications/absent-voting-identifiers.htm) that they agree with the Commission that no changes to the legislation for the checking of identifiers at elections should be contemplated for implementation in England and Wales prior to 31 May 2008. It is therefore not planned to mandate 100 per cent. checking of returned postal votes at the elections scheduled for May 2008. The Government are committed to the principle that 100 per cent. of returned postal votes should be checked, and work with the Electoral Commission, electoral administrators and software suppliers in order to establish when it will be appropriate and safe to mandate 100 per cent. checking of returned postal votes.

Young Offenders

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many first time entrants to the youth justice system there were in 2006-07. [175996]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

Data collected from Youth Offending Teams in England and Wales, and verified by the Youth Justice Board, indicate that there were 93,730 first-time entrants to the criminal justice system during 2006-07.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment was made of the likely responsibilities of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission in determining changes in the numbers of officials employed by the Child Support Agency. [172721]

Mr. Plaskitt: Current staffing reductions in the Child Support Agency are part of the Department-wide headcount reduction targets, which relate to the period ending in March 2008. They are not linked to the set up of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, and the Commission has no responsibility for these reductions.

Child Support Agency: Payments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many requests were made for consolatory payments by the Child Support Agency in each year since 1997. [172828]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is unavailable.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what procedures will be put in place to monitor the private child maintenance arrangements included in the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill. [172722]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission's Information and Support Service will help parents to put in place effective private arrangements by providing information on how to review, renegotiate or re-establish arrangements if they break down. We expect the Commission will provide parents with a template enabling them to calculate, record and agree the terms of their arrangement between themselves. We recognise that maintenance arrangements can last for many years and therefore expect the Commission will also encourage parents to re-contact the Information and Support Service at any point if their arrangement breaks down. Help at this point may include supporting parents across to the statutory maintenance service for a more formal and enforceable arrangement.

We are also committed to evaluating how the objectives of the redesigned system are being met including looking at the numbers of effective voluntary arrangements. This will be through both qualitative and quantitative research as well as the use of surveys such as the Family Resources Survey.

Departmental Equal Opportunities

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to *(a)* promote age diversity in the workplace and *(b)* enable older people to gain equal access to training opportunities. [171045]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since 2000, through our Age Positive initiative, we have been strongly promoting the business benefits of employing older people as part of a mixed age workforce.

Between May 2005 and October 2006 the DWP ran the 'Be Ready' National Guidance campaign to prepare employers for the introduction of workplace age discrimination legislation on 1 October 2006. The launch commenced with a mailing of basic information to 1.4 million employers. The campaign was designed both to raise awareness of age discrimination legislation, and to provide practical guidance to help employers become more age diverse in their employment practices.

The 'Be Ready' materials were developed with the support and advice of the Age Partnership Group, which consists of leading business and Government bodies including the CBI, TUC, Chambers of Commerce, CIPD, Institute of Directors, DBERR and ACAS. Many of the members and a number of key trade sector organisations worked with us to actively promote the materials through their own employer networks.

Through our Age Positive initiative we are continuing to promote to employers the benefits of employing older people as part of a mixed age workforce and the adoption of flexible work and retirement policies.

Opportunities for older people to learn new skills in a changing labour market are essential. We are working with the Department of Innovation Universities and Skills to consider how older workers can be better supported to stay in work.

There is a wealth of non-age related support already available which can benefit all workers, including older workers, and those seeking to return to the labour market. The level 2 entitlement, Train to Gain, Skills for Life, Information Advice and Guidance, New Deal for Skills and the development of Skills Accounts are all age neutral. Adult learning grant is also available to people over the age of 25. The LSC have allocated a further £16.7 million for adult apprenticeships in 2007-08 and Government will invest £90 million in total over the CSR period to support an additional 30,000 adult apprenticeship places.

Disability Living Allowance: Sight Impaired

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy to pay the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance to people with severe sight loss; and if he will make a statement. [176778]

Mrs. McGuire: To qualify for the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance, a person must generally have a physical disablement which renders them unable or virtually unable to walk. I have met with representatives of the Royal National Institute for Blind People on their campaign to extend the higher rate component to certain people with severe sight loss. Officials from the Department are in discussion with the Royal National Institute for the Blind on the details of their proposals and the policy implications.

Employment

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of people who were in temporary work and who were seeking permanent work in each year since 1997. [173893]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about what estimate has been made for the number and proportion of people who were in temporary work who were seeking permanent work in each year since 1997. (173893)

Seasonally adjusted estimates for temporary employment levels and reasons for temporary working are published each month in the Labour Market Statistics First Release. Please visit the following link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/LMS_FR_HS/WebTable03.xls

These estimates are based on the respondent reason for taking up their present employment, rather than whether they are currently seeking permanent work. Estimates for those who are temporary employees and currently seeking permanent employment are not available.

Estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Industrial Health and Safety: Influenza

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the obligations on employers under *(a)* the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and *(b)* other health and safety legislation to prepare for a potential influenza pandemic; and if he will make a statement. [172768]

Mrs. McGuire: In any influenza pandemic, employers will continue to have obligations under health and safety legislation. That legislation is sufficiently flexible to allow employers to tailor their risk assessments to an emergency situation without the need to disapply or suspend any of their responsibilities. The Heath and Safety Executive's website has information for employers to assist them in the event of a pandemic influenza.

Jobcentre Plus: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many benefit recipients who *(a)* previously signed on at the Dursley Job Centre Plus and *(b)* are living in the area previously covered by that office now sign on at the Stroud Job Centre Plus office. [171008]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 8 January 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked Lesley Strathie to reply to your question concerning how many benefit recipients who *(a)* previously signed on at the Dursley Jobcentre Plus and *(b)* are living in the area previously covered by that office now sign on at the Stroud Jobcentre Plus office. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to Ms Strathie as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. I am replying in her absence as Acting Chief Executive.

I can confirm that there were 247 Jobseeker's Allowance customers signing with the Dursley office when it closed in March 2005. These customers were invited to register at four alternative Jobcentre Plus offices—Stroud, Gloucester, Kingswood and Yate.

There are currently 54 customers from the Dursley area claiming Jobseeker's Allowance. We are not able to identify those customers who registered at the Stroud office when Dursley closed or those who have since registered to sign on at Stroud.

I hope this is helpful.

Low Incomes: Council Tax

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in relative poverty were paying full council tax in the latest year for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [172095]

Caroline Flint: The number of households in relative poverty paying full council tax is 2.7 million (before housing costs) and 3.0 million (after housing costs).

Notes:

1. The information shown is for Great Britain in 2005-06.

2. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the DWP publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses disposable household income, equivalised for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.

3. The figures are based on OECD equalisation factors.

4. The preferred measure of low income is by using a threshold of 60 per cent. of the contemporary median income. This is an internationally recognised measure.

5. Figures have been presented on both a before housing cost and after housing cost basis. For before housing cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for after housing cost they are. This means that after housing cost incomes will generally be lower than before housing cost.

6. The numbers are in millions rounded to the nearest 100,000.

Source: Family Resources Survey, 2005-06

Minimum Wage

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many London-based staff are employed by his Department on the national minimum wage. [175971]

Mrs. McGuire: There are no London-based staff employed by DWP on the national minimum wage. The pay scale minima for all DWP pay scales are set at a higher level.

Part Time Employment

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of people in part-time work, *(b)* the proportion of the workforce in part-time work and *(c)* the number of people in part-time work who are seeking full-time work in each year since 1997. [173913]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about (a) the number of people in part-time work, (b) the proportion of the workforce in part-time work and (c) the number of people in part-time work who are seeking full-time work in each year since 1997. (173913)

The attached table gives the number and percentage of part-time people in employment. The information on people in part-time work who are seeking full-time work was provided in response to a previous PQ (ref 173892).

The LFS estimates at this detailed level are only consistent with the UK population estimates published in February and March 2003 and they do not incorporate the more recent population estimates that are used in the headline LFS series.

Estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Number and percentage of part-time workers in employment, aged 16 and over, April to June 1997 to 2007—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousands, except where indicated

	Total in employment	*Part-time*	*Part-time workers as percentage of all in employment*
1997	26,356	6,700	25
1999	26,876	6,815	25
2001	27,438	6,989	26
2002	27,617	7,134	26
2003	27,863	7,270	26
2004	28,024	7,345	26
2005	28,193	7,288	26
2006	28,339	7,282	26
2007	28,434	7,318	26

Note:
Comparable data not available for 1998 or 2000.
Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Pathways to Work

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the numbers moving from incapacity benefits into paid employment in *(a)* Wirral and *(b)* other Pathways to Work pilot areas; and if he will make a statement. [172580]

Mrs. McGuire: Wirral is part of the Liverpool and the Wirral Pathways to Work area and received the service provided by Jobcentre Plus from April 2006. To the end of April 2007, a minimum of 230 people moved from an incapacity benefit to employment in Wirral. In the same period, in other Pathways pilot areas a minimum of 12,530 people moved from an incapacity benefit to employment.

The Government's successful Pathways to Work programme has been running since October 2003 and rolled out over time to 40 per cent. of the country. The programme has achieved over 69,000 job entries. By April 2008 Pathways will be made available to the whole of Great Britain, with provider-led organisations contracted to deliver the service to the remaining 60 per cent. of the country.

Remploy

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether transitional funding will be provided to assist the transfer of ownership of the Remploy factories in *(a)* Treforest, *(b)* Ystradgynlais and *(c)* Brynamman. [171382]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 4 December 2007]:* The Secretary of State made clear during his recent statement on the modernisation of Remploy that Remploy has been contacted by third parties interested in keeping some form of production or training at six of the sites due for closure—Lydney, Glasgow Hillington, St. Helens, Treforest, Ystradgynlais and Brynamman. The details of such negotiations are a matter for Remploy.

Social Security Benefits: Personal Records

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what personal account data have been provided by his Department to the National Audit Office in the last 12 months. [167672]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* As required under the National Audit Office Act of 1983 and the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000, the Department provides access to its records relating to the income, expenditure and liabilities appearing in its accounts. The National Audit Office has regular and routine access to all departmental records, including individual records which contain personal account data.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Council

10. **Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much grant-in-aid the British Council received in each of the last three years. [175900]

Dr. Howells: The British Council received grant-in-aid totalling £189,210,000 in financial year 2005-06, £188,124,000 in financial year 2006-07, and £192,803,000 in financial year 2007-08. These figures are final as reported in the British Council's annual reports, copies of which are available from the Library of the House.

Gaza

12. **Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Gaza. [175902]

Dr. Howells: We are concerned by the recent violence in Gaza, and call on all parties to restore order to the streets. There is a pressing need to re-open Gaza's crossings for people and goods.

We remain concerned by the humanitarian situation in Gaza. During 2007, the UK gave over £31 million in aid to the Palestinians. In December, we pledged $500 million over the next three years, and we were pleased at the response of the governments that attended the post-Annapolis Donors' Conference in Paris before Christmas when $7 billion was pledged.

Kosovo

13. **Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Kosovo. [175904]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The status quo in Kosovo is unsustainable. In the absence of agreement between the parties, the Government will continue strongly to support the Ahtisaari proposals for supervised independence as the way forward.

Lebanon

14. **Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government is taking to help Lebanon hold democratic elections. [175905]

Dr. Howells: The UK remains deeply concerned by the political crisis in Lebanon. It is essential for Lebanon's stability that a free, fair and constitutional Presidential election is held without delay. The UK has been working closely with international partners to resolve the crisis, particularly on the UN Security Council and in the EU. I visited Lebanon last month to encourage all parties to resolve their differences by peaceful and democratic means.

Iran

16. **Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on relations with Iran; and if he will make a statement. [175907]

Dr. Howells: Iran could be one of the world's great nations, but it needs to make a choice between engagement and co-operation with the international community, or continuing to refuse to abide by its international obligations which will only lead to further isolation. We urge the Iranian regime to make the right choice by suspending their uranium enrichment programme and honouring all of its international commitments including on human rights.

Climate Change

17. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the contribution of the EU to securing international agreement at Bali on action to tackle climate change. [175908]

Meg Munn: At Bali we reached an historic agreement. For the first time all countries agreed to start negotiations to achieve a global climate deal by 2009.

EU leadership was central. Last March EU leaders committed Europe to becoming the first low carbon major economy by setting ambitious targets for reducing EU greenhouse gas emissions; and they set out the key elements of the future framework, reflected in the Bali action plan.

Guantanamo Bay

18. **Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the US administration on Guantanamo Bay; and if he will make a statement. [175909]

Dr. Howells: The Government have held detailed discussions with the US Administration about five former UK residents held at Guantanamo Bay. Consequently, the US returned three of the men—Mr. Jamil El-Banna, Mr. Omar Deghayes and Mr. Abdennour Sameur—to the UK in December.

The US Government have so far declined our request for the release and return of Mr. Aamer and we are no longer in active discussions regarding his transfer to the UK. We are still discussing with the US the case of Mr. Mohammed. We continue to discuss the welfare of both men with the US.

Iraq

19. **Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of progress made on redevelopment of Iraq's industrial base. [175910]

Dr. Howells: Redevelopment of Iraq's industrial sector after decades of conflict, sanctions, underinvestment, corruption and poor management is challenging. We welcome Iraqi efforts to improve infrastructure, pass key legislation, such as the Investment Law, and increase budgetary allocations to key Government Ministries eg Ministry of Industry and Minerals.

The UK and our partners continue to support investment, job creation and economic reconstruction through Provincial Reconstruction Teams, international compact, and UK-inspired Basra Economic Package.

Pakistan

20. **Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he will next meet the Prime Minister of Pakistan. [175911]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend spoke to Prime Minister Soomro on 30 December to express condolences following the murder of Ms Benazir Bhutto and to express the UK's strong support to Pakistan in combating terrorism and for the country's continued transition to democracy. Although my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no immediate plans to meet Prime Minister Soomro they agreed to stay in close touch by telephone.

23. **Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Pakistan. [175914]

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. Member to the Statement on Pakistan made by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary in the House on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 21-24.

24. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Pakistan. [175915]

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. Member to the statement on Pakistan and Kenya made by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary in the House on 7 January, *Official Report*, columns 21-24.

Burma

21. **Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to increase diplomatic pressure on the Burmese regime. [175912]

Meg Munn: The United Kingdom is working closely with the United Nations, EU and regional neighbours to bring about diplomatic pressure for change in Burma. We support the United Nations Secretary-General's Good Offices mission, and have secured stronger EU sanctions. Our ambassador in Rangoon regularly raises our concerns with the Burmese Government. We urge Burma's regional partners and China to play a leading role in pursuing political reform in Burma.

Darfur

22. **Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made in establishing a UN peacekeeping force for Darfur. [175913]

David Miliband: The AU-UN mission in Darfur (UNAMID) assumed authority on 31 December. We are working with the UN, key allies and troop contributing countries to ensure UNAMID is an effective force. UNAMID consists of over 9,000 personnel, out of an eventual strength of 26,000 when fully deployed. It will grow throughout 2008. We have urged the Sudanese Government to co-operate fully on all aspects of force composition and deployment.

Middle East

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what account he takes of the need to ensure the security of Israel and its people and to reduce hardship among Palestinians in his middle east policy. [175906]

Dr. Howells: We understand Israel's security dilemma and recognise Israel's right to self-defence. However, Israeli actions must be consistent with international law and not cause suffering to innocent civilians.

In 2007, the UK gave £31 million in aid to the Palestinians and recently committed up to US$500 million over three years. Palestinian hardship and Israeli security can best be tackled through a political process that creates an economically and socially viable Palestinian state at peace with Israel.

Admiralty House: Official Residences

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) for how long the right hon. Member for Ashfield had an official residence in Admiralty House while Minister for Europe; [176353]

(2) what the total value of payments made by his Department to the Cabinet Office were in respect of the residence of the right hon. Member for Ashfield in Admiralty House. [176354]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the then Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Hilary Armstrong) to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 6 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 860W. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office did not make any payments to the Cabinet Office in respect of the residence of my right hon. Friend the Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon) in Admiralty House.

Alberta Tar Sands

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Canadian counterpart on the environmental consequences of developing the Alberta tar sands; and if he will make a statement. [175660]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had a discussion specifically on the environmental consequences of developing the Alberta oil sands with his Canadian counterpart. But my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has spoken to his Canadian counterpart on a number of occasions to discuss wider environmental issues and the consequences of Climate Change. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary last spoke to Foreign Minister Bernier of Canada at the UN General Assembly on 28 September 2007. He last spoke with Canadian Minister of the Environment, Mr. John Baird, on 16 November 2007. On both occasions the need to address environmental issues in Canada was discussed.

Antarctic

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has raised concerns with the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat on pollution from the sinking of a passenger cruise vessel in Antarctic waters. [176880]

Meg Munn: The UK has not raised any concerns with the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat on this issue as the Secretariat has no executive powers to take action. This is a matter for Treaty Parties. We have consulted experts from the British Antarctic Survey, whose initial view is that the environmental impacts from the vessel are likely to be minimal. The M/S Explorer used marine gas oil, which is a light non-persistent fuel. The ship sank in open water, some 50 nautical miles from the nearest point of land and any penguin or seabird colonies. There have been reports of fuel leakage, but this has been dissipating quickly and evaporating in the open water. HMS "Endurance" is due to arrive in Antarctica shortly and she will use swath bathymetry to accurately locate the position of the vessel on the seabed and report on any visible signs of pollution.

Tourism and cruise ship safety in Antarctica will be major discussion topics at the next Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in Kiev in June 2008. The UK will continue to engage fully with other Treaty Parties in these discussions and will pursue its proposals for measures to strengthen the contingency plans of cruise ships in the Antarctic.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to make a territorial claim on Antarctica; and what advice he has received on potential conflicts with the Antarctic Treaty Act. [176881]

Meg Munn: The UK has no plans to make any new territorial claim on Antarctica; nor would it do so as that would be contrary to the Antarctic treaty.

The UK has not made any announcements, or final decisions, about any approach to the UN Commission regarding delineation of the outer limits of the continental shelf pertaining to the British Antarctic Territory. The UK will make its intentions known to the Commission prior to the deadline in 2009.

In making any decision to submit information to the UN Commission for the limits of continental shelf, we will of course respect our obligations under the Antarctic treaty and related agreements. We remain fully committed to the treaty, including its protocol on Environmental Protection 1991, which prohibits indefinitely all activity related to mineral resources, other than scientific research, within the treaty area.

Armenia: Genocide

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* discussions he has had with and *(b)* representations he has received from the Armenian Government on formally acknowledging the loss of life in Armenia between 1915 and 1923 as genocide. [175953]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Armenian Government are aware of the Government's position on the events at the beginning of the last century in which so many ethnic Armenians' lives were lost. The Armenian Government have not made representations to the Government to change their position.

Bolivia

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether facilities were offered to Lord Ashcroft during his recent visit to Bolivia by the UK Embassy; and whether the Embassy incurred costs for entertaining him and his party. [176878]

Dr. Howells: Lord Ashcroft travelled to Bolivia as a member of the party of the visiting hon. Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr. Mitchell). Our embassy in La Paz met and greeted the party at Cochabamba airport and booked (but did not pay for) travel arrangements from Cochabamba to La Paz and back. The ambassador provided accommodation at the residence for one night and hosted a lunch and a dinner for the party as part of their programme. The embassy also covered the costs of interpretation for meetings.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office guidelines recommend that British embassies overseas, as far as local conditions and circumstances allow, should offer the above facilities to the Leader of the Opposition, Opposition front bench spokesmen and the leaders of other political parties as a matter of course.

Bosnia

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the steps Serbia is taking to hand over those charged with the 1995 Srebrenica massacre for trial in the Hague; and if he will make a statement. [175584]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The issue of Serbia's compliance with its International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) obligations arises regularly in ministerial and official-level contacts with EU partners. I discussed this with the then Chief Prosecutor of the ICTY when I met her on 15 October 2007. The EU General Affairs and External Relations Council conclusions of June 2007 recalled that the pace and conclusion of the negotiations on the stabilisation and association agreement would depend inter alia on Serbia's full co-operation with ICTY.

Brussels

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on *(a)* travel to and *(b)* accommodation and hotels in Brussels in each of the last 11 years. [175437]

Meg Munn: This information is not held centrally and it would incur disproportionate cost for officials to collate this information.

Climate Change: EC Action

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the Treaty of Lisbon, if ratified, on development of EU policy to tackle climate change. [175644]

Mr. Jim Murphy: At the Spring European Council in March 2007, EU leaders agreed that climate change and energy policies must be integrated to enable the EU to become the first high growth, low carbon global economy. This transition is essential to ensure economic, energy and climate security. The Treaty of Lisbon recognises climate change as an important strategic challenge and as a specific objective of EU policy. It provides a new legal base for the EU to act on energy security, liberalising energy markets and promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy, with the specific aim of preserving and improving the environment.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed Conflict

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of fighting in eastern areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the people in the region; and what support his Department is providing to peace initiatives in those areas. [175513]

Meg Munn: The Government are gravely concerned at the situation in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), which has severe humanitarian consequences, hinders development and has the potential to undermine

peace and stability in the region. It has led to around 375,000 people being displaced since December 2006 and a widespread problem of brutal sexual violence and other atrocities.

The UK is committed to finding a lasting solution to the violence. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, and other Ministers have spoken with leaders from the region urging them to look for a political solution to the problems affecting the east of the DRC. We are closely engaged with our international partners in efforts to bring the violence to an end.

Departmental Christmas Cards

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* postage of Christmas cards in 2007. [176916]

Meg Munn: Statistics on the expenditure on Christmas cards and the cost of postage of Christmas cards are not collected and could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on his Department's policy on the processing of personal data outside *(a)* the United Kingdom and *(b)* the European economic area. [176036]

Meg Munn: By the nature of its function, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) must process personal data both within and outside the United Kingdom and the European economic area. Whether this is carried out by FCO officials or by commercial partners, FCO guidance is written to ensure that all personal data are handled in a way that complies with our obligations under UK law.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department or agencies accountable to his Department process personal data outside *(a)* the United Kingdom and *(b)* the European economic area. [176037]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office operates in countries around the world and consequently processes personal data outside both the United Kingdom and the European economic area. The main categories are: visa applications from foreign nationals; details of UK citizens requiring passport or other consular services; and Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff records.

Departmental Languages

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many members of staff in his Department *(a)* speak Pashtun and *(b)* are training to speak Pashtun. [176085]

Meg Munn: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff records list 27 current staff who hold, or have held, a language qualification in Dari, Pashto or Farsi (the languages commonly spoken in Afghanistan and Iran).

11 FCO officials are currently studying either Pashto or Dari. The FCO is also seeking to recruit Pashto speakers as part of a current campaign seeking external candidates with skills relevant to the FCO.

Departmental Minimum Wage

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many London-based staff are employed by his Department on the national minimum wage. [175981]

Meg Munn: None.

EC Working Groups

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on the European Commission's working programme for 2008. [176847]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has regular contact with the President of the European Commission and the College of Commissioners. During these contacts, they discuss a range of issues.

EU Development Policy

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the Treaty of Lisbon, if ratified, on EU development policy. [175665]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government believe that, if ratified, the Lisbon Treaty would enhance delivery of EU development policy. It should give EU aid greater coherence and effectiveness.

For the first time the treaty provides for a clear definition of the legal framework for development co-operation, humanitarian assistance and co-operation with third countries. It places the eradication of poverty as the overarching primary objective of development co-operation, which is consistent with the UK's own International Development Act. The treaty will also enhance the consistency of the EU's external relations and the coherence of all EU policies with development objectives.

The treaty also promotes efficient and timely decision-making by extending qualified-majority voting to humanitarian aid. The new position of High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy will also support better coherence and delivery of European external action, including development assistance.

Gaza: Trade

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the change in the volume of goods moved in and out of the Gaza Strip in the last 12 months. [176155]

Dr. Howells: The Government do not carry out their own assessments, but rely on information from other bodies including the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). In November 2007, UNOCHA reported that there had been a 44 per cent. drop in the average number of food and animal feed trucks entering monthly into Gaza between the period January to May 2007 and the period June to October 2007.

The Government are extremely concerned by these reductions in imports and exports which are the result of the closure of Gaza's crossings. We call on all sides to assume their responsibilities in ensuring they reopen as soon as possible, and stand ready to provide appropriate assistance. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development raised the closure of Gaza crossings and its humanitarian impact with the Israeli and Palestinian authorities during his visit in December 2007.

Further information can be found at:

http://www.ochaopt.org.documents/GazaStripHumaniotarianFactSheet_2006_11_28.pdf

Iran: Nuclear Power

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department will produce an updated version of the January 2005 document, Iran's Nuclear Programme: A Collection of Documents, column 6443; and if he will make a statement. [174177]

David Miliband: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office will be looking to publish an updated version of the document in the first half of 2008.

Lebanon: Politics and Government

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Lebanon; and if he will make a statement. [175903]

Dr. Howells: The security situation in Lebanon remains unpredictable, with tensions running high over the election of a new President. Last month a bomb attack in Beirut killed General Francoise al Hajj and several others. We strongly condemn such attacks, which can only exacerbate tensions at an already difficult time. We urge all Lebanese parties to redouble their efforts to resolve the current crisis by peaceful and democratic means.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many letters his Department received from hon. Members and Peers in each session of Parliament since 1997. [174947]

Meg Munn: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to hon. Members'/Peers' correspondence. Information relating to 2007 will be published as soon as it has been collated. The report for 2006 was published on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 101-04WS. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely long-term contribution to the Middle East peace process of the Annapolis conference; and what progress has been made in the peace process since the conference took place. [175663]

Dr. Howells: The parties to the Israeli-Palestinian dispute confirmed in Annapolis their agreement to engage in vigorous and continuous negotiations and to make every effort to conclude an agreement before the end of 2008.

We believe that Annapolis offers a genuine opportunity to make progress in the Middle East peace process.

However, there are always difficulties to overcome. But the Paris conference, on 17 December 2007 helped to raise international pledges of more than US$7 billion for the occupied Palestinian territories. As such, it represents a significant contribution to the peace process. It confirmed the unequivocal political support and commitment of international partners, including Arab countries, to support the economic development of the future Palestinian state.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 161-2W, on Middle East: peace negotiations, how much has been spent on the *(a)* salaries, *(b)* travel costs and *(c)* other costs of the four members of staff who have been seconded to Mr Blair's team. [176080]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has seconded: one Executive Officer equivalent; one Higher Executive Officer equivalent; and one Senior Civil Servant equivalent, to work in the right hon. Tony Blair's office. The FCO is funding their salaries. The Department for International Development has seconded one Principal Officer—grade six and is funding this salary, allowances and accommodation costs. It would not be appropriate to give salary details as to do so could reveal individuals' salaries.

Neither the FCO nor the Department for International Development is responsible for ongoing travel or incidental costs.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 162W, on Middle East: peace negotiations, if he will request the European Union to seek the publishing by the Quartet of details of Mr Blair's team, costs and funding. [176081]

Dr. Howells: The Government understand that the European Commission has provided €5 million to the UN Development Programme Trust Fund that inter alia supports the Quartet Representative's mission. It will be a matter for the Quartet to determine whether to publish details of Mr. Blair's team, costs and funding.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 161-2W, on Middle East: peace negotiations, how much is available in the UN Development Programme Trust Fund; and what further sums the UK will be providing to the fund in the next 12 months. [176156]

Dr. Howells: The Government understand that the European Commission has provided €5 million to the UN Development Programme Trust Fund that inter alia supports the Quartet Representative's mission. The UK provided £400,000 to the UN Development Programme Trust Fund on 3 December 2007. The Government have no plans to provide further support at present but will keep under close review how they can best support Mr. Blair's work.

National Identity Register

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans his Department has to make use of data on the National Identity Register when it is established; and what the estimated cost to his Department of that use is. [174037]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office will be working with the Home Office, prior to the introduction of the National Identity Scheme, to establish how identity information held on the proposed National Identity Register might be used to provide easier access to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's services for our customers. It is too early in the process to establish the detailed costs and benefits.

Nigeria: Oil

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the refusal by the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta to take part in peace initiatives in the Delta area of Nigeria on the safety of international oil workers. [175585]

Meg Munn: We call on all parties in the Delta to engage in dialogue towards a peaceful solution to the problems of the Delta. Nigerian President Yar'Adua has made resolution of the Delta crisis one of the main priorities for his term in office. Vice President Goodluck Jonathan has been specifically tasked with taking forward dialogue with a range of groups in the Delta and President Yar'Adua has also been personally engaged. In view of this, a Delta summit is intended to be held in early 2008, bringing together federal and state governments, militant groups and representatives from the local community. The UK has offered to support these efforts where we can add value.

Recently, the Government of Nigeria has demonstrated greater readiness to use the Joint Task Force (JTF), a combined military and civilian police force, to provide greater security in the Delta. The JTF was successful in stopping a particularly intense outbreak of gang violence in Port Harcourt in August 2007. We believe that both the increased dialogue and the use of the JTF have contributed to the fact that there has been a very significant reduction in the number of expatriate kidnappings since early October.

However, the risk of violence remains high and Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) travel advice continues to advise against all travel to the Delta States of Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers, including Port Harcourt. It advises British nationals in these States to leave due to the very high risk of kidnapping and other armed attacks. The FCO also advises against all travel to riverine areas of Cross River State and against all but essential travel to Akwa Ibom State for the same reasons.

The FCO remains in close contact about security with international oil companies both through UK Trade and Investment and consular officials in Lagos, and through representatives in London and Abuja.

Palestinians: Politics and Government

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in the Palestinian territories. [176092]

Dr. Howells: We are working closely with our international partners to support the US-led process that was initiated at Annapolis. As both sides have made clear, it is for them to work out a solution. But the international community has offered its support and encouragement and the UK stands ready to help them move forward.

The UK, along with the rest of the international community, has always made clear its desire to work with those who are committed to peaceful progress in the region. President Abbas is the elected President for all Palestinians. Our priority is to support President Abbas and the legitimate Palestinian government led by Prime Minister Salam Fayyad as they try to restore law and order in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and promote development. We have made clear that we will respond to significant movement from Hamas.

Regulation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for which regulators and inspectorates his Department has had responsibility in each year since 1997; what the budget was of each such body in each year; and what the cost to the public purse was of any restructuring of each such body in each year. [175302]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is not responsible for any Government regulator or inspectorate. The FCO conducts self-inspection through Resource Management Units attached to each geographical or functional Directorate.

Timor-Leste: Homicide

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will meet relatives of British citizens Brian Peters and Malcolm Rennie to discuss the finding of the Coroner of New South Wales in November 2007 on the deaths of Brian Peters, Malcolm Rennie and four others in Timor-Leste in October 1975; and if he will make a statement. [176810]

Meg Munn: I currently have no plans to meet with relatives of Brian Peters and Malcolm Rennie. Following the conclusion of the New South Wales coroner's inquest, Foreign and Commonwealth Office consular officials have been in contact with the families

of both men to update them on developments in December 2007, and will continue to liaise with them on any future developments.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with the families of Brian Peters and Malcolm Rennie and their representatives the information issued by his Department on the deaths of Mr. Peters and Mr. Rennie in Timor-Leste in 1975 since that date; and if he will make a statement. [176811]

Meg Munn: In 2002, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) documents relating to the incident were released exceptionally early to permit the relatives of Malcolm Rennie and Brian Peters to see at first hand what the FCO knew about the deaths. The FCO holds no further pertinent information. My hon. Friend the then Minister of State for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs (Mr. Mike O'Brien) met the relatives of Mr. Rennie and Mr. Peters in September 2003 and March 2004. In December 2007, FCO consular officials wrote to the families of both men to update them on developments following the conclusion of the New South Wales coroner's inquest.

Wilton Park

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many conferences, events or away days have been held at Wilton Park on behalf of the *(a)* Deputy Prime Minister's Office, *(b)* former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, *(c)* former Valuation Office Agency and *(d)* Department for Communities and Local Government since May 2001. [176352]

Meg Munn: Since May 2001 there have been no conferences, events or away days held at Wilton Park on behalf of the Deputy Prime Minister's Office, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Valuation Office Agency or Department for Communities and Local Government.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it mandatory for holders of licences to use animals in scientific procedures to provide abstracts for publication on her Department's website. [176884]

Meg Hillier: The current form of application for a project licence under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 requests that applicants provide in their own words short abstracts of their research proposals to be displayed on the Home Office website. We publish the abstracts to contribute to greater openness, public understanding and debate about the use of animals in science and we actively encourage applicants to provide them. However, abstracts are provided on a voluntary basis and the applicants own the copyright. Compliance with this initiative has generally been good and abstracts have been displayed for 83 per cent. of the project licences granted since the beginning of 2006 to December 2007 and there are currently just over 1,110 published abstracts in total. I consider the current voluntary system to be both proportionate and to have achieved its objective and I have no plans to make the provision of abstracts mandatory.

Burglary: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Metropolitan Police Service is taking to reduce the number of *(a)* residential and *(b)* non-residential burglaries in Romford. [176791]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

Community Policing

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many special constables applied *(a)* successfully and *(b)* unsuccessfully to become full-time police officers in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [176072]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not held centrally.

Community Policing: Humberside

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers there were in each division of Humberside police in each of the last three years. [176863]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Police community support officer strength (FTE)[1] in Humberside police force area by Basic Command Unit

Basic Command Unit	*30 June 2005[2]*	*30 June 2006[2]*	*31 March 2007[2]*
A Division (North East Lincs)	5	16	29
B Division (North Lincs)	5	15	31
C Division (East Riding of Yorks)	6	20	58
D Division (Kingston-upon-Hull)	6	34	76

[1] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number, due to rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of constituent items. Figures include those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

[2] 2006-07 is the first year that that police community support officer strength by Basic Command Unit has been collected centrally. Figures relating to 30 June are from an ad hoc collection taken by the Home Office Police Productivity Unit. These figures may not be directly comparable to the others in the table.

Emergency Calls: Hearing Impaired

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will introduce a nationwide scheme to enable deaf people to send text messages to the emergency telephone number 999. [174335]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 18 December 2007]*: The telecommunications service providers, in discussion with the emergency services, have identified technical solutions for providing an emergency SMS for the deaf, and those with hearing or speech impairment. The mobile service providers are currently scoping a trial which will assess the technical feasibility of providing a service to mobile handsets which have been registered for the service.

The service will provide an alternative option for those who routinely use SMS and either do not use a text relay service or may be in circumstances where it is not available. It is anticipated that the trial will be conducted in the second half of 2008.

Entry Clearances: Employment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research she has *(a)* commissioned and (b) evaluated into the type of work undertaken in the UK by non-EU citizens who have obtained leave to enter as highly skilled or skilled workers; and what estimate she has made of the number and proportion of skilled workers who are working in the skill sectors relating to the skills on the basis of which they were given leave to enter. [162352]

Mr. Byrne: Highly skilled non-EU workers can apply to enter the UK under the highly skilled migrant programme (HSMP). HSMP migrants have free access to the labour market and are not given leave to enter to work in a specific skill sector. However, as part of our review of the HSMP changes we introduced last December, we have been collecting data on occupations self-reported by successful applicants extending their stay as HSMP migrants. Review data will be included in the impact assessment for tier 1 of the new points-based system which will be published before the tier is implemented this year.

Work permit system (for skilled workers)

Skilled non-EU workers with a job offer can apply to enter the UK under the work permit system. Under the terms of their leave, work permit migrants must remain with the employer who applied for their work permit. Should the migrant wish to switch employer, they will need to apply for a variation of leave and the new employer will need to obtain a work permit for them. This means that all work permit migrants should be working in the sectors relating to the skills on the basis of which they were given leave to enter.

We have previously released, in answer to a freedom of information request, data relating to approved work permit applications broken down by the 20 most frequent occupations.

The following table shows the number of approved work permit applications, broken down by the 20 most frequent occupations, from January 2004 to December 2005.

Occupation	*2004*	*2005*	*Total*
Nurse	29,185	22,406	51,591
Other manager-related occupation	14,697	14,795	29,492
Musician	12,769	12,783	25,552
Other health/medical occupation	13,585	9,758	23,343
Other IT related occupation	9,512	10,615	20,127
Software engineer	6,764	6,771	13,535
Chef	6,365	4,977	11,342
Other financial occupation	5,007	5,226	10,233
Teacher (school/college)	5,101	4,334	9,435
Other engineer occupation	4,223	5,037	9,260
Researcher	4,205	4,299	8,504
Doctor	4,392	3,842	8,234
Singer	3,083	2,769	5,852
Kitchen assistant (SBS)	4,290	508	4,798
Analyst programmer	2,486	2,122	4,608
System analyst	2,284	2,238	4,522
Technician (music)	2,062	2,138	4,200
Other hotel cat occupation	1,858	1,576	3,434
Dancer (other)	1,672	1,680	3,352
Manager (ent-related)	1,534	1,596	3,130
Total top 20	135,074	119,470	254,544
Others	45,666	41,186	86,852
Total	180,740	160,656	341,396

Note:
The number of approved work permit applications does not equal numbers of people entering the UK to work but includes, for example, extension applications and work permits issued for a change of employment.

Genetics: Databases

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people had their DNA records removed from the police DNA database in each year since 2000. [167011]

Meg Hillier: The numbers of subject sample records removed from the National DNA Database (NDNAD) in each of the financial years from 2002-03[1] to date is given as follows. The figures provided are for subject sample records taken by police forces in England and Wales which were subsequently removed from the NDNAD. They do not include subject sample records taken by police forces in Scotland, the police service for Northern Ireland, Guernsey, Jersey etc. which were subsequently removed from the NDNAD.

[1] No accurate data are available for the years 2000-01 and 2001-02; some estimated information only is available for calendar years prior to 2002. In 2002, an NDNAD Management Information Database was created which captures details of all record 'transactions' including the removal of records and enabled the collection of this information.

	Number of subject sample records removed
2002-03	1,525
2003-04	321
2004-05	42

	Number of subject sample records removed
2005-06	136
2006-07	276
2007-08 (to date)	219

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a Criminal Records Bureau check would return information on whether an individual's DNA was stored on the DNA database. [172033]

Meg Hillier: The Criminal Records Bureau has no responsibility for the DNA database. Therefore, it does not return information on whether an individual's DNA is stored on the DNA database.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of people whose DNA records are held on the National Police Database have *(a)* a criminal record, *(b)* been the subject of wrongful arrest and *(c)* been given a custodial sentence. [176111]

Meg Hillier: In relation to the proportion of people whose DNA records are held on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) who have a criminal record, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green (Lynne Featherstone) on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 761W. This gives figures for the number of persons with a profile on the NDNAD sampled by police forces in England and Wales who have a conviction, caution, formal warning or reprimand recorded on the PNC—i.e. who have a criminal record. No data are held centrally on the number of persons with a DNA profile on the NDNAD who have been the subject of a wrongful arrest. No recent data are available on the proportion of people whose DNA records are held on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) who have a conviction and who have been given a custodial sentence. These data could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Homicide

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were murdered in England in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [176850]

Mr. McNulty: The following table of data relates to the number of homicides recorded by the police in England between 2001-02 and 2005-06. The figure for 2002-03 includes 172 victims of Harold Shipman.

There was a reduction of 11 per cent. in the number of homicides between 2001-02 and 2005-06. The new Make Communities Safer public service agreement (PSA), effective from April 2008, includes a target to reduce the most serious violence. Many of the actions required to achieve this objective will have an impact on a range of violent and sexual offences, but there will be a particular focus on homicide.

The Government are developing a wide-ranging programme of work to deliver the new PSA target, and will set out a new framework for tackling violence, based on the identification and management of risk and supporting victims to reduce harm, soon.

Currently recorded homicides[1] by police in England[2]: 2001-02 to 2005-06[3]

Year[4]	Number of offences
2001-02	770
2002-03	917
2003-04	764
2004-05	753
2005-06	683

[1] Homicide offences are shown according to the year in which police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.
[2] As at 9 October 2006; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
[3] Does not include homicides recorded by British Transport Police.
[4] Data for 2006-07 and revised data for the period 1996 to 2005-06 are scheduled to be released in late January 2008.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the planned length of Operation Pentameter II was when it was launched; how long she expects it to continue; what progress has been made by the programme; and if she will make a statement. [175615]

Mr. Coaker: When Operation Pentameter 2 was launched on 3 October 2007 it was expected to draw to a conclusion in spring/summer 2008. This remains the position. The Operation has a number of phases. Intelligence gathering, forward planning and co-ordination of agencies began in July 2007. This in turn led to operational activity being undertaken, following which there will be a period of investigative and operational maintenance, which will include the processing of offenders and the continued support of victims. The precise length of the operational phase is not in the public domain for reasons of operational security.

The conduct of the operation will be evaluated on its completion and operational results will be published at that stage.

Illegal Workers

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people given Security Industry Authority (SIA) licences who were not legally entitled to work in the UK have worked for *(a)* the SIA, *(b)* the Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) and *(c)* companies contracted to work for the SIA or BIA. [175491]

Mr. Coaker: Since the commencement of statutory licensing for security operatives by the Security Industry Authority (SIA) there have been no cases of security staff licensed by the SIA found to be working without the right to work for the SIA, or the Border and Immigration Agency (BIA), or companies contracted to work for the SIA or BIA.

As my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary told Parliament on 13 December, the BIA is prioritising enforcement action in the security industry. As part of

this work, the BIA is working with their security sub-contractors to recheck the right to work of all their staff supplied to the BIA.

Members' Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many letters her Department received from hon. Members and Peers in each session of Parliament since 1997. [174933]

Mr. McNulty: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/Peers correspondence. Information relating to 2007 will be published as soon as it has been collated. The report for 2006 was published on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 101-04WS. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

Personation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the level of fraud arising from information on identity stolen from household waste bins. [176705]

Meg Hillier: The Government do not have this information recorded centrally.

We know from the police and other public and private sector partners on the Identity Fraud Steering Committee (IFSC) that personal details for use in identity fraud are obtained in a variety of ways. The IFSC has produced the website www.identitytheft.org.uk to advise the public on how to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of identity fraud, warning signs to look out for, and what someone should do if they do fall victim.

On 9 October 2007 the Attorney-General announced that funding had been approved for the proposals arising from the Government's fraud review. This includes the development of a National Fraud Strategic Authority, together with a National Fraud Reporting Centre, the establishment of the City of London police as the lead force on fraud, and proposals for measurement of fraud. These measures will help to tackle fraud in general and increase our understanding of the nature and extent of the problem.

Police Custody

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the maximum distance persons in police custody should be transported between the place of arrest and a custody suite. [176059]

Mr. McNulty: The location of police custody facilities is an operational matter for the chief officer of police in each force area.

Police Custody: ICT

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on the development and provision of electronic custody systems for the police; when such systems are planned to be available; what the expected cost of such systems is expected to be; what the cost of their development to date has been; and what the original planned date for such systems to be available was. [176075]

Mr. McNulty: All police forces now have an approved electronic custody system. 40 police forces are 'live' at all sites. The remaining three police forces are 'live' in at least one site, but still in the process of implementation in their remaining sites. Implementation will be complete in all forces at all sites by mid-2008. The total cost of implementing the electronic custody systems is not available, as these systems have usually been implemented as part of a suite of other systems (including records management, case preparation and crime and intelligence). It was originally planned that all forces would be 'live' by 31 March 2006.

Although this target was not achieved, all these electronic custody systems are now providing a significant contribution to the reduction in bureaucracy in the police service and wider criminal justice system.

Police: Age

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in *(a)* England and *(b)* London were aged (a) 18 to 25, (b) 26 to 30, (c) 31 to 35, (d) 36 to 40, (e) 41 to 45, (f) 46 to 50, (g) 51 to 55, (h) 56 to 60, (i) 61 to 65 and (j) over 65 years in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by (i) sex and (ii) ethnicity. [175563]

Mr. McNulty: Figures collected by the Home Office on age of officer are broken down by four age groupings and appear in the following table for 31 March 2007. The collection does not extend to gender and ethnicity breakdowns.

Numbers of police officers[1] in post on 31 March 2007 by age group, London and England

	Age on 31 March 2007			
	25 and under	*26 to 40*	*41 to 55*	*Over 55*
London[2]	2,549	17,305	12,328	215
England	11,060	72,157	52,367	617

[1] Figures for police officers are on a head count basis, which means both full-time and part-time officers are counted individually as one officer. This differs from the main officer count which is on a full-time equivalent basis. The figures include officers on career breaks and maternity/paternity leave.
[2] Includes officers in both the Metropolitan police and City of London police

Police: Bureaucracy

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the time it takes for a police officer to complete the stop and account form after detaining an individual. [176303]

Mr. McNulty: The Interim Report of the "The Review of Policing" published by Sir Ronnie Flanagan in September 2007 provides an example showing that the average time taken for completing and processing a stop and account form is 25 minutes. The pilot study carried out by British Transport police on the use of electronic hand held devices to record encounters showed that the average taken to complete and process a stop and account form was six minutes.

Police: Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the Gershon efficiency savings to be achieved by the police were; and if she will make a statement on progress towards achieving efficiency savings by the police. [176302]

Mr. McNulty: The efficiency target set for the police service in the spending review 2004, taking into account the Gershon review, was for the 43 police authorities and forces in England and Wales to deliver aggregate value for money gains of 3 per cent. of net revenue expenditure per annum. Half of the total gains were required to be cashable, and forces and authorities were expected to achieve cumulative total gains of £1,060 million (£518 million cashable) over the four years 2004-05 to 2007-08.

As of April 2007 these targets have been achieved by the police service and are set out in the Home Office targets autumn performance report 2007 which is available in the Library of the House.

Police: Expenditure

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by the police in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* each police force area in each of the last five years on *(i)* stationery and *(ii)* IT equipment. [176311]

Mr. McNulty: The information for all police forces in England and Wales is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Decisions on the distribution of resources are matters for the Chief Officer and the Police Authority.

Police: Plastics

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many own-branded plastic bags *(a)* the Assets Recovery Agency and *(b)* the Serious Organised Crime Agency has procured in the last 24 months for which figures are available; and at what cost. [176704]

Mr. Coaker: None.

Police: Powers

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to her Department's Modernising Police Powers, Review of the Police and Criminal Evidence 1984, Consultation Paper of March 2007; if she will list, in relation to street bail, the pilots of electronic stop and search records referred to in Chapter 3; and what the location was of each. [174224]

Mr. McNulty: The Explanatory Memorandum to the SI 2006/2165 sets out the provision for the use of electronic receipts for stop and search records to officers from the British Transport Police operating from offices in West Ham, Wembley and Hammersmith. The use of street bail is an operational matter for the chief officer of each force area and not subject to pilot studies.

Police: Rural Areas

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on policing in rural areas. [176058]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 196-97W.

Proceeds of Crime

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been recovered under the Confiscation of Criminal Assets Act 2003 *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each police authority area, listed in descending order by amount recovered in each year since its introduction; and how much is in the process of being recovered. [176105]

Mr. Coaker: The total net amount of criminal assets recovered from 2003-04 to 2006-07 under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 and earlier legislation is £360.5 million.

The total value of confiscation orders and cash forfeiture orders obtained by each police authority in each of those years is set out in the tables placed in the House Library.

Enforcement of confiscation orders is not the responsibility of the police but is primarily a matter for Her Majesty's Court Service.

The total amount of confiscation orders and cash forfeiture orders obtained by all agencies in April-November 2007 is £172.26 million. These orders are in the process of being enforced, along with orders made in previous years.

Right to Gain Entry

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the terms of reference are of the review into the right to gain entry; and whether the review will consider the right to gain entry by public authorities other than the police. [176499]

Mr. McNulty: The review will examine all powers of entry with a view to: producing a comprehensive list of powers of entry, inspection, search and seizure; considering a statutory framework for all such powers and scrutiny criteria for all proposed new powers; and development of information material for the public to raise awareness for businesses and individuals of their rights and remedies.

Terrorism

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment the Government has made of the effect of *(a)* recent and *(b)* proposed anti-terrorism legislation on civil liberties and human rights. [174230]

Mr. McNulty: We believe that our recent and proposed counter-terrorism legislation is compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights. It will continue to be the case that all of our counter-terrorism

measures have to be set in the context of our general commitment to human rights and the protection of individual freedoms. We strive to achieve the appropriate balance between the measures necessary to deal with the very real threat to national security posed by terrorism and the need to avoid diminishing the civil and human rights of the population.

Terrorism: Control Orders

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who have been acquitted of terrorism charges are subject to control orders restricting their movements. [174158]

Mr. McNulty: We are not prepared to say how many people who have been acquitted of terrorism charges are subject to control orders restricting their movements. This is because of the need to protect controlled persons' identities (most controlled persons are subject to an anonymity order imposed by the court which prohibits us from publishing information that would allow the public to identify him as being subject to a control order) and the national security sensitivity of individual cases.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government has taken to raise public awareness of the harmful effects of binge drinking. [174572]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* The Government launched the "Know Your Limits" campaign in 2006, which targets binge drinkers. This campaign will be renewed in 2008 and will continue to challenge behaviour associated with drunkenness. The campaign has been supported by comprehensive public relations and stakeholder programmes, with sources of help and information provided via a new dedicated campaign website, as well as the Drinkline phoneline and a suite of new campaign literature.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished consultant episodes relating to alcohol there were in each strategic health authority area in England for *(a)* patients aged under 18 years and *(b)* patients aged 18 years and over in each year from 1997-98 to 2006-07; and how many admissions to hospitals via accident and emergency departments in each strategic health authority area had an alcohol-related diagnosis for (i) those aged 18 years and over and (ii) those aged under 18 years in each of those years. [175037]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government have taken to educate young people about the long-term effects of alcohol abuse since 1997. [169328]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Government are committed to reducing substance misuse among young people, including that relating to alcohol. Educating young people about the long and short-term effects of alcohol misuse is a vital part of this.

Since 1997, efforts have been made to continually strengthen our approach to alcohol education in schools. The Department has issued several guidance documents to schools on drug (including alcohol) education. This includes 'Circular 4/95: Drug Prevention and Schools' and, in 1998, 'Protecting Young People: Good practice in Drug Education in Schools and the Youth Service'. In 2002, curriculum guidance on drug, alcohol and tobacco education was produced and issued to schools by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. Most recently, in 2004, the Department refreshed all existing guidance for schools by issuing a single document, 'Drugs: Guidance for Schools'. This made clear our intention for pupils to be educated about alcohol and its effects in primary school before drinking patterns become established and for this to be revisited in secondary school. It is important that our approach to alcohol education in schools is robust and, for this reason, next year, my Department will undertake a review into the effectiveness of alcohol education and we will strengthen our approach if necessary.

It is clear, however, that young people need more than drug education in school to inform them about the health harms associated with alcohol misuse. As part of the updated Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy: Safe. Sensible. Social. (2007), the Department for Children, Schools and Families has convened a panel of paediatricians, psychologists and epidemiologists who will produce authoritative, accessible guidance about what is and is not safe and sensible in the light of the latest available evidence from the UK and abroad. This guidance will be issued to young people and their parents to help them make informed decisions about alcohol. Next year, we will also deliver a social marketing campaign in order to foster a culture where it is socially acceptable for young people to choose not to drink and, if they do, to do so later and more safely.

Baby Care Units

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished consultant episodes were provided in specialist neo-natal units in England in each month since January 1997. [175248]

Ann Keen: The hospital episode statistics do not allow us to identify whether care has been provided in a particular type of unit or ward.

Breast Cancer: Screening

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts use digital mammography for breast cancer screening; and if he will make a statement. [175575]

Ann Keen: We do not have this information in the format requested, however we do have it by breast screening programme centre. Exeter, Norwich, Manchester, Coventry, St Bartholomew's, St. Georges, Derby and Addenbrookes all use digital mammography for breast screening. Nationally this means that there are 31 digital mammography sets in the national health service breast screening programme, some are part of equipment evaluations.

The recently published Cancer Reform Strategy recommends that breast screening units should work with the NHS breast screening programme to develop business cases for digital mammography, that primary care trusts will need to give high priority to full implementation, with all units having at least one full-field digital mammography set by 2010. All women under 50 routinely screened should have Direct Digital available for assessment visits by 2010.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1196W, on breast cancer screening to Question 171702 of 17 December 2007, what assessment he has made of the reasons for Uttlesford's performance on breast cancer screening; and what steps he is taking to improve that performance. [176678]

Ann Keen: It is for strategic health authorities (SHAs) working in partnership with their primary care trusts (PCTs), local breast screening services and stakeholders to provide appropriate breast screening services for their local populations.

However, The East of England SHA has advised that a breast screening issue in West Essex, may have impacted on Uttlesford PCT (old PCT area) not reaching the 75 per cent. national aspirational standard for breast screening in that area.

The East of England SHA has advised that any backlog will be cleared by April 2008.

Cancer: Waiting Lists

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the cost to the NHS of collecting the data used to monitor progress against his Department's cancer waiting time targets in 2007-08. [175573]

Ann Keen: The Department is unable to give an estimate of the cost incurred by the national health service in monitoring the waiting times targets. The NHS is funded to provide cancer services, and monitor local delivery of those services within the targets in the NHS Cancer Plan (2000), but local NHS organisations are not required to report these costs centrally.

Cervical Cancer: Screening

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the time taken by each primary care trust to inform women of the results of their cervical smear tests; and if he will make a statement. [175572]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected, however we do know the time from the cervical sample being taken to the availability of the test result, shown in the following table.

Cervical screening programme: time from screening to availability of result by strategic health authority, SHA, and primary care trust, PCT, 2006-07

Number and percentage

			Total letters sent by PCT	*Up to 4 weeks*	*>4 weeks up to 6 weeks*	*>6 weeks up to 8 weeks*	*>8 weeks up to 10 weeks*	*>10 weeks up to 12 weeks*	*Over 12 weeks*	*Letters not sent by PCT*
		England	3,351,285	48.3	25.8	13.6	7.1	3.7	1.6	270,383
Q30	*North East SHA*		165,701	43.0	19.3	18.8	12.9	5.4	0.6	26,003
	5E1	North Tees PCT	13,085	14.5	52.4	31.3	1.5	0.2	0.1	380
	5D7	Newcastle PCT	19,664	60.5	20.3	17.7	1.1	0.3	0.1	316
	5D8	North Tyneside PCT	16,312	56.4	23.9	17.7	1.5	0.3	0.2	299
	5D9	Hartlepool PCT	5,823	16.5	50.9	31.2	1.3	0.1	0.1	167
	5J9	Darlington PCT	7,947	34.7	21.8	36.5	6.6	0.3	0.1	88
	5KF	Gateshead PCT	14,981	30.1	3.7	11.1	33.6	19.3	2.3	246
	5KG	South Tyneside PCT	10,513	41.6	1.8	3.7	30.1	20.6	2.3	74
	5KL	Sunderland Teaching PCT	17,426	75.0	3.1	9.2	6.2	6.1	0.5	151
	5KM	Middlesbrough PCT	8,974	46.1	20.5	11.6	19.7	1.8	0.3	299
	5ND	County Durham PCT	39,985	32.7	17.6	24.9	18.5	5.7	0.6	472
	5QR	Redcar and Cleveland PCT	8,778	48.8	19.4	11.1	18.7	1.8	0.2	279
	TAC	Northumberland Care Trust	2,217	50.7	28.4	18.3	1.8	0.5	0.1	23,232
Q31	*North West SHA*		484,632	55.4	26.2	9.6	5.1	2.9	0.9	6,779
	5CC	Blackburn with Darwen PCT	10,054	59.5	30.1	9.6	0.6	0.1	0.1	67
	5F5	Salford PCT	14,047	65.4	30.6	2.4	1.0	0.4	0.1	315

Cervical screening programme: time from screening to availability of result by strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT): 2006-07

Number and percentage

			Total letters sent by PCT	*Up to 4 weeks*	*>4 weeks up to 6 weeks*	*>6 weeks up to 8 weeks*	*>8 weeks up to 10 weeks*	*>10 weeks up to 12 weeks*	*Over 12 weeks*	*Letters not sent by PCT*
	5F7	Stockport PCT	22,009	89.6	8.5	1.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	368
	5H6	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	21,116	15.4	32.8	22.4	21.2	7.7	0.5	242
	5HP	Blackpool PCT	8,474	97.3	2.2	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1	104
	5HQ	Bolton PCT	19,171	47.4	29.1	18.5	4.5	0.3	0.2	195
	5J2	Warrington PCT	15,129	38.7	51.0	9.5	0.6	0.1	0.1	246
	5J4	Knowsley PCT	10,059	71.5	24.7	2.7	0.7	0.3	0.1	107
	5J5	Oldham PCT	15,923	16.6	26.5	14.0	15.3	22.8	4.8	222
	5JX	Bury PCT	15,085	16.4	15.3	28.2	23.3	15.3	1.5	218
	5JH	Tameside and Glossop PCT	17,394	15.0	12.3	7.2	34.8	17.5	13.1	200
	5NE	Cumbria PCT	35,551	60.9	30.9	7.8	0.3	0.1	0.0	374
	5NF	North Lancashire PCT	19,153	90.3	7.7	1.9	0.1	0.0	0.1	263
	5NG	Central Lancashire PCT	30,250	81.3	15.2	3.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	344
	5NH	East Lancashire PCT	26,903	81.4	12.9	3.7	0.9	0.6	0.4	234
	5NJ	Sefton PCT	17,527	59.9	36.4	3.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	222
	5NK	Wirral PCT	22,316	52.0	23.1	22.9	1.6	0.2	0.1	216
	5NL	Liverpool PCT	28,155	51.6	39.4	6.8	1.5	0.5	0.2	368
	5NM	Halton and St. Helens PCT	23,195	62.8	27.7	7.8	1.2	0.4	0.1	219
	5NN	Western Cheshire PCT	17,672	48.6	44.5	6.2	0.5	0.1	0.1	298
	5NP	Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	34,749	41.2	37.9	16.8	3.7	0.3	0.1	539
	5NQ	Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	15,816	16.1	15.5	29.5	23.1	14.6	1.3	187
	5NR	Trafford PCT	14,544	70.0	28.3	1.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	448
	5NT	Manchester PCT	30,340	66.5	29.2	2.3	0.8	0.7	0.5	783
Q32	*Yorkshire and the Humber SHA*		326,566	65.4	24.2	7.6	1.9	0.5	0.4	7,680
	5AN	North East Lincolnshire PCT	9,017	82.9	13.8	2.7	0.4	0.2	0.1	417
	5H1	North Lincolnshire PCT	8,598	82.6	13.5	3.2	0.5	0.1	0.1	577
	5H8	Rotherham PCT	15,010	93.5	4.6	1.4	0.4	0.1	0.1	204
	5J6	Calderdale PCT	11,991	52.4	28.3	15.4	3.8	0.1	0.1	224
	5JJ	Barnsley PCT	15,545	14.1	46.7	29.4	7.0	0.8	2.0	278
	5N1	Leeds PCT	40,597	46.7	43.1	7.5	1.9	0.5	0.3	1,288
	5N2	Kirklees PCT	23,168	57.3	28.8	11.0	2.6	0.2	0.1	424
	5N3	Wakefield District PCT	24,685	16.0	53.9	25.3	3.8	0.7	0.2	380
	5N4	Sheffield PCT	34,972	98.3	1.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	510
	5N5	Doncaster PCT	21,879	98.2	1.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	187
	5NV	North Yorkshire and York PCT	52,067	81.7	15.6	1.3	0.7	0.2	0.5	2,364
	5NW	East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	22,778	72.1	16.5	7.9	1.9	1.4	0.2	342
	5NX	Hull Teaching PCT	20,340	70.9	15.0	9.3	2.8	1.6	0.3	114
	5NY	Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	25,919	43.3	47.1	5.6	2.6	0.9	0.6	371
Q33	*East Midlands SHA*		268,583	39.9	21.4	9.7	11.2	12.6	5.2	49,261
	5EM	Nottingham City PCT	23,094	54.6	17.9	7.7	4.8	5.5	9.5	231
	5ET	Bassetlaw PCT	8,291	96.6	1.9	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.7	90
	5N6	Derbyshire County PCT	54,074	36.5	40.8	12.2	6.4	3.1	1.1	594
	5N7	Derby City PCT	20,788	51.4	42.4	5.2	0.3	0.2	0.4	205
	5N8	Nottinghamshire County PCT	53,352	50.9	25.9	9.6	5.0	3.3	5.4	533
	5N9	Lincolnshire PCT	5,902	71.4	17.9	6.4	2.8	0.8	0.8	34,811

Cervical screening programme: time from screening to availability of result by strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT): 2006-07

Number and percentage

			Total letters sent by PCT	*Up to 4 weeks*	*>4 weeks up to 6 weeks*	*>6 weeks up to 8 weeks*	*>8 weeks up to 10 weeks*	*>10 weeks up to 12 weeks*	*Over 12 weeks*	*Letters not sent by PCT*
	5PA	Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	44,860	10.6	4.2	11.7	29.4	33.6	10.6	506
	5PC	Leicester City PCT	20,619	9.4	2.0	11.5	31.6	33.9	11.6	166
	5PD	Northamptonshire PCT	37,603	48.2	13.9	9.0	7.8	18.2	2.9	12,125
Q34	*West Midlands SHA*		372,232	55.6	25.7	11.0	5.3	1.5	1.0	8,271
	5CN	Herefordshire PCT	11,013	74.0	17.7	2.5	0.5	0.2	0.0	201
	5M1	South Birmingham PCT	23,424	68.5	27.1	2.9	0.2	0.1	0.2	566
	5M2	Shropshire County PCT	20,474	51.9	42.7	4.7	0.5	0.1	0.2	282
	5M3	Walsall Teaching PCT	18,831	83.0	14.4	1.9	0.3	0.1	0.1	339
	5MD	Coventry Teaching PCT	20,893	58.9	16.5	13.1	26.7	7.3	7.7	351
	5MK	Telford and Wrekin PCT	11,493	49.2	41.0	8.1	1.3	0.2	0.2	115
	5MV	Wolverhampton City PCT	17,307	24.5	46.9	24.0	4.6	1.6	1.2	224
	5MX	Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	17,436	57.6	30.4	8.7	2.0	0.7	0.6	520
	5PH	Dudley PCT	23,937	21.5	31.6	29.0	15.1	2.4	0.5	843
	5PJ	Sandwell PCT	20,880	7.8	13.1	5.7	2.4	0.7	0.2	969
	5PG	Birmingham East and North PCT	25,977	5.1	20.2	3.3	0.8	0.2	0.4	740
	5PH	North Staffordshire PCT	15,126	85.8	10.8	2.1	0.6	0.2	0.4	135
	5PJ	Stoke on Trent PCT	19,346	88.4	9.3	1.5	0.4	0.2	0.2	116
	5PK	South Staffordshire PCT	42,767	66.3	24.1	6.9	1.2	0.5	1.1	521
	5PL	Worcestershire PCT	28,539	46.1	25.9	19.2	6.6	1.9	0.3	1,088
	5PM	Warwickshire PCT	40,519	39.8	26.1	15.2	13.3	4.2	1.5	1,991
	TAM	Solihull Care Trust	15,130	42.4	47.1	6.6	2.6	0.8	0.3	670
Q35	*England*		1,353,285	46.3	25.8	11.6	7.1	3.7	1.6	270,383
	East of England SHA		141,727	40.4	36.4	15.9	4.8	1.4	1.0	39,102
	5G6	Luton Teaching PCT	8,944	77.1	18.9	3.2	0.3	0.1	0.4	5,749
	5P1	South East Essex PCT	19,651	38.6	40.6	20.1	0.5	0.1	0.2	1,903
	5P2	Bedfordshire PCT	21,819	39.9	21.4	22.6	8.8	3.4	3.9	8,547
	5P3	East and North Hertfordshire PCT	29,183	23.8	39.2	31.1	3.2	1.7	1.1	6,149
	5P4	West Hertfordshire PCT	31,541	6.8	48.0	26.9	10.8	4.8	2.8	10,016
	5PN	Peterborough PCT	10,263	72.5	14.0	8.3	5.0	0.2	0.1	162
	5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	37,297	59.3	36.6	2.9	0.9	0.1	0.2	1,238
	5PQ	Norfolk PCT	42,727	21.2	56.2	20.3	2.1	0.2	0.1	2,054
	5PR	Great Yarmouth and Waveney Teaching PCT	13,913	25.5	47.1	23.7	3.3	0.3	0.1	251
	5PT	Suffolk PCT	42,895	52.5	44.1	2.8	0.4	0.1	0.1	807
	5PV	West Essex PCT	15,655	41.7	39.0	11.9	5.5	1.2	0.7	1,183
	5PW	North East Essex PCT	18,523	48.0	17.2	11.9	19.1	1.7	2.0	873
	5PX	Mid Essex PCT	25,193	26.0	27.6	27.2	12.5	5.4	1.3	679
	5PY	South West Essex PCT	24,123	79.8	10.7	6.7	1.0	0.3	1.4	1,491
Q36	*London SHA*		600,406	32.1	29.2	21.8	10.2	4.4	2.3	25,563
	5A4	Havering PCT	15,887	32.3	26.7	32.1	7.1	1.1	0.7	236
	5A5	Kingston PCT	12,769	54.1	29.8	9.8	6.0	0.1	0.2	597
	5A7	Bromley PCT	26,535	23.8	46.6	28.0	1.5	0.1	0.2	882
	5A8	Greenwich Teaching PCT	18,994	34.7	35.1	25.0	3.8	0.8	0.6	606
	5A9	Barnet PCT	24,545	9.0	15.7	33.4	17.1	19.4	5.3	826
	5AT	Hillingdon PCT	16,814	58.8	27.8	9.0	1.9	1.1	1.3	554
	5C1	Enfield PCT	19,321	9.9	13.8	35.0	21.1	16.5	3.8	617
	5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	10,109	31.2	22.0	34.5	10.6	1.1	0.7	248

Cervical screening programme: time from screening to availability of result by strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT) 2006-07

Number and percentage

			Total letters sent by PCT (=100%)[1]	*Up to 4 weeks (%)*	*>4 weeks up to 6 weeks (%)*	*>6 weeks up to 8 weeks (%)*	*>8 weeks up to 10 weeks (%)*	*>10 weeks up to 12 weeks (%)*	*Over 12 weeks (%)*	*Letters not sent by PCT*
	5C3	City and Hackney Teaching PCT	18,971	21.4	19.2	28.9	19.0	9.8	1.8	614
	5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	14,688	22.2	19.2	29.4	19.2	9.0	1.1	546
	5C5	Newham PCT	20,156	13.8	18.1	32.2	23.4	11.0	1.5	394
	5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT	20,185	8.1	14.3	41.4	27.9	5.4	3.0	828
	5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	13,436	5.3	18.2	21.1	20.0	15.7	19.9	1,533
	5HX	Ealing PCT	25,805	10.8	25.9	21.2	25.0	12.1	4.9	1,703
	5HY	Hounslow PCT	18,493	22.6	30.7	19.2	15.3	9.6	2.5	1,011
	5K5	Brent Teaching PCT	22,628	62.0	21.9	7.5	3.5	2.2	2.8	719
	5K6	Harrow PCT	14,951	69.6	23.0	4.4	1.3	0.9	0.9	381
	5K7	Camden PCT	16,357	25.6	33.4	30.5	6.7	1.6	2.2	1,157
	5K8	Islington PCT	18,621	17.0	35.1	41.4	5.0	0.8	0.7	917
	5K9	Croydon PCT	21,977	57.8	39.0	2.4	0.4	0.2	0.1	936
	5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	12,066	32.8	19.6	15.0	13.5	6.5	12.6	1,142
	5LC	Westminster PCT	15,199	47.6	20.1	11.8	9.0	4.4	7.1	1,749
	5LD	Lambeth PCT	29,826	28.3	42.1	19.3	8.5	1.0	0.8	1,186
	5LE	Southwark PCT	24,436	33.8	42.4	15.4	7.0	0.8	0.6	735
	5LF	Lewisham PCT	24,649	29.2	49.7	19.2	1.2	0.2	0.6	675
	5LG	Wandsworth PCT	25,770	55.7	36.5	5.0	1.9	0.4	0.5	1,758
	5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	14,763	53.5	26.5	10.1	6.6	2.1	1.1	959
	5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	29,292	35.1	37.3	20.5	6.1	0.6	0.4	1,163
	5NA	Redbridge PCT	15,902	26.1	17.9	41.4	11.6	1.7	1.3	264
	5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	17,195	18.6	20.0	34.5	2.4	2.3	1.2	267
	TAK	Bexley Care Trust	17,066	58.6	33.5	6.9	0.8	0.1	0.1	360
Q37	*South East Coast SHA*		289,784	55.6	19.9	10.9	6.7	4.1	2.9	12,560
	5L3	Medway PCT	17,834	54.0	26.2	14.9	4.4	0.2	0.3	873
	5LQ	Brighton and Hove City PCT	17,206	5.2	1.6	44.6	17.9	4.3	26.5	1,097
	5P5	Surrey PCT	78,343	71.5	14.0	2.0	5.4	6.2	0.8	3,458
	5P6	West Sussex PCT	48,591	25.5	29.6	14.6	16.1	10.9	3.3	1,718
	5P7	East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	21,215	67.5	10.7	12.3	4.0	1.0	4.5	637
	5P8	Hastings and Rother PCT	11,818	98.7	0.8	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	192
	5P9	West Kent PCT	47,328	33.2	42.0	18.0	4.6	1.3	0.9	2,083
	5QA	Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	47,449	85.3	10.8	2.7	0.9	0.2	0.1	2,502
Q38	*South Central SHA*		241,280	39.1	29.3	17.8	9.2	3.5	1.1	35,820
	5CQ	Milton Keynes PCT	14,171	6.7	10.7	30.9	21.2	23.4	7.2	3,533
	5FE	Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	9,497	18.9	39.8	21.9	9.5	7.8	2.0	1,718
	5L1	Southampton City PCT	12,377	5.3	12.1	40.8	40.7	1.1	0.1	2,878
	5QC	Hampshire PCT	69,022	19.5	32.9	30.7	14.3	2.3	0.3	14,500
	5QD	Buckinghamshire PCT	31,515	58.2	16.6	9.0	7.3	6.8	2.1	7,620
	5QE	Oxfordshire PCT	42,285	71.0	25.4	2.1	0.6	0.3	0.6	1,951
	5QF	Berkshire West PCT	29,486	24.4	57.4	14.9	1.5	1.1	0.7	1,464
	5QG	Berkshire East PCT	23,593	72.2	20.6	5.3	1.5	0.4	0.1	1,745
	5QT	Isle of Wight PCT	8,934	51.1	37.6	10.2	1.0	0.1	0.0	411
Q39	*South West SHA*		262,394	62.8	17.8	9.9	5.9	3.3	0.3	59,344
	5A3	South Gloucestershire PCT	14,463	73.9	24.2	1.1	0.4	0.3	0.0	336

Cervical screening programme: time from screening to availability of result by strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT) 2006-07

Number and percentage

			Total letters sent by PCT (=100%)[1]	Up to 4 weeks (%)	>4 weeks up to 6 weeks (%)	>6 weeks up to 8 weeks (%)	>8 weeks up to 10 weeks (%)	>10 weeks up to 12 weeks (%)	Over 12 weeks (%)	Letters not sent by PCT
	5F1	Plymouth Teaching PCT	15,893	55.9	27.7	14.6	1.6	0.1	0.2	278
	5FL	Bath and North East Somerset PCT	10,392	38.4	8.6	19.1	15.4	18.2	0.2	316
	5K3	Swindon PCT	12,421	14.1	26.4	17.0	28.6	12.4	1.4	324
	5M8	North Somerset PCT	11,235	70.0	26.7	1.9	0.8	0.6	0.1	447
	5QH	Gloucestershire PCT	3,656	35.2	40.6	17.3	4.5	1.5	0.8	34,265
	5QJ	Bristol PCT	24,288	73.0	25.5	1.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	717
	5QK	Wiltshire PCT	24,423	20.8	20.5	22.9	17.5	17.3	1.0	836
	5QL	Somerset PCT	22,644	86.8	4.4	3.3	2.8	2.6	0.2	7,115
	5QM	Dorset PCT	20,320	85.5	11.2	2.5	0.4	0.1	0.2	5,517
	5QN	Bournemouth and Poole PCT	18,077	98.3	1.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	7,351
	5QP	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	33,428	25.7	28.8	31.0	13.6	0.7	0.2	716
	5QQ	Devon PCT	42,455	88.5	9.0	2.1	0.3	0.0	0.1	978
	TAL	Torbay Care Trust	8,699	77.1	22.4	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	148

[1] Information on the time from taking a sample to the availability of a result are only available where the letters are produced by the PCT.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care

Childbirth

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many babies in England were born underweight in the most recent period for which figures are available; and what assessment he has made of the principal causes of babies being underweight at birth. [172918]

Ann Keen: In 2005-06, the latest year for which we have figures, 42,900 babies were born with birthweights of less than 2,500g. The major cause of low birthweight is low gestational age. This information is from "NHS Maternity Statistics, England 2005-06", a copy of which is available in the Library.

Dental Services: Portsmouth

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list NHS dentists in Portsmouth indicating which are registering new NHS patients. [162555]

Ann Keen: National Health Service Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) Dental Services Division (DSD) can only provide validated information on the number of NHS dental practices within a constituency offering NHS dental care only at disproportionate cost. Some NHS treatment attracts patient charges.

The number of dentists are available in Annex G of the 'NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006'. A copy of this report is available in the Library.

Information is available at strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT) area in England 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2006.

Information is based on the old contractual arrangements. The report is also available on-line at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

The number of NHS dentists year ending 31 March 2007 are available in Table E2 of Annex 3 of the 'NHS Dental Statistics for England 2006-07 report'. Information is available at SHA and PCT area in England.

Since April 2006, patients no longer have to be registered with a dental practice to receive NHS care and treatment.

The closest equivalent current measure is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ("patients seen") in a given area over a 24-month period, for that area. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

The numbers of patients seen in the 24 month periods ending 31 March 2006 and 31 March 2007 are available in Table C1 of Annex 3 of the 'NHS Dental Statistics for England 2006-07 report'. Information is available at SHA and PCT area in England.

A copy of this report is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

Doctors: Housing

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 714W, on doctors: housing, if he will make available the minutes of the meetings with the Junior Doctors Committee on the provision of accommodation. [172008]

Ann Keen: The minutes have been agreed between the British Medical Association (BMA) and the four health Departments. The BMA has no objection to the

release of the extract from the Joint Negotiation Committee (Juniors) minutes. This information has been placed in the Library.

Drugs: Misuse

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effect of changes to the 2008 budget for the Young People's Substance Misuse service in Hampshire. [174010]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

No announcements have been made in relation to future budget allocations for Young People's Substance Misuse services. However young people and prevention are to be a key priority within the new Drugs Strategy, which is currently being developed in Government under the leadership of the Home Office and will be published in 2008.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the 2008 budget is for the Young People's Substance Misuse service in Hampshire; and what the budget was in each of the last five years. [174011]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

(a) Consultation on the development of the new Drug Strategy which is due to be published in the new year concluded on 19 October 2007. Details of individual local authority funding allocations for the next financial year will be announced following publication of the Drugs Strategy.

(b) Funding allocations for the Young People's Substance Misuse service in Hampshire in the last five years are as follows:

	£
2007-08	911,015
2006-07	1,051,461
2005-06	1,059,508
2004-05	1,037,807
2003-04	127,803

Heart Diseases: Medical Equipment

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the draft guidance on drug eluting stents proposed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on the provision of *(a)* percutaneous coronary intervention and *(b)* coronary artery bypass grafting by the NHS if the draft guidance on drug eluting stents remains unchanged; what estimate he has made of the financial effect of any such change in provision; and if he will make a statement. [173950]

Ann Keen: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is reviewing its October 2003 guidance on the use of drug-eluting stents for the treatment of coronary artery disease. NICE is currently considering the responses it has received from stakeholders during the recent consultation on its draft recommendations.

NICE expects to publish final guidance in March 2008 so it would be inappropriate to comment at this time.

Heart Diseases: Medical Treatments

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of patients with coronary heart disease have been treated with *(a)* coronary artery bypass operations, *(b)* drug-eluting stents and *(c)* bare metal stents in each year since guidance on the use of coronary artery stents was issued by the National Institute of Clinical Excellence in 2003 in (i) England, (ii) each strategic health authority and (iii) each NHS trust; [165853]

(2) what proportion of patients with coronary heart disease have received *(a)* coronary artery bypass operations and *(b)* percutaneous coronary interventions in each year since guidance on the use of coronary artery stents was issued by the National Institute of Clinical Excellence in 2003 in (i) England, (ii) each strategic health authority and (iii) each NHS trust. [165854]

Ann Keen: It is not possible for the Department to answer these questions because of the way relevant data are collected. Hospital episode statistics (HES) data counts each period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider, known as an "episode". These figures do not represent numbers of actual patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within a year.

The information provided in the following table is HES data showing the number of episodes that patients with a coronary heart disease diagnosis have had. This may be of interest to the hon. Member.

Count of finished consultant episodes with a diagnosis mention of coronary heart disease and a procedure mention of coronary artery bypass graft (CABG), percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA) or insertion of prosthesis: Data for NHS Hospitals, England for 2003-04 to 2005-06

	Finished consultant episodes		
Procedure	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*
CABG	21,749	23,721	23,631
PTCA	55,559	50,062	41,470
Insertion of prosthesis into organ	44,190	37,425	30,938

Notes

Ungrossed Data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)

An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.

All Diagnoses count of episodes

These figures represent a count of all FCE's where the diagnosis was mentioned in any of the 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in a HES record. ICD10 Diagnosis code used: Coronary Heart Disease = I20-I25

Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

Data Quality

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS Trusts and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

All Operations count of Episodes

These figures represent a count of all FCE's where the procedure was mentioned in any of the 12 (four prior to 2002-03) operation fields in a HES record. A record is only included once in each count, even if an operation is mentioned in more than one operation field of the record. Procedure codes used (OPCS 4.2): CABG = K40-46 PTCA = K49-50 Insertion of Prosthesis into Organ = Y02.2

Hospitals: Consultants

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library copies of *(a)* the business case that his Department provided to HM Treasury in 2002 on the new contract for consultants and *(b)* HM Treasury's response to the business case. [170180]

Ann Keen: The business case for new contracts for national health service staff formed part of the discussions between the Department and HM's Treasury during the 2002 Spending Review, which concluded in July 2002. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Hospitals: Drugs

Mr. Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of medication errors made in hospitals at each stage of the medication process in *(a)* accident and emergency departments and *(b)* other settings in hospital in the most recent period for which figures are available. [175411]

Ann Keen: The precise number of medication errors taking place in national health service hospitals is not known.

Comprehensive information concerning the number of patient safety incidents reported via the National Patient Safety Agency's National Reporting and Learning System was published in Patient Safety Observatory Report "Safety In Doses" in July 2007.

The report reviewed 60,000 medication incidents reported across the NHS between January 2005 to June 2006.

Information from this report concerning incidents from accident and emergency departments and acute hospitals is shown in tables 1 and 2.

Table 1: Medication incidents reported from accident and emergency (A&E) departments: January 2005 to June 2006

Stage of medication process	*Incidents*
Administration/supply of a medicine from a clinical area	1,278
Monitoring/follow-up of medicine use	100
Preparation of medicines in all locations/dispensing in a pharmacy	160
Prescribing	342
Other	56
Total	1,936

Table 2: Medication incidents reported from acute hospitals (not A&E): January 2005 to June 2006

Stage of medication process	*Incidents*
Administration/supply of a medicine from a clinical area	27,505
Monitoring/follow-up of medicine use	1,896
Preparation of medicines in all locations/ dispensing in a pharmacy	7,339
Prescribing	7,491
Other	886
Total	45,117

Mr. Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of patients harmed by medication error in hospital in each of the last five years. [175412]

Ann Keen: The precise number of patients harmed by medication errors in hospital each year is not known.

However, the National Patient Safety Agency's national reporting and learning system (NRLS) receives reports of patient safety incidents of actual harm involving medicines.

All national health service hospital trusts in England and Wales were connected to the NRLS by January 2005. Since this date, the number of medication incident reports has increased as NHS reporting culture and methods have improved. Increasing numbers should not be interpreted as increasing numbers of incidents but rather an increase in the number of incidents that are reported.

	Number of NRLS reports involving medicines where harm has been reported
April 2004 to March 2005	1,106
April 2005 to March 2006	6,001
April 2006 to March 2007	9,702
April 2007 to November 2007	6,544
Total	23,338

Mr. Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of patients who died as a result of medication error in hospital in each of the last five years. [175413]

Ann Keen: The following table provides information about reports to the national reporting and learning system (NRLS) about patients involving medicines.

	Number of fatal NRLS reports involving medicines
April 2004 to March 2005	12
April 2005 to March 2006	5
April 2006 to March 2007	27
April 2007 to November 2007	24
Date not available	17
Total	78

Mr. Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has made to reduce the rate of medication error in hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [175414]

Ann Keen: The National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) has issued a number of safer practice recommendations to the national health service during 2007 concerning high risk medicines and practices. The topics selected are informed or triggered by reports to the national reporting and learning system by the NHS.

Patient Safety Alerts

Safer practice with anticoagulants

Promoting safer measurement and administration of liquid medicines via oral and other enteral routes

Safer use of injectable medicines

Safer use of epidural injections and infusions

Reducing the risk of hyponatraemia with intravenous infusions in children

These were issued on 28 March 2007.

Rapid Response Reports

In addition to these alerts, the NPSA issued three rapid response reports on medication topics between June and September 2007 to alert the NHS to medication risks and actions to minimise them. These included:

risk of confusion between cytarabine and liposomal cytarabine;

risk of confusion between non-lipid and lipid formulations of injectable amphotericin; and

fire hazard with paraffin-based skin products on dressings and clothing.

Design for Safety Information

The NPSA has also issued design for safety booklets on a number of medication topics to promote safe design with pharmaceutical manufacturers, and dispensaries in both primary and secondary care.

Patient Safety Guidance From NICE and the NPSA

On 12 December 2007, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and the NPSA issued patient safety guidance on medicines reconciliation when patients are admitted to hospitals.

Implementation

The NPSA is working with the local organisations, the Healthcare Commission, and Healthcare Purchasers to ensure that these safe practice recommendations are implemented. Health care organisations are also recommended to produce a medicine management report annually to describe local risks with medicines and how these risks are being managed.

Mr. Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the rate of medication error in hospitals at each stage of the medication process; and if he will make a statement. [175415]

Ann Keen: Estimates of the rates of medication errors in hospitals at each stage of the medication process have been made from published United Kingdom research. The results are not directly comparable and depend on the definition of medication error used in respective studies.

For example, most studies on medication errors during administration exclude the administration of injectable medicines and find an error rate of between 5-10 per cent. Where research have examined administration errors with injectable medicines, error rates of up to 49 per cent. have been reported.

Stage of medication process	*Estimates of rate of medication error (Percentage)*
Prescribing	1-11
Dispensing	1-2
Administration (and where appropriate preparation)	3.5-49
Monitoring	[1]

[1] No overall estimate.

Not all medication errors have caused or have the potential to cause harm. Those that are associated with harm are called adverse drug events.

Hospitals: Food

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government plan to take to improve the quality of food provided for patients in hospitals. [175593]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* An appropriate diet, based on acceptable standards, requires good food with the right nutritional content, properly prepared and available when patients need it. The details of how that diet is provided are for local determination. Work to support trusts in delivering good food and nutritional care is provided via a wide range of mechanisms.

The national health service plan stipulated that dieticians should advise and check on nutritional values in hospital food. Nutritional information is available for all recipes in the national dish selector, and this can be used to assess local nutritional levels. Ingredients specifications for the recipes have been developed by the Purchasing and Supply Agency to ensure that wholesome, high quality and value-for-money ingredients are used.

The Food Standards Agency has published (voluntary) nutrient and food based guidance for major institutions. This guidance aims to assist caterers and consumers to achieve the Government's healthy eating recommendations. This advice feeds into the cross Government agenda on diet and food procurement. The Agency has also published example menus to assist caterers in meeting this guidance.

The quality of hospital food is measured annually via Patient Environment Action Team assessments. These showed an increase from 17 per cent. "good" in

2002 to over 46 per cent. "excellent" in 2007. (There was no "excellent" category in 2002, when a three-point scale was used).

To identify and deal with patients at risk, we have introduced protected mealtimes and have renewed the emphasis on nutritional screening. These two areas of work are being actively pursued by the National Patient Safety Agency.

My hon. Friend the Parliamentary-Under Secretary of State (Mr. Lewis) hosted two nutrition summits as part of his dignity in care work. A wide range of stakeholders attended. Following these summits, we launched the Nutrition Action Plan "Improving Nutritional Care" on 30 October 2007. There will be ongoing monitoring of how stakeholders and their work have contributed to the aims of the plan through a nutrition action plan delivery board. The delivery board will be accountable to my hon. Friend and will produce a progress report in summer 2008.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital-acquired infections there were in *(a)* the West Suffolk Hospital, *(b)* the Walnuttree hospital, Sudbury and *(c)* the Newmarket hospital in the most recent period for which figures are available. [175581]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested as information is collected by national health service trust only. The following tables show the number of hospital acquired infections in West Suffolk Hospital trust for the three year period 2004-06 which is the latest data available.

	Name of NHS trust	
Number of Clostridium difficile reports for patients	*Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust*	*West Suffolk Hospitals*
Aged =65 years		
July to September 2006	99	107
October to December 2006	115	97
January to March 2007	143	99
April to June 2007	119	95
Aged 2-64 years		
April to June 2007	46	12

Source:
Health Protection Agency (HPA)

	Name of NHS trust	
Incidence of MRSA	*Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust*	*West Suffolk Hospitals*
July to September 2006	23	8
October to December 2006	20	6
January to March 2007	14	5
April to-June 2007	15	5

Source:
HPA

	Name of NHS trust	
GRE[1] bacteraemia reports	*Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust*	*West Suffolk Hospitals*
1 October 2003 to 30 September 2004	41	5
1 October 2004 to 30 September 2005	46	2
1 October 2005 to 30 September 2006	61	7

[1] Glycopeptide Resistant Enterococci blood stream infections
Source:
HPA

Industrial Diseases

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the role of miners' welfares in combating diseases, with particular reference to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. [174653]

Ann Keen: In the financial year commencing 1 April 2007 the Department gave £34,000 from their Section 64 scheme to the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation for them to provide personal, community and social support services to mining and ex-mining communities and their residents, for those with problems resulting from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

The Department is also currently developing a national services framework for COPD, which will result in national standards and markers of good practice. It will improve the quality of and access to COPD services, reducing inequalities and reduce health care utilisation costs.

The advice will pay particular attention to the need to reduce variations in outcomes, including those associated with ethnicity, social deprivation and social exclusion.

An expert reference group will produce advice for Ministers by January/February 2008. The COPD NSF will be published in 2008 with implementation at the start of 2009.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in *(a)* Bassetlaw and *(b)* England; and what proportion of these worked in heavy industry such as mining. [174669]

Ann Keen: The quality and outcomes framework (QOF) part of the General Medical Services contract requires practices to record patients diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (OPD). The number of patients for practices in Bassetlaw for the financial year 2006-07 was 2,153. The corresponding figure for England was 765,806.

The number of people with COPD who work in heavy industry is not collected centrally.

Note:

Coverage of QOF

Patients will only contribute to the figures in QOF if they are registered with a general practice participating in QOF.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many deaths there were as a result of *(a)* chronic bronchitis and *(b)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in the last year for which figures are available. [174677]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 7 January 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths there were as a result of (a) chronic bronchitis and (b) chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in the last year for which figures are available. I am replying in her absence. (174677)

The latest figures available refer to deaths registered in England and Wales in the calendar year 2006. There were 23,319 deaths with an underlying cause of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease[1], of which 230 had an underlying cause of chronic bronchitis[2].

[1] Selected using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes J40-J44.

[2] Selected using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes J40-J42.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of regional variations in the prevalence of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease [174679]

Ann Keen: The quality and outcomes framework (QOF) part of the General Medical Services contract requires practices to record patients diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The prevalence in each primary care trust (PCT) for the year 2006-07 are shown in the following table.

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease unadjusted prevalence

PCT code	*PCT name*	*Percentage*
5HG	Ashton Leigh and Wigan PCT	1.8
5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	1.2
5A9	Barnet PCT	0.8
5JE	Barnsley PCT	2.5
5ET	Bassetlaw	2.0
5FL	Bath and North East Somerset PCT	1.2
5P2	Bedfordshire PCT	1.1
5QG	Berkshire East PCT	0.9
5QF	Berkshire West PCT	0.9
TAK	Bexley Care Trust	1.3
5PG	Birmingham East and North PCT	1.4
5CC	Blackburn with Darwen PCT	1.9
5HP	Blackpool PCT	2.3
5HQ	Bolton PCT	1.8
5QN	Bournemouth and Poole PCT	1.3
5NY	Bradford and Airedale PCT	1.7
5K5	Brent PCT	0.6
5LQ	Brighton and Hove City Teaching PCT	1.0
5QJ	Bristol PCT	1.5
5A7	Bromley PCT	1.1
5QD	Buckinghamshire PCT	1.0
5JX	Bury PCT	1.7
5J6	Calderdale	1.6
5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	1.2
5K7	Camden PCT	0.8
5NP	Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	1.5
5NG	Central Lancs PCT	1.6
5C3	City and Hackney Primary Care Team	0.8
5QP	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	1.6
5ND	County Durham PCT	2.3
5MD	Coventry PCT	1.4
5K9	Croydon PCT	0.7
5NE	Cumbria PCT	1.9
5J9	Darlington PCT	1.8
5N7	Derby City PCT	1.5
5N6	Derbyshire County PCT	1.7
5QQ	Devon PCT	1.4
5N5	Doncaster PCT	2.4
5QM	Dorset PCT	1.4
5PE	Dudley PCT	1.3
5HX	Ealing PCT	0.7
5P3	East and North Hertfordshire PCT	1.1
5NH	East Lancs PCT	2.0
5NW	East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	1.6
5P7	East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	1.4
5QA	Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	1.6
5C1	Enfield PCT	0.8
5KF	Gateshead PCT	2.2
5QH	Gloucestershire PCT	1.3
5PR	Great Yarmouth and Waveney Teaching PCT	1.9
5A8	Greenwich PCT	1.1
5NM	Halton and St. Helens PCT	2.2
5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	1.0
5QC	Hampshire PCT	1.1
5C9	Haringey PCT	0.7
5K6	Harrow PCT	0.7
5D9	Hartlepool PCT	2.2
5P8	Hastings and Rother PCT	1.5
5A4	Havering PCT	1.4
5MX	Heart of Birmingham PCT	0.7
5CN	Herefordshire PCT	1.3
5NQ	Heywood Middleton and Rochdale PCT	1.7
5AT	Hillingdon PCT	1.1
5HY	Hounslow PCT	0.7
5NX	Hull PCT	1.7
5QT	Isle of Wight NHS PCT	1.4
5K8	Islington PCT	1.1
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	0.8
5A5	Kingston	0.8
5N2	Kirklees PCT	1.4
5J4	Knowsley	2.8
5LD	Lambeth PCT	0.7
5N1	Leeds PCT	1.6
5PC	Leicester City PCT	1.1
5PA	Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	1.2
5LF	Lewisham PCT	1.0
5N9	Lincolnshire PCT	1.8
5NL	Liverpool PCT	2.3
5GC	Luton	1.0
5NT	Manchester PCT	1.8
5L3	Medway PCT	1.3
5PX	Mid Essex PCT	0.9

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease unadjusted prevalence

PCT code	PCT name	Percentage
5KM	Middlesbrough PCT	2.4
5CQ	Milton Keynes PCT	1.2
5D7	Newcastle upon Tyne PCT	1.9
5C5	Newham Primary Care Team	0.8
5PQ	Norfolk PCT	1.6
5PW	North East Essex PCT	1.4
5AN	North East Lincolnshire PCT	1.9
5NF	North Lancs PCT	1.9
5EF	North Lincolnshire PCT	1.7
5M8	North Somerset PCT	1.5
5PH	North Staffordshire PCT	1.7
5EF	North Tees PCT	1.9
5D8	North Tyneside PCT	2.0
5NV	North Yorkshire and York PCT	1.4
5PD	Northamptonshire PCT	1.3
TAC	Northumberland Care Trust	2.2
5EM	Nottingham City PCT	1.4
5N8	Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	1.6
5J5	Oldham PCT	1.7
5QE	Oxfordshire PCT	1.0
5PN	Peterborough PCT	1.3
5F1	Plymouth PCT	1.5
5FE	Portsmouth City PCT	1.4
5NA	Redbridge PCT	0.7
5QR	Redcar and Cleveland PCT	2.4
5M6	Richmond and Twickenham	0.9
5H8	Rotherham PCT	2.2
5F5	Salford PCT	2.3
5PF	Sandwell PCT	1.7
5NJ	Sefton PCT	2.1
5N4	Sheffield PCT	1.6
5M2	Shropshire County PCT	1.5
TAM	Solihull Care Trust	1.4
5QL	Somerset PCT	1.5
5M1	South Birmingham PCT	1.5
5P1	South East Essex PCT	1.4
5A3	South Gloucestershire PCT	1.2
5PK	South Staffordshire PCT	1.4
5KG	South Tyneside PCT	2.9
5PY	South West Essex PCT	1.4
5L1	Southampton City PCT	1.6
5LE	Southwark PCT	1.1
5F7	Stockport PCT	1.6
5PJ	Stoke-on-Trent PCT	1.8
5PT	Suffolk PCT	1.3
5KL	Sunderland Teaching PCT	2.8
5P5	Surrey PCT	1.0
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	1.0
5K3	Swindon PCT	1.5
5LH	Tameside and Glossop PCT	2.1
5MK	Telford and Wrekin PCT	1.6
TAL	Torbay Care Trust	1.7
5C4	Tower Hamlets Primary Care Team	1.2
5NR	Trafford PCT	1.4
5N3	Wakefield District PCT	2.3
5M3	Walsall Teaching PCT	1.5
5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	0.8
5LG	Wandsworth PCT	0.8
5J2	Warrington PCT	1.6
5PM	Warwickshire PCT	1.2
5PV	West Essex PCT	1.2
5P4	West Hertfordshire PCT	1.1
5P9	West Kent PCT	1.2
5P6	West Sussex PCT	1.3
5NN	Western Cheshire PCT	1.5
5LC	Westminster PCT	0.7
5QK	Wiltshire PCT	1.3
5NK	Wirral PCT	2.2
5MV	Wolverhampton City PCT	1.4
5PL	Worcestershire PCT	1.3

Notes:
1.Coverage of QOF. Patients will only contribute to the figures in QOF if they are registered with a general practice participating in QOF.
2.The prevalence is the number of patients on the COPD register divided by the total number of patients expressed as a percentage.

Medicine: Animal Experiments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps were taken to ensure that the leaflets produced by his Department and the then Department of Trade and Industry, Where do medicines come from? contained a balanced assessment of the issues concerning the use of animals; and if he will make a statement. [175620]

Dawn Primarolo: The leaflet "Where do medicines come from?" was produced by the independent Coalition for Medical Progress (CMP). The CMP is an alliance of organisations from across the biomedical research community whose task is to address public reservations that arise over the use of animals in achieving advances in medicine. CMP aims to establish better communication between the biomedical research community and the general public in the United Kingdom. The Government fully support the aims of the CMP.

NHS: Information

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he intends the full national implementation of information prescriptions to take place. [175120]

Ann Keen: Information prescriptions are currently being piloted in 20 sites across England. Using the learning from the pilots we intend to implement information prescriptions nationally in 2008.

North Bristol Trust

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his plans are for the repayment of the one-off borrowing by North Bristol Trust as part of its financial recovery programme; and if he will make a statement. [173771]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* We have agreed with the South West Strategic Health Authority (SHA) that the one off borrowing will be repaid in full to the Department, within the next five years. The SHA and North Bristol NHS Trust are currently constructing the details of the repayment.

North West Health Brussels Office: Expenditure

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the expenditure was of the North West Health Brussels Office in the last year for which figures are available. [176374]

Ann Keen: In 2006-07, the last year for which budgets are fully available, North West Health Brussels Office (NWHBO) received £163,800 from a range of North West Regional stakeholders including:

The NHS Public Health Networks of Greater Manchester, Cumbria and Lancashire, and Cheshire and Merseyside (each representing North West Primary Care Trusts).

North West Strategic Health Authority.

North West Regional Development Agency.

Health Protection Agency - North West.

Centre for Public Health - Lancaster University.

The NWHBO function in 2006-07 was managed by a regional stakeholder group and employment and financial matters were managed by Sefton primary care trust.

From April 2007, the service has been managed through a revised stakeholder group and commissioned on behalf of regional partners by Liverpool primary care trust.

Organs: Trade

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the extent of the illegal trade in human organs in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [175538]

Ann Keen: We have no evidence of an illegal trade in human organs in the United Kingdom. The Human Tissue Act 2004 makes it an offence to give or receive a reward for the supply, or offer of human material for transplantation. Most importantly it makes trafficking in tissue and cells for transplantation liable to a fine, imprisonment or both. All potential living donors are assessed by a Human Tissue Authority (HTA) trained and accredited independent assessor, who is required to specifically look for evidence of coercion, payment and reward. The HTA must also be satisfied that there is no evidence of payment or reward and that consent has been given before it can approve the transplant and will prosecute cases of commercial dealing or trafficking.

Prostate Cancer: Health Services

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress has been made in implementation of the Prostate Cancer Risk Management programme; and if he will make a statement. [175508]

Ann Keen: The Prostate Cancer Risk Management programme (PCRMP) was introduced in 2002 to help general practitioners and practice nurses in advising men without symptoms of prostate cancer on the implications of having a public service agreement test.

The PCRMP empowers men to make an informed choice on whether or not to have a test based on their own lifestyles and values.

An evaluation of the PCRMP was funded by the Department to help inform the future direction of the programme and the PCRMP pack is currently being revised.

A consultation will be published in the spring, with the intention of launching the revised PCRMP packs in the summer of 2008. The revision will take full account of the results of the Prostate Cancer in Ethnic Subgroups study, which showed that black men are three times more likely to develop prostate cancer compared to white men, and the new National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guideline, "Prostate cancer: diagnosis and treatment", which is due to be published in February 2008.

Radiotherapy

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many radiotherapy fractions were delivered by each primary care trust in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [175576]

Ann Keen: We do not hold information centrally on the number of radiotherapy fractions that were delivered by each primary care trust in each of the last three years. The latest national information available is in the National Radiotherapy Advisory Group Report "Radiotherapy: developing a world class service for England" which the Department published in May 2007. The report sets out fractions per linac per year, averaged across a radiotherapy department, in paragraphs 45 and 46. It showed that the median radiotherapy centre gave 7,400 fractions per linac and on average 16 out of 39 centres delivered more than 8,000 fractions per linac. A copy of the report has been placed in the Library.

Skin Cancer

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of melanoma have been reported in each primary care trust area in each year since 1997. [174681]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many cases of melanoma have been reported in each year since 1997, broken down by primary care trust area. (174681)

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) for England are for the year 2004. Numbers of cases of melanoma in England by primary care trust in each year since 1997 are given in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of malignant melanoma of skin[1], persons, England and primary care organisations[2,3] within strategic health authority, 1997-2004

Area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
England	5,025	5,134	5,315	5,963	6,365	6,615	6,874	7,363
North East								
County Durham	48	41	47	60	76	82	72	71
Darlington	11	8	29	19	14	22	27	14
Gateshead	21	15	12	22	26	30	23	17
Hartlepool	5	5	7	12	5	9	8	10
Middlesbrough	13	13	11	12	8	16	22	17
Newcastle	22	19	27	23	35	17	24	24
North Tees	12	10	13	9	18	25	14	22
North Tyneside	12	23	23	23	24	23	26	26
Northumberland	26	29	46	23	34	44	41	50
Redcar and Cleveland	14	9	12	14	15	22	17	20
South Tyneside	12	10	10	9	17	16	14	19
Sunderland Teaching	25	26	46	23	36	41	30	37
North West								
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan	21	22	18	35	27	34	33	48
Blackburn with Darwen	15	5	12	15	7	17	11	15
Blackpool	14	15	23	14	21	15	23	17
Bolton	23	21	22	32	34	24	23	33
Bury	19	12	19	18	12	32	19	25
Central and Eastern Cheshire	43	59	50	67	73	69	62	85
Central Lancashire	51	41	50	57	47	77	78	73
Cumbria	68	61	72	68	57	74	75	79
East Lancashire	33	37	43	36	42	55	59	61
Halton and St. Helens	27	22	31	25	42	46	32	31
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale	17	15	20	22	22	15	13	20
Knowsley	12	10	15	18	17	16	22	23
Liverpool	36	40	32	45	45	42	55	70
Manchester	27	25	28	30	36	44	21	26
North Lancashire	41	34	45	60	54	60	52	48
Oldham	14	22	18	14	16	26	22	25
Salford	17	15	29	16	16	11	15	26
Sefton	42	21	39	36	51	43	56	41
Stockport	32	46	37	50	40	44	49	47
Tameside and Glossop	15	27	18	26	25	29	34	42
Trafford	28	25	29	41	38	37	33	41
Warrington	12	25	18	15	16	24	21	20
Western Cheshire	11	11	27	41	39	30	32	42
Wirral	31	29	29	38	39	43	38	34
Yorkshire and the Humber								
Barnsley	15	14	20	7	10	21	8	13
Bradford and Airedale	42	39	44	44	47	44	48	53
Calderdale	21	18	24	17	22	24	26	30
Doncaster	17	20	14	36	24	41	25	42
East Riding of Yorkshire	26	45	22	36	51	51	56	50
Hull	15	15	13	15	15	16	17	15
Leeds	79	76	84	72	109	105	126	122
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	16	12	12	18	16	16	13	23
North Lincolnshire	3	10	14	18	15	21	13	14
North Yorkshire and York	82	109	97	90	126	132	135	134
Rotherham	14	24	21	16	26	19	30	65
Sheffield	51	34	37	52	66	48	82	124
Wakefield District	22	28	28	34	46	42	54	39

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of malignant melanoma of skin[1], persons, England and primary care organisations[2,3] within strategic health authority, 1997-2004

Area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
East Midlands								
Bassetlaw	9	19	13	12	14	11	12	10
Derby City	26	23	20	29	28	22	29	39
Derbyshire County	57	57	68	74	84	96	91	113
Leicester City	23	16	16	17	35	19	20	15
Leicestershire County and Rutland	59	39	58	91	88	76	92	96
Lincolnshire	43	63	56	74	78	79	68	114
Northamptonshire	75	86	84	98	92	100	98	94
Nottingham City	22	21	18	15	18	24	17	27
Nottinghamshire County	66	72	44	82	59	86	97	123
West Midlands								
Birmingham East and North	28	23	21	31	39	46	35	40
Coventry Teaching	26	28	24	30	32	27	39	48
Dudley	16	27	38	43	34	30	38	52
Heart of Birmingham Teaching	10	10	8	7	8	7	9	14
Herefordshire	19	24	31	26	23	30	31	30
North Staffordshire	18	22	24	29	30	31	19	28
Sandwell	21	20	17	22	22	19	26	24
Shropshire County	38	32	34	22	37	26	41	60
Solihull	26	24	28	34	36	26	38	49
South Birmingham	24	33	21	27	25	43	40	46
South Staffordshire	59	84	71	56	74	102	81	68
Stoke on Trent	18	15	29	19	41	22	13	24
Telford and Wrekin	10	18	16	13	13	16	17	18
Walsall Teaching	17	21	20	19	19	30	25	23
Warwickshire	54	67	59	64	87	86	91	99
Wolverhampton City	20	15	20	20	17	24	17	23
Worcestershire	66	69	66	69	92	93	101	112
East of England								
Bedfordshire	38	54	52	50	57	47	36	54
Cambridgeshire	48	68	80	85	86	84	100	71
East and North Hertfordshire	36	47	49	51	50	48	75	73
Great Yarmouth and Waveney	29	32	33	27	27	31	43	39
Luton	16	12	18	18	24	21	14	15
Mid Essex	50	32	33	49	26	27	37	35
Norfolk	87	87	92	99	110	105	126	137
North East Essex	20	47	47	64	50	50	50	46
Peterborough	9	22	14	16	19	22	20	19
South East Essex	34	42	53	45	29	28	57	50
South West Essex	39	31	27	32	31	39	33	40
Suffolk	58	75	71	66	82	89	105	93
West Essex	22	37	33	29	28	35	34	16
West Hertfordshire	55	37	56	57	57	54	55	39
London								
Barking and Dagenham	10	14	10	16	17	10	11	13
Barnet	27	24	21	23	20	23	24	31
Bexley	23	33	27	33	20	23	24	22
Brent Teaching	8	13	9	18	14	15	18	10
Bromley	49	42	51	31	22	24	11	8
Camden	19	30	15	17	13	22	13	18
City and Hackney Teaching	8	7	12	11	11	11	15	10
Croydon	29	27	43	36	37	26	48	37
Ealing	12	19	19	14	21	12	18	13
Enfield	11	17	15	21	19	11	22	14
Greenwich Teaching	11	14	17	19	21	13	14	13
Hammersmith and Fulham	6	21	9	9	11	6	6	15

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of malignant melanoma of skin[1], persons, England and primary care organisations[2] within strategic health authority, 1997-2004

Area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Haringey Teaching	12	21	9	12	11	11	16	13
Harrow	18	10	14	14	5	8	14	16
Havering	19	24	28	32	34	30	32	19
Hillingdon	11	12	9	14	10	12	5	14
Hounslow	10	6	13	7	8	16	13	12
Islington	20	10	12	14	14	10	13	13
Kensington and Chelsea	14	16	10	14	18	15	20	14
Kingston	15	18	11	19	17	24	13	21
Lambeth	12	15	19	25	15	18	14	20
Lewisham	19	12	26	14	15	13	11	18
Newham	4	8	*	11	5	5	5	5
Redbridge	13	11	10	15	9	7	25	19
Richmond and Twickenham	24	21	16	18	29	17	22	24
Southwark	14	5	19	7	16	4	10	17
Sutton and Merton	40	37	30	55	38	40	46	43
Tower Hamlets	6	4	10	6	5	8	7	7
Waltham Forest	13	14	8	18	6	9	19	9
Wandsworth	22	29	24	29	34	26	29	32
Westminster	7	14	15	14	16	11	29	17
South East Coast								
Brighton and Hove City	34	35	38	35	32	44	33	43
East Sussex Downs and Weald	47	52	55	66	56	62	68	41
Eastern and Coastal Kent	66	56	68	59	48	59	96	113
Hastings and Rother	23	31	23	22	14	11	12	8
Medway	35	21	26	26	37	32	43	30
Surrey	141	116	102	158	130	152	133	160
West Kent	72	62	68	71	73	65	74	83
West Sussex	116	87	106	122	128	127	117	127
South Central								
Berkshire East	46	41	39	44	43	43	47	54
Berkshire West	47	61	69	71	81	70	57	71
Buckinghamshire	64	73	92	81	82	93	79	95
Hampshire	195	177	136	207	211	278	273	260
Isle of Wight NHS	26	26	12	30	34	31	44	40
Milton Keynes	28	17	27	31	33	30	23	37
Oxfordshire	73	78	108	129	138	152	109	147
Portsmouth City Teaching	30	29	15	25	39	34	31	41
Southampton City	28	13	31	31	37	46	28	41
South West								
Bath and North East Somerset	34	25	34	33	44	23	36	36
Bournemouth and Poole	57	43	56	61	66	82	91	84
Bristol	37	36	49	42	56	45	58	74
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	100	119	87	113	129	130	142	119
Devon	137	112	122	152	161	190	186	214
Dorset	75	57	86	92	118	102	104	125
Gloucestershire	44	59	72	84	92	86	81	121
North Somerset	30	16	20	30	42	45	40	47
North Staffordshire	18	22	24	29	30	31	19	28
Plymouth Teaching	46	37	23	38	60	60	66	74
Somerset	74	69	78	100	114	109	149	119
South Gloucestershire	28	30	28	26	36	24	46	48
Swindon	16	24	31	29	28	25	23	26
Torbay	19	43	21	28	39	39	37	36

Table 1 Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of malignant melanoma of skin[1], persons, England and primary care organisations[2,3] within strategic health authority, 1997-2004

Area	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Wiltshire	62	64	50	74	97	101	103	110

[1] Malignant melanoma of skin is defined as code C43 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)
[2] Based on NHS boundaries as of 2007
[3] Each primary care organisation (PCO) is listed under the strategic health authority (SHA) to which it reports. The 152 primary care organisations include 148 primary care trusts (PCTs), and four care organisations (COs).
[4] Numbers have been suppressed to protect patient confidentiality.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Spinal Muscular Atrophy

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy types *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2 and *(c)* 3 in each year since 2005. [175291]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We do not collect that information centrally. However, NHS Direct estimates that one child in 25,000 will develop one of the three forms of spinal muscular atrophy and that one in 300,000 people will develop type four as an adult.

Thalassaemia: Screening

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what support his Department is providing to clinicians to deal with patients identified as having *(a)* a sickle cell disease and *(b)* Thalassaemia through the National Screening Programme; [173235]

(2) with reference to the answer of 26 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1263W, on blood: diseases, what progress his Department has made on the development and management of 10 managed clinical networks for Thalassaemia and sickle cell disease. [173538]

Ann Keen: The Department has been working with a range of key stakeholders to develop a model of 10 proposed managed clinical networks. The national health service plan set out a commitment to introduce new and effective screening programmes for women and children including a new national linked antenatal and neonatal programme for sickle cell and thalassaemia. The programme has now implemented newborn screening and 100 per cent. of newborn babies are now offered screening for sickle cell. Antenatal screening is expected to be fully implemented by spring 2008. The programme is expected to identify approximately 300 screen positive affected babies a year with sickle cell and haemoglobin variants from 559,098 babies across England. The benefits of this specialist care can then be managed in the right place with appropriate resources. The clinical network will build on existing expertise, to allow access to comprehensive care to be available across the country.

A working group has been established to oversee the roll-out of the managed clinical networks, and a number of centres have now been identified.

Supporting the national screening programme a number of recent initiatives to increase services for sickle cell and thalassaemia are now underway. These include:

Funding of training posts for registrars, nurse consultants and clinical scientists to increase the number of staff with specific haemoglobinopathy expertise.

Recognition by the Royal Colleges of the need to increase training in haemaglobinophies including changes to examinations and syllabus.

Funding for a database has been provided to track patients and the care they require.

Transplant Surgery: Waiting Lists

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 4 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1130W, on transplant surgery: waiting lists, how many people were on a waiting list for an organ transplant in each primary care trust area in each year since 2001, broken down by type of organ. [173069]

Ann Keen: This information has been placed in the Library.

Varicose Veins

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were treated for varicose veins by *(a)* vein stripping open surgery; *(b)* endovenous laser treatment, *(c)* radiofrequency ablation, *(d)* foam sclerotherapy and *(e)* using a vascular closure device in the NHS in each of the last five years, broken down by strategic health authority area. [174636]

Ann Keen: The information requested has been placed in the Library. Data for 2002-03 to 2005-06 are not directly comparable with data for 2006-07 because of changes and additions to the Office of Population Censuses and Survey's Classification of Surgical Operations and Procedure version 4 (OPSC4) codes and descriptions relating to varicose vein treatments.

Written Questions

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he will answer Questions *(a)* 162507, *(b)* 162508 and *(c)* 162555 tabled by the hon. Member for Portsmouth South on 8 November 2007. [175619]

Ann Keen: A reply was given to questions 162507 and 162508 on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 101W, and to 162555 today.

TREASURY

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many (*a*) males and (*b*) females under the age of 18 years in (i) Southend, (ii) Essex and (iii) England and Wales died as a consequence of excessive alcohol consumption in each of the last seven years for which figures are available. [177129]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 8 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many (*a*) males and (*b*) females under the age of 18 years in (i) Southend, (ii) Essex and (iii) England and Wales died as a consequence of excessive alcohol consumption in each of the last seven years for which figures are available. (177129)

The table attached provides the number of deaths of (*a*) males and (*b*) females under the age of 18 with an alcohol-related underlying cause in England and Wales from 2000 to 2006 (the latest year available). There were no deaths of persons under the age of 18 with an alcohol-related underlying cause in Southend-on-Sea unitary authority for these years, and one death in Essex county, a male, in 2000.

Table 1: Number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause of death[1], males and females under the age of 18, England and Wales, 2000 to 2006[2]

	Deaths (persons)	
	Males	Females
2000	3	2
2001	1	0
2002	0	0
2003	5	0
2004	1	1
2005	1	0
2006	1	0

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for the year 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) for 2001 onwards. The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes, are shown in the boxes below.

[2] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1: Alcohol-related causes of death - International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9)

Cause of death	ICD-9 code(s)
Alcoholic psychoses	291
Alcohol dependence syndrome	303
Non-dependent abuse of alcohol	305.0
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	425.5
Alcoholic fatty liver	571.0
Acute alcoholic hepatitis	571.1
Alcoholic cirrhosis of liver	571.2
Alcoholic liver damage, unspecified	571.3
Chronic hepatitis	571.4
Cirrhosis of liver without mention of alcohol	571.5
Other chronic non alcoholic liver disease	571.8
Unspecified chronic liver disease without mention of alcohol	571.9
Accidental poisoning by alcohol	E860

Box 2: Alcohol-related causes of death - International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	ICD-10 code(s)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	F10
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	G31.2
Alcoholic polyneuropathy	G62.1
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	I42.6
Alcoholic gastritis	K29.2
Alcoholic liver disease	K70
Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified	K73
Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excl. Biliary cirrhosis)	K74 (excl. K74.3-K74.5)
Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis	K86.0
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X45
Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X65
Poisoning by, and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent	Y15

Capital Gains Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on the buy to let market and housing market of the new flat 18 per cent. rate of capital gains tax; and whether an impact assessment has been produced for this proposed tax change. [176436]

Jane Kennedy: The 2007 pre-Budget report announced a reform of the capital gains tax regime for individuals. From 6 April 2008, all disposals that attract capital gains tax will do so at a single rate of 18 per cent. The impact on investors will depend on their personal circumstances.

Child Benefit: Personal Records

James Brokenshire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials of (*a*) HM Revenue and Customs and (*b*) other Departments or agencies have access to (i) the entire child support database and (ii) the entire child tax credit database. [167992]

Jane Kennedy: Child benefit and tax credits are both administered by HMRC.

On 20 November 2007 the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The interim report was published on 17 December 2007 and is available in the Library of the House.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to what year the earliest child benefit case whose records were recently misplaced by HM Revenue and Customs dates back. [168559]

Jane Kennedy: *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* The Acting Chairman of HM Revenue and Customs has written to all customers affected by the loss of child benefit data.

The missing data relates to the personal details of claimants, of child benefit and their children. Child benefit is payable in respect of a child who is under the

age of 16, or a person who is aged 16 or over but under 20 years where they are in qualifying full-time education or approved training.

Child benefit claimant records are deleted five years after the award of the youngest child in the family has ceased.

The information is not available in the format requested and is available only at disproportionate costs.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his statement of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1101-02, on HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), how many of the individual records missing in the transfer of information from HMRC are former claimants of child benefit resident in Southend West constituency; what the policy is of HMRC for the storing of information of former claimants of child benefit; and if he will make a statement [169531]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the statement given in the House by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1101-04.

The missing information contains details of all child benefit recipients, including those in Southend West constituency.

Information on families receiving child benefit at 31 August 2006 by constituency and local authority are published as part of National Statistics and can be found in Tables 2 and 3 of child benefit statistics geographical analysis which are available on HMRC's website at:

http//www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/geog-aug06.pdf

IT records for child benefit claimants are deleted five years after the award of the youngest child in the family has ceased.

Council Tax: Tax Yields

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the aggregated estimate for net council tax receipts for the UK, in Table B8 of the 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review, includes receipts from domestic rates in Northern Ireland. [176418]

Jane Kennedy: The figures for council tax receipts in Table B8 of the PBR/CSR document include Northern Ireland domestic rates.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what purpose the dwellinghouse code valuation grouping was created by the Valuation Office Agency in its preparations for a council tax revaluation. [176427]

Jane Kennedy: No council tax revaluation is taking place, nor has the Valuation Office Agency created a dwellinghouse coding valuation grouping for one.

A coding system has been in use for over 30 years to simplify recording of domestic property attributes—this continues as part of the Agency's responsibility to maintain the 1993 lists.

Customs Officers: Labour Turnover

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the staff turnover rate was for customs officers in HM Revenue and Customs in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [174522]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* The numbers of staff leaving HM Customs and Excise yearly between 1 April 2000 and 31 March 2005 are shown in the following table. After 1 April 2005, comparable figures are not available as no statistics are available for HM Customs and Excise as a separate Department.

	Number of leavers	*Rate (percentage)*
2000-01	1,657	7
2001-02	1,245	5
2002-03	1,198	5
2003-04	1,157	5
2004-05	1,301	5
2005-06	9,107	9
2006-07	9,631	10

Departmental Databases

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many confirmed security breaches of databases controlled by his Department occurred in each of the last five years; whether the breach resulted from internal or external action in each case; how many records were compromised on each occasion; and what estimate was made of the total number of records accessible to the individuals concerned. [173706]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* Except in exceptional cases, when it is in the public interest, it has been the policy of successive Governments not to comment on breaches of security.

Housing: Parking

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many domestic dwellings in England have *(a)* one parking space, *(b)* two parking spaces and *(c)* three or more parking spaces according to the Valuation Office Agency's database of dwelling house codes and value significant codes. [176426]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1596-97W.

Housing: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency's assessment of the plot size of a residential property includes the area of a *(a)* garage space, *(b)* outbuildings and *(c)* garden inside the curtilage of the property as a whole. [176420]

Jane Kennedy: Yes.

Inheritance Tax: Tax Thresholds

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether an impact assessment has been produced for the proposed changes to inheritance tax thresholds for married couples. [176435]

Jane Kennedy: Preliminary work identified that, in accordance with current guidance, an impact assessment was not required. In line with normal procedure, preliminary work is not published.

Inheritance Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what role the Valuation Office Agency plays in undertaking inheritance tax valuations. [176247]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency provides advice to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs in connection with inheritance tax through the provision of valuations of land, buildings, lordships of the manor, growing crops, live and dead farming stock, plant, machinery and fixtures. At the request of HMRC the VOA also undertakes negotiations with taxpayers or their agents to resolve any differences of opinion on valuation matters.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average capital value was of a domestic dwelling valued by the Valuation Office Agency for inheritance tax purposes, in each government office region area, in the last year for which figures are available. [176381]

Jane Kennedy: This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many homes the Valuation Office Agency valued for inheritance tax purposes in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales in 2006-07. [176398]

Jane Kennedy: This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Irish

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Irish citizens are estimated to be resident in the UK; and what estimate he has made of the likely number in 2017. [174762]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 8 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to respond on behalf of the Chancellor of the Exchequer concerning your question about how many Irish citizens are estimated to be resident in the UK; and what estimate he has made of the likely number in 2017. (174762)

I would refer you to the answer given in the Official Report of 20 November 2007, Volume 467, Column 704.

Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether an impact assessment was conducted of the reduction of empty business rate relief on business properties. [176382]

Jane Kennedy: A Regulatory Impact Assessment considering the reform of Empty Property Relief in business rates was published on 11 May 2007 and can be found on the Communities and Local Government website.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of businesses which will pay higher business rates as a consequence of the reduction in empty property business rate relief. [176383]

Jane Kennedy: No estimates are available.

Non-domestic Rates: Pigeon Racing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether HM Revenue and Customs recognises pigeon racing as a sport for business rates purposes. [176406]

Jane Kennedy: Sports clubs can qualify for mandatory business rates relief of 80 per cent. if they are registered charities or registered with HMRC as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs). However, it is for local authorities, not HMRC, to determine whether to exercise their powers to give up to 100 per cent. discretionary rate relief to non-profit making bodies including sports clubs that are not eligible for mandatory relief either as a charity or a CASC. It is also not for HMRC to decide which activities are eligible sports for the CASC scheme. Eligible sports are defined by Treasury Order, by reference to the Sports Councils' list of recognised activities. The list can be accessed at:

www.sportengland.org/index/get_resources/resource_ul.htm

Non-domestic Rates: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date the Valuation Office Agency's Non-Domestic Referencing Manual was last updated. [176253]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency's Non-Domestic Referencing Manual was last updated on 15 October 2007.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* the Valuation Office Agency and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs has commenced the procurement process to develop an automated valuation model for non-domestic rates valuations. [176430]

Jane Kennedy: Neither *(a)* the Valuation Office Agency, nor *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs is intending to commence such a procurement process.

Northern Rock

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether Northern Rock meets banking covenants on

(a) profitability and *(b)* cash flow on its borrowing from his Department and the Bank of England. [168528]

Kitty Ussher: On 14 September 2007 the Chancellor of the Exchequer authorised the Bank of England to provide a liquidity support facility to Northern Rock. A further facility with the Bank of England was announced on 11 October 2007. Extensive representations, warranties and undertakings govern the terms and conditions of the loans. The terms and conditions of the facilities are confidential.

Offshore Industry: North Sea

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the net cumulative contribution made to the British economy by North Sea oil and gas over the last three decades, expressed in 2007 prices. [173879]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

North Sea oil and gas has made a huge contribution to the British economy over the last three decades but that contribution cannot be encapsulated as a single value in 2007 (or any other) prices. Between 1997 and 2006, the cumulative gross revenue of the UK upstream oil and gas sector, principally from sales of oil and gas produced from the North Sea, amounted to £761 billion in 2006 prices. Over the same period, cumulative operating costs of the sector amounted to £129 billion in 2006 prices. The cumulative total gross operating surplus of the UK upstream oil and gas sector between 1997 and 2006 was thus £632 billion in 2006 prices. The gross operating surplus of the sector is a little less than its gross value added (GVA), data for which go back only to 1985. GVA is the best single measure of a sector's contribution to Gross Domestic Product. Over the period 1997 to 2006, the UK upstream oil and gas sector spent a further £44 billion in 2006 prices on exploration and appraisal and £171 billion on capital expenditure (these and previous data come from the BERR Oil and Gas website—http://www.og.dti.gov.uk/information/bb_updates/appendices/Appendix7.htm). It also contributed £233 billion in 2006/07 prices to the Exchequer over the period 1977/78 to 2006/07 (source: BERR Oil and Gas website—http://www.og.dti.gov.uk/information/bb_updates/appendices/Appendix8.htm). None of these figures captures the overall net impact the sector has had on the economy.

OGC Buying Solutions

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the ratio was between administrative costs and value for money improvements secured by OGC Buying Solutions in each year since 2003-04; and if he will make a statement. [170350]

Angela Eagle: The following table shows the ratio of administrative costs, which has been assumed to be total organisational operating costs, against value-for-money (VFM) improvements. These have been reported in the annual report and accounts 2006-07.

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
VFM improvements (£ million)	152	321	412	516
Internal costs (£ million)	16	19	21	21
Ratio:				
Cost per £ VFM improvements	£0.105	£0.059	£0.050	£0.041

Personal Income: Cleethorpes

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average household income was in Cleethorpes constituency in each year since 1997. [176890]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 8 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the average household income was in the Cleethorpes constituency in each year since 1997 (176890).

Estimates of household income which include income from all sources such as earnings, benefits, pensions, and investment income, are generally based on household surveys. The largest of these is the Family Resources Survey which has an annual sample in the UK of around 28,000 households. This is sufficient to produce estimates of household income at national and regional level, but not for smaller areas. Statistics on earnings by employees are available for local authorities from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) which is an employer based survey.

The ONS has published estimates of household income for wards for 2001/02, and using a newer geographical classification—the medium layer super output areas—for 2004/05. There are no figures available for other years. The geographical boundaries and data sources used in producing the 2004/05 figures are different to those used for 2001/02 so they are not directly comparable. In particular, they cannot be used to provide an accurate measure of change over this period. Both estimates are based on a statistical model and are classed as experimental statistics—this means they have been developed in accordance with the principles set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice but have yet to be fully accredited as National Statistics. They are available through the Neighbourhood Statistics section of the ONS website.

Table 1 shows mean net equivalised incomes, both before and after housing costs, for Cleethorpes parliamentary constituency in 2001/02, and for the wards that made up the constituency. Table 2 shows just average incomes for Cleethorpes constituency in 2004/05. The estimates for 2004/05 are based on the super output areas which do not correspond to areas which are as easily recognisable 'on the ground' as wards. They are designed to be built up to form larger areas and so Table 2 shows only an average for the constituency as a whole. All of these figures for Cleethorpes and wards within Cleethorpes, either appear in the 'experimental' datasets described above, or have been calculated directly from them.

For comparison with these figures, both Tables 1 and 2 provide mean incomes for either Great Britain or the UK for the relevant years. These are based on the Households Below Average Income series derived from the Family Resources Survey, and are National Statistics. The Household Below Average Income series generally presents results based on median incomes, however mean incomes are presented here to be directly comparable with the small area statistics.

Table 1: Average weekly household income 2001-02[1]

£ per week

	Net weekly equivalised household income (before housing costs)[2]	*Net weekly equivalised household income (after housing costs)*[2]
Wards in Cleethorpes constituency		
Croft Baker	310	260
East Marsh[3]	250	200
Haverstoe	370	340
Sidney Sussex[3]	290	250
Waltham	370	350
Wolds	380	360
Barton	330	300
Ferry	350	320
Humberston and New Waltham	360	330
Cleethorpes[4]	340	300
Great Britain	390	340

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
[2] Housing costs include rent (gross of housing benefit), water charges, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance and ground rent and service charges.
[3] These wards are split between Cleethorpes parliamentary constituency and Great Grimsby parliamentary constituency.
[4] Based on an average of the ward incomes, weighted for the number of households in each ward.
Source:
ONS, Department for Work and Pensions.

Table 2: Average weekly household income 2004-05[1]

£ per week

	Net weekly equivalised household income (before housing costs)[2]	*Net weekly equivalised household income (after housing costs)*[2]
Cleethorpes[3]	360	340
UK	430	370

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
[2] Housing costs include rent (gross of housing benefit), water charges, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance and ground rent and service charges.
[3] Based on a population weighted average of medium layer super output areas.
Source:
ONS, Department for Work and Pensions.

Poynter Review

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the timetable is for the *(a)* completion and *(b)* publication of the Poynter Review. [176891]

Jane Kennedy: An interim report was published on 17 December 2007 and is available in the Library of the House.

It is expected that the full review will be completed and published in the first half of 2008.

I also refer the hon. Member to the statement by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 612.

Research and Development Tax Credit

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value was of research and development (R and D) tax credits paid to *(a)* small and medium sized enterprises and *(b)* larger companies in each year since the R and D tax credit was introduced. [176962]

Angela Eagle: Estimates of the annual cost of R&D tax credits are published as National Statistics on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/randdtcmenu.htm.

Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps HM Revenue and Customs takes to inform private courier firms of the sensitivity of the contents of packages it employs them to deliver. [169888]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The interim report was published on 17 December 2007 and is available in the Library of the House.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what form of encryption algorithm is used to encrypt data sent *(a)* from the Student Loans Company to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and *(b)* from HMRC to the Student Loans Company. [175752]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1490W in response to earlier questions on the same subject.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Andrew Selous: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff work for the International Claims Processing Section of HM Revenue and Customs; and what its annual operating costs were in the last year for which figures are available. [174675]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* It is not possible to isolate operating costs or the numbers of staff handling international claims work across HM Revenue and Customs.

Revenue and Customs: Powers

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what powers HM Revenue and Customs has to obtain information on estate agent transactions. [176389]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs have a range of powers to obtain information relevant to ascertaining liability to tax and other duties. Estate agents, like others, can come within the scope of these powers but there are no information powers specifically concerned with obtaining information on estate agent transactions.

Revenue and Customs: Prosecutions

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 587W, on Revenue and Customs: prosecutions, how many of the 15 criminal prosecutions completed against HM Revenue and Customs staff for matters relating to their employment during 2006-07 related to *(a)* fraud, *(b)* fraud involving financial gain and *(c)* fraud involving financial gain relating to tax credits. [176797]

Jane Kennedy: Prosecutions are taken forward against the very small number of HMRC's 88,000 staff who abuse their position of trust.

Of the 15 criminal prosecutions reported on 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 587W:

Six prosecutions related to fraud involving financial gain

Six prosecutions related to fraud involving financial gain relating to tax credits.

The remaining three prosecutions related to charges of misfeasance in a public office.

Temporary Employment: Manpower

Mr. Byers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* number and *(b)* percentage of those in employment who were (i) agency workers and (ii) temporary employees was in each year since 1995. [174026]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer13 December 2007]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 8 January 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the (a) number and (b) percentage of those in employment who were (i) agency workers and (ii) temporary employees in each year since 1995. I am replying in her absence. (174026)

The attached table gives the number and percentage of people in the categories requested for the three month period ending June each year, from 1997 to 2007. Comparable estimates are not available prior to 1997 said for 1998 and 2000.

Estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Number of people aged 16 and over who are temporary employees, April to June, 1997-2007, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand, except where indicated

Three months ending June each year	*Total in employment*	*Temporary employees*	*Temporary employees as a percentage of total in employment*	*Temporary agency workers*[1]	*Temporary agency workers as a percentage of total in employment*
1997	26,356	1,739	6.6	235	0.9
1999	26,876	1,615	6.0	256	1.0
2001	27,438	1,652	6.0	268	1.0
2002	27,617	1,521	5.5	278	1.0
2003	27,863	1,422	5.1	246	0.9
2004	28,024	1,436	5.1	232	0.8
2005	28,193	1,371	4.9	253	0.9
2006	28,339	1,382	4.9	244	0.9
2007	28,434	1,427	5.0	275	1.0

[1] Temporary agency workers are included in the temporary employees total.

Note:
Comparable data not available for 1998 or 2000.

Source:
Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Valuation Office

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's CT and Best Practice Process Maps. [176410]

Jane Kennedy: The Council Tax Process Maps and Best Practice guidance is contained in the Valuation Office Agency's "How2" toolkit. This is held in linked electronic formats within the Valuation Office Agency's main IT systems and can be viewed with full functionality only through the appropriate software package. To provide a copy in the Library could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's technical presentation entitled "The Dating Game". [176415]

Jane Kennedy: 'The Dating Game' is not a technical presentation. It is an exercise used for internal staff training purposes. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what use the Valuation Office Agency makes of intelligent addressing for valuation purposes. [176423]

Jane Kennedy: None.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Valuation Office Agency spent on purchasing floodplain polygons from the Environment Agency; and what use is made of the data for valuation purposes. [176424]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency was provided with floodplain polygon data at no charge. The data are not currently used for valuation purposes.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency has purchased a licence to use the pictometry product which Ordnance Survey sells on behalf of Blom Aerofilms Ltd. [176425]

Jane Kennedy: No.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the average values are of coefficients for the Valuation Office Agency's value significant codes of *(a)* ZL, *(b)* ZI and *(c)* ZH for those sections of the country for which they are available; [176442]

(2) what the estimated weighted national averages of coefficients are for the Valuation Office Agency's value significant codes of *(a)* ZL, *(b)* ZI and *(c)* ZH; [176443]

(3) what the coefficients are for the Valuation Office Agency's value significant codes of *(a)* ZL, *(b)* ZI and *(c)* ZH, broken down by (i) time period, (ii) area and (iii) property type; and whether the dependent variables are calculated on a linear basis. [176445]

Jane Kennedy: The information is either not available or could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Valuation Office: Cars

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Valuation Office Agency spent on hire cars in the last financial year for which figures are available. [176429]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency spent a total of £637,028.80 (£542,666.69 excluding VAT) on hire cars in 2006-07.

Hire cars are used by the Agency as a cost effective alternative to paying a mileage rate for private car use on official business. The nature of VOA responsibilities necessitates considerable travelling to inspect and value properties.

Valuation Office: Cole Layer Trumble

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what effects the restructuring of HM Revenue and Customs Aspire contract has had on the commissioning of services from Cole Layer Trumble for the Valuation Office Agency. [176384]

Jane Kennedy: None.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what functions and business areas of the Valuation Office Agency Cole Layer Trumble have provided consultancy advice or support in the last 12 months. [176432]

Jane Kennedy: Over the past 12 months, Cole Layer Trumble has provided consultancy to the Valuation Office Agency on using automated valuation modelling techniques to support the Agency's functions relating to local taxation.

Valuation Office: ICT

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer into which local authority areas the 10,000 localities that the Valuation Office Agency has established for developing the automated valuation model fall. [176388]

Jane Kennedy: All local authorities in England.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans the Valuation Office Agency has to increase digitisation and computerisation of its records in relation to individual premises or properties. [176400]

Jane Kennedy: The VOA constantly reviews the way in which it holds its key records. Further digitisation or computerisation of its records will only be undertaken where it is considered to be both cost-effective and affordable.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency's information technology and data management systems are BS7799 compliant. [176411]

Jane Kennedy: Yes.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether funding has been agreed by his Department for the Valuation Office Agency to obtain a GIS system. [176438]

Jane Kennedy: The VOA has commissioned its IT partner to develop a Geographic Information System.

Valuation Office: Manpower

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent staff are employed by the Valuation Office Agency for undertaking work relating to *(a)* council tax valuations and *(b)* business rate valuations. [176249]

Jane Kennedy: At 2 January 2008, the VGA employed 4,037 full time equivalent staff of whom approximately 3,500 were engaged on council tax valuations and business rate valuations. As staff work flexibly across these local taxation activities, according to work demands, no further breakdown is available.

Valuation Office: Ordnance Survey

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what use the Valuation Office Agency makes of Ordnance Survey maps and datasets to calculate the plot sizes of residential properties. [176446]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency uses digital mapping tools, based on Ordnance Survey maps and datasets, to help determine plot sizes for residential properties.

Valuation Office: Rightmove

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency plans to exercise the option in its contract with Rightmove.co.uk plc to extend the term for a further 12 months. [176422]

Jane Kennedy: It is not normal practice to disclose commercially sensitive information.

Valuation Office: Training

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's eLearning module The Role of the AVM. [176405]

Jane Kennedy: This module was produced for internal staff training purposes in preparation for the (now postponed) council tax revaluation in England. It has been withdrawn from use.

Valuation Office: Travel

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tonnes of carbon dioxide were offset against travel by the Valuation Office Agency in the last year for which figures are available. [176416]

Jane Kennedy: This figure is displayed, along with further information about the GCOF, in the public domain on the Defra website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/carbonoffset/government.htm

Valuation Office: Video Recordings

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the titles were of the 25 internal videos produced for staff on the Valuation Office Agency's wide area network since October 2004. [176428]

Jane Kennedy: The information is as follows.

World Class Video Magazines—Spring, Summer and Autumn 2006
Andrew Hudson—On the way ahead for the Agency
The new restructured Human Resources Directorate
IRRV Conference 2004—Brighton
Out and About in Peterborough
Andrew Hudson Staff Survey 2004
Head of Customer Services—Freedom of Information Act 2000
A New Year message from Andrew Hudson
Staff Survey 2004—Insight into results (Andrew Hudson—CEO)
Message from ODPM client (March, 2005)
Introducing the new intranet
Right First Time Introduction
Message from CLG client (September 2005)
Next steps for the Agency—Andrew Hudson Chief Executive (November 2005)
Moving forward into 2006—A message from Andrew Hudson
BPS Introduction
Achieving World Class—Back-Up Recording of Live Broadcast
Achievements and Challenges—Video Message from Andrew Hudson (31.07.06)
New functions for the VOA—29 November 2006
New Year Message—Tuesday 16 January 2007
2007-08 Forward Plan Message—Andrew Hudson
Delivering the Vision—Where we are at the half-way milestone
The Rent Service

Valuation: Licensed Premises

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether section 825 of the Valuation Office Agency's Rating Manual Volume 5 has been updated in light of the Licensing Act 2003. [176248]

Jane Kennedy: The Rating Manual section on public houses, licensed restaurants and wine bars is being reviewed and comprehensively rewritten, and will incorporate all necessary charges.

Valuation: Shops

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's zoning of shops handbook guidance. [176251]

Jane Kennedy: A copy of the Valuation Office Agency's zoning of shops handbook guidance—"It's all a question of zoning" has been placed in the Library.

VAT: Crown Dependencies

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which categories of products illegal to market in the UK qualify for relief from value added tax under the Low Value Consignment Relief Scheme when imported for personal use from the Crown dependencies. [176949]

Jane Kennedy: Any goods which can legitimately be imported for personal use and which fulfil the relevant criteria, may benefit from the Low Value Consignment Relief scheme if the total value of the consignment does not exceed £18.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons personal imports from the Channel Islands of certain food supplements and herbal remedies which cannot be marketed in the UK directly are exempt from liability for value added tax (VAT) under the Low Value Consignment Relief Scheme; what assessment he has made of the impact of such exemptions on health food retailers and mail order companies in the UK; when he next plans to review his policy on such VAT exemptions; and if he will make a statement. [176950]

Jane Kennedy: Goods imported into the United Kingdom from the Channel Islands are subject to import VAT in the same way as goods imported from any country outside the European Union.

However, under European Community legislation, import VAT is not payable on commercial consignments, if the total value of the goods in the consignment does not exceed £18.

There is no prohibition on the importation of food supplements for personal use within the EC Food Supplement Directive, with the exception within the UK of Kava-Kava containing foodstuffs. Therefore UK Customs must apply the VAT exemption rules until the policy on the import of such goods is changed.

No assessment has been made on specific products imported under the Import VAT Accounting Scheme, but the scheme is very closely monitored taking into account the revenue consequences and the impact on the UK market.

VAT: Home Information Packs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue has been collected by HM Revenue and Customs in VAT on home information packs. [176450]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs does not collect data on VAT from individual goods and services.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 9 January 2008

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 294W, on Olympic Games 2012, if she will place in the Library copies of the financial updates for the last three months. [176154]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Henley (Mr. Johnson) of 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 767W.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Christmas

Mr. Burns: To ask the Leader of the House how much her Office spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* postage of Christmas cards in 2007. [176924]

Helen Goodman: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons spent £1,417.05 on charity Christmas cards in 2007. Oxfam, Women's Aid and the Samaritans were the charities supported.

The great majority of cards were sent by the internal mailing system and did not incur a postage charge to the Office.

Members: Allowances

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Leader of the House whether hon. Members will be eligible to use their additional cost allowance to pay for the costs of local authority charges for the collection of household rubbish. [176350]

Helen Goodman: Yes, provided it meets the rules given in the Green Book.

Official Engagements

Mrs. May: To ask the Leader of the House what *(a)* external and *(b)* internal appointments she had in each week of December 2007 in her capacity as (i) Leader of the House of Commons, (ii) Minister for Women and (iii) Lord Privy Seal. [177443]

Ms Harman: As with any Minister who has a broad portfolio I prioritise my work accordingly.

Regional Ministers: Written Questions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Leader of the House if she will make it her policy to allow written parliamentary questions to be tabled directly to each of the Ministers for the Regions in their capacity as a regional minister. [176256]

Helen Goodman: I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer given to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1W.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Sustainable Development

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department is on course to meet the commitment in the sustainable operations on the Government estate targets *(a)* to source at least 10 per cent. of its electricity from renewables by 31 March 2008 and *(b)* to increase recycling figures to 40 per cent. of waste by 2010. [176904]

Margaret Hodge: The Department has been supplied with 100 per cent. renewable electricity under the OGC Buying Solution contract since January 2006. The Department introduced a new waste management system into its Cockspur street offices in January 2007. The average monthly recycling rate is 59 per cent.

Entertainments: Tickets

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* music concerts, *(b)* music festivals, *(c)* sporting events and *(d)* theatres on unscrupulous ticket resales; when such discussions took place; and if he will make a statement. [177118]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS Ministers have not had any recent specific discussions with stakeholders on this subject, pending publication of a Select Committee report on ticket touting which is due 10 January 2008.

Gambling

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations he has received from industry bodies on the effect of the entry into force of the Gambling Act 2005 on *(a)* internet gambling and *(b)* other aspects of the gambling industry; and if he will make a statement. [176813]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The implementation of the Gambling Act 2005 which came into force on 1 September 2007 was the subject of extensive consultation with industry and others.

Ministers and officials continue to hold meetings and correspond with organisations including the Remote Gambling Association on many aspects of the remote and terrestrial gambling industry.

Legacy Trust UK: Finance

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much of the £40 million endowment to Legacy Trust was provided by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* Big Lottery Fund and *(c)* the Arts Council. [170151]

James Purnell *[holding answer 3 December 2007]*: The £40 million endowment for the Legacy Trust is made up of a £6 million grant from DCMS, £5 million from the Arts Council England (ACE), £5 million from the Big Lottery Fund (BiG), and £24 million from the Millennium Commission (which has since been transferred to BiG). The DCMS contribution is ring-fenced for the UK School games.

Legacy Trust UK: Pay

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the board members of Legacy Trust UK will be paid. [170150]

James Purnell *[holding answer 3 December 2007]*: The board members of the Legacy Trust do not get paid. They can claim expenses.

Television: Licensing

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on administering applications for black and white television licences in the last period for which figures are available; and how many staff hours were required for this purpose. [176262]

James Purnell: This is a matter for the BBC. I have, therefore, asked the BBC's head of revenue management to consider the question raised by the hon. Member and to write to him direct. Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Provisional IRA

9. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of levels of violence perpetrated by members of the Provisional IRA. [175924]

Mr. Woodward: The IMC reported in November 2007 that they believed PIRA was not involved in terrorist or other illegal activities, was fully committed to pursuing the political path and would not be diverted from it.

Requisitioned Land

10. **Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of land requisitioned for security purposes before 8 May has been returned to the original landowners. [175926]

Mr. Woodward: As a result of the Government's security normalisation programme the majority of land that was requisitioned for security purposes in Northern Ireland has now been de-requisitioned and handed back to the land owners.

Fuel Smuggling

11. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the police authorities in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland on fuel smuggling; and if he will make a statement. [175927]

Paul Goggins: While my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer has lead responsibility in respect of revenue fraud, law enforcement agencies in Northern Ireland work closely together through the Organised Crime Task Force. There are good levels of co-operation across agencies locally and on a cross border basis to tackle fuel smuggling.

Drug Smuggling

12. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the police authorities in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland on drug smuggling; and if he will make a statement. [175928]

Paul Goggins: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Member for Shrewsbury and Atcham (Daniel Kawczynski).

Dissident Terrorist Activity

13. **Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on levels of dissident republican terrorist activity in the Province. [175930]

Mr. Woodward: The IMC report published on 7 November last year outlined the activities of all Loyalist and Republican groups.

The despicable attacks by dissident republicans on two PSNI officers and ongoing activities by these groups clearly demonstrate the continued danger they pose for the security situation in Northern Ireland.

Departmental Equal Opportunities

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent by his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by his Department for this purpose. [173814]

Mr. Woodward: The following tables show the Department's spending on equality and diversity for the years requested:

(a) Spent in total

	Cost (£)
2004-05	145,124.30
2005-06	129,684.60
2006-07	102,551.43

(b) Spent on staff costs

	Cost (£)
2004-05	111,404.30
2005-06	107,826.60
2006-07	101,051.43

The Northern Ireland Office fully supports equality and diversity in the workplace and in the provision of services to the public. Equality and diversity is embedded into working practices across the Department and is not limited to certain staff. However, the Department does employ eight people who, among other duties, have responsibility for ensuring that the Department complies fully with equality legislation. Particular programmes in this three year period have included equality training for staff, an annual bursary for disabled staff and summer work placements for students from minority ethnic backgrounds.

Departmental Minimum Wage

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many London-based staff are employed by his Department on the national minimum wage. [175967]

Mr. Woodward: All Northern Ireland Office staff, both London-based and Belfast-based, are paid above the national minimum wage.

Departmental Training

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by his Department on equality and human rights training in each financial year since 2002-03; and what percentage this represented of the total training budget. [168535]

Mr. Woodward: Equality underpins all aspects of departmental training, with modules included in the NIO induction programme. In addition, equality and human rights awareness feature across the range of NIO management and leadership programmes. Given the variety of departmental courses, it is not possible to quantify the amount spent on these elements in isolation.

Amount spent (£)

Financial year	*Equality*	*Human rights*	*Percentage of training budget*
2002-03	17,747	0	5
2003-04	24,768	0	7
2004-05	19,117	8,000	2
2005-06	13,671	3,000	1
Total	76,303	11,000	—

DEFENCE

Art Works

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on art work in each year since 2001 *(a)* in total and *(b)* for its London headquarters. [176837]

Derek Twigg: The sum of £232,000 (excluding VAT) was spent on purchasing works of art in 2004-05 for the London headquarters of the Ministry of Defence. No other works of art have been purchased since 2001 for the London building.

The Meteorological Office—a Trading Fund of the Ministry of Defence—spent £279,092 on works of art for its new building in Exeter in 2003 and 2004.

Accurate information on expenditure on art in other Defence Agencies, Top Level Budget areas, Trading Funds, Joint Headquarters, single Service Commands and military units is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Christmas

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether it is his Department's policy to use *(a)* incandescent light bulbs and *(b)* LED lights for festive decorations on departmental premises. [173504]

Derek Twigg: No specific requirements have been set for this type of lighting.

Contracts

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of all price indices used by his Department in variation of price clauses in fixed price contracts. [176291]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will arrange for copies of the most recent Monthly Price Indices booklet and Quarterly Foreign Price Indices booklet to be placed in the Library of the House.

Together, these publications contain all of the price indices commonly used in MOD fixed price contracts.

Departmental Finance

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's *(a)* US dollar and *(b)* euro general accounting rate was in each financial year since 1997-98. [176292]

Derek Twigg: For the financial years 1997-98 to 2000-01, the GAR was based solely on the weighted average of the forward contract purchases:

	Accounting rate	*Accounting rate*
1997-98	Dm2.1958/£	$1.5205/£
1998-99	Dm2.7353/£	$1.6137/£
1999-2000	Dm2.7546/£	$1.6269/£
2000-01 (to December 2000)	Dm3.0065/£	[1]$1.6086/£
2000-01 (from January 2001)	€1.5372/£	[1]—

From the financial year 2001-02 onwards, the GAR has been based on the weighted average of all forward and spot purchases, adjusted monthly if necessary. The ranges of rates used for each year are shown in the following table:

	Range of rates	Range of rates
2001-02	€1.6176-€1.6250/£	$1.4350-$1.4568/£
2002-03	€1.5790-€1.6114/£	$1.3885-$1.4785/£
2003-04	€1.4910-€1.5650/£	$1.5142-$1.7500/£
2004-05	€1.4250-€1.4350/£	$1.5700-$1.7000/£
2005-06	€1.4300-€1.4500/£	$1.7300-$1.7800/£
2006-07	€1.4000-€1.4100/£	$1.8200-$1.8900/£

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department and its agencies spent on end-of-year bonus payments in each of the last five years. [171547]

Derek Twigg: The number and value of annual appraisal related bonuses paid to members of the senior civil service (SCS), to fixed term appointees and to civil servants below the level of the SCS covered by the MOD main pay deal (excluding trading funds), over the past five years, are listed in the tables one to three as follows.

Table 1: bonuses paid to senior civil servants

	Number of bonuses paid	Value of bonuses paid (£)
2007-08	186	1,325,700
2006-07	181	1,178,500
2005-06	184	918,000
2004-05	136	711,737
2003-04	140	701,221

Table 2: bonuses paid to fixed term appointees

	Number of bonuses paid	Value of bonuses paid (£)
2007-08	[1]13	286,699
2006-07	10	73,191
2005-06	10	65,586
2004-05	14	112,329
2003-04	13	86,531

[1] There are four outstanding bonus payments still to be agreed.

Table 3: end of year bonuses paid to staff below the level of the SCS

	Number of bonuses paid	Value of bonuses paid (£)
2007-08	52,193	39,695,110
2006-07	46,463	36,197,006
2005-06	38,766	37,962,800
2004-05	36,043	29,312,275
2003-04	27,497	20,203,875

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on overnight accommodation for Ministers overseas in the last year. [171339]

Derek Twigg: Details of the cost of overseas travel, including the cost of travel and accommodation are contained in the Overseas Travel by Cabinet Ministers list. The latest list for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the 2007-08 financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. All travel is made in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

RAF Machrihanish

Mr. Alan Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which bodies his Department has consulted on the future of RAF Machrihanish; and if he will make a statement on the future of the base. [176996]

Derek Twigg: No final decision has been made on the future of the former RAF Machrihanish. However, Defence Estates has consulted the Scottish Executive, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Airways Ltd. and has responded to approaches from a number of potential developers on a without prejudice basis.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many improvement notices have been issued under section 10 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006, broken down by the issuing authority; and if he will make a statement. [176147]

Jonathan Shaw: Figures on improvement notices issued under section 10 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 are not held centrally.

Fireworks: Environment Protection

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department and its agencies have given to local authorities on the environmental effects of municipal (*a*) bonfires and (*b*) firework displays. [176546]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has not published guidance specifically for local authorities on the environmental effects of bonfires and firework displays. However, the Department does publish advice to the public when air pollution is expected to be high, most recently prior to the weekend before 5 November 2007. This advice was published on 2 November in the form of a press release which advised that, while air pollution has fallen significantly in recent years, certain occasions such as bonfire night can see higher than average levels. Those with heart and lung disease, as well as those with asthma, were advised to spend less time outdoors and to use their medication where necessary. Those without such illnesses should not have been affected by the high pollution.

Fisheries: Enforcement

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1272W, on Fisheries: Enforcement, for what reasons the number of hours of aerial surveillance tasked have been reduced since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [176127]

Jonathan Shaw: The number of flying hours were reduced because of the introduction of satellite monitoring to all fishing vessels over 15 metres. The constant provision of data showing the activity of the majority of the UK fleet by the satellite monitoring system reduced the need for aerial surveillance.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will break down by subheading his Department's planned budget for fisheries enforcement in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [176141]

Jonathan Shaw: The budget for fisheries enforcement for the next five years has not yet been set. The budget for the period covered by the comprehensive spending review is currently being considered as part of the Department's business planning process.

Fisheries: Protection

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 409W, on Fisheries: Protection, whether replacement vessels were provided between 15 and 19 June 2007 when the three River Class offshore patrol vessels were recalled due to a Davit fault; whether his Department or the Marine and Fisheries Agency incurred any extra costs; and if he will make a statement. [176134]

Jonathan Shaw: No replacement vessels were provided between 15-19 June 2007 when the three River Class offshore patrol vessels were recalled due to a Davit fault. No extra costs were incurred.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 409W, on Fisheries: Protection, if he will provide the Marine and Fisheries Agency with the resources required to implement the European rules on electronic recording and reporting of fishing activities; and if he will make a statement. [176135]

Jonathan Shaw: Funding and resources to the Marine and Fisheries Agency to deliver electronic recording and reporting of fishing activities are being considered as part of the Department's business planning process.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 409W, on Fisheries: Protection, whether the Marine and Fisheries Agency or his Department will incur extra costs if vessels are required in the event that one or more River Class offshore patrol vessels are experiencing extended time off task; and if he will make a statement. [176136]

Jonathan Shaw: No extra costs will be incurred.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the new contract with the Royal Navy Fishery Protection Squadron, beginning on 1 April 2008, will cost in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [176140]

Jonathan Shaw: From 1 April 2008 the Ministry of Defence will charge for the service at a platform daily rate of £8,425. The platform daily rate will be assessed annually to take account of factors such as inflation and increases or reductions in costs. The Marine and Fisheries Agency and the Fisheries Protection Squadron will continue to review the platform days in the light of operational needs. The cost to the Agency in future years will therefore depend on the work to be done by the Squadron and the annual review of the daily rate.

Fishing Catches

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the commercial value of all fish stocks discarded by UK-registered vessels in *(a)* UK waters and *(b)* non-UK waters in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by fish stock; and if he will make a statement. [176145]

Jonathan Shaw: There are no current estimates of the value of discarded fish by UK vessels nor of the value of discards in UK waters.

However, to give some perspective on the issue of UK discards, recent Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) research undertaken among the UK fleets working in Area VII (the western English channel, Western Approaches, Bristol channel and Irish sea) estimated that the annual value of the landings from these fleets is about £70 million. The research suggests that of an estimated 72 million tonnes of fish caught some 35 per cent. was discarded.

This cannot however be prorated to an equivalent monetary value. Fish are discarded due to lack of suitable markets, because they are below minimum legal sizes or because they are marketable but over-quota. The following tables show the main species discarded in Area VII by species by the two main fishing gears used (beam trawl and otter trawl); many of the discards are of fish with low or no value.

The discard rates will in turn vary with area and by year in line with changes in the annual management measures which apply.

10 most discarded species and significant commercial species by English and Welsh registered beam trawlers

Numbers (x10⁶)

Rank	*Common name*	*Latin name*	*Annual mean*	*Range*	*Percentage discarded*
1	Gurnards	*Trigla spp.*	9.9	6.4-14.9	82 (4.6)
2	Common Cuttlefish	*Sepia officinalis*	7.9	1.4-13.4	58 (0.5)
3	European plaice	*Pleuronectes platessa*	7.2	0.6-23.4	43 (11.4)
4	Dab	*Limanda limanda*	6.8	2.7-15.2	97 (1.1)
5	Lesser-spotted dogfish	*Scyliorhinus canicula*	6.4	5.0-8.5	99 (0.6)
6	Poor cod	*Trisopterus minutus*	5.2	3.8-6.8	100 (0.0)
7	Dragonets	*Callionymidae*	4.9	3.2-6.1	100 (0.1)

10 most discarded species and significant commercial species by English and Welsh registered beam trawlers

			Numbers (x10³)		
Rank	*Common name*	*Latin name*	*Annual mean*	*Range*	*Percentage discarded*
8	Whiting-pout (Bib)	*Trisopterus luscus*	4.7	3.4-6.3	75 (5.2)
9	Whiting	*Merlangius merlangus*	2.2	0.6-3.4	83 (2.7)
10	Megrim	*Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis*	1.5	0.4-2.4	30 (3.0)

10 most discarded species and significant commercial species by English and Welsh registered otter trawlers

			Numbers (x10³)		
Rank	*Common name*	*Latin name*	*Annual mean*	*Range*	*Percentage discarded*
1	Dab	*Limanda limanda*	6.2	3.0-14.0	96 (1.9)
2	Gurnards	*Trigla spp.*	5.2	1.3-11.1	70 (5.1)
3	European plaice	*Pleuronectes platessa*	3.6	1.8-6.3	60 (3.4)
4	Lesser-spotted dogfish	*Scyliorhinus canicula*	3.5	2.3-5.1	75 (7.3)
5	Whiting	*Merlangius merlangus*	3.1	1.1-4.6	68 (3.1)
6	Boar fish	*Capros aper*	2.4	0.1-6.0	100 (0.0)
7	GT Silver Smelt	*Argentina silus*	2.8	0.0-8.3	100 (0.0)
8	Poor cod	*Trisopterus minutus*	2	0.8-3.3	100 (0.0)
9	Horse-mackeral (Scad)	*Trachurus trachurus*	1.8	0.5-3.5	81 (8.3)
10	Dragonets	*Callionymidae*	1.6	0.2-3.3	100 (0.1)

Source:
R. Enver, A. Revill & A. Grant, Discarding in the English Channel, Western Approaches, Celtic and Irish Seas (ICES subarea VII). Fisheries Research 86(2007) 143-152. A Cefas publication)

Fly Tipping

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which waste collection authorities did not provide data for Flycapture for 2006-07; and for what reasons. [176765]

Joan Ruddock: The Royal borough of Kingston upon Thames was the only waste collection authority that did not supply data to Flycapture, the national fly-tipping database, in 2006-2007. No reason was given for its failure to do so.

My officials have encouraged the borough to fulfil its legal obligation and it is recording data on Flycapture for this financial year.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations the Environment Agency made to the *(a)* former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and *(b)* Department for Communities and Local Government on whether home information packs should include information on (i) contaminated land reports and (ii) flood risk, as a required element. [176550]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency provided representations in responses to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's consultations on 'Reforming the Home Buying and Selling Process in England and Wales: Contents of the Home Information Pack' (July, 2005) and on the 'Home Information Pack Draft Regulations' (January, 2006), and a 'Memorandum to the Select Committee of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister: Housing, Planning, Local Government and the Regions' pre-legislative Scrutiny of the Draft Housing Bill (May, 2003).

The Environment Agency also put representations forward on the Searches (Environment) Working Group set up under the Home Information Pack Component Project Board and had various other meetings and correspondence with relevant officials regarding content of Home Information Packs.

Plastics: Recycling

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what records his Department holds on the facilities available nationally for the recycling and processing of *(a)* non-bottle-shaped and *(b)* bottle-shaped plastics; and if he will make a statement. [175617]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 8 January 2008]:* My Department does not hold records of the facilities available for processing non-bottled-shaped or bottle-shaped plastics.

However, the Government-funded Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) works closely with the plastics industry and has some broad information on the facilities available nationally. I have asked WRAP officials to write to you with further details.

Recycling

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library the data from WasteDataFlow showing the *(a)* final destination of materials sent for recycling, *(b)* tonnage sent for recycling and *(c)* quantity sent for recycling but rejected/disposed of by each local authority in England in 2006-07. [176769]

Joan Ruddock: I have arranged for the information requested to be placed in the Library of the House.

TRANSPORT

Cycling: Accidents

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cyclists have died in road accidents in each of the last five years. [177630]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is available from table 6 of the 'Road Casualties Great Britain: 2006 annual report'. Copies of the report have been deposited in the Libraries of the House. This table can also be found on the Department's website at the following address.

http://www.dft.gov.uk/172974/173025/221412/221549/227755/285672/WebTables120.xls

Driving Tests

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she plans to publish the consultation paper on driver training and testing. [175817]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In February 2007 we announced a fundamental overhaul of driver testing and training. We are working to bring proposals forward for consultation and hope to publish this soon.

Heathrow Airport

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the proposed third runway at Heathrow airport is planned to have the capacity to accommodate *(a)* Boeing 747-100 Jumbo jets, *(b)* Boeing 747-400 Jumbo jets, *(c)* Boeing 747-800 Jumbo jets, *(d)* Boeing 787 Dreamliners, *(e)* Airbus A350s, *(f)* Airbus A340s and *(g)* Airbus A380 aircraft (i) taking off and (ii) landing. [177061]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport' consultation document states that a third runway would be used for a range of aircraft types, but not the largest four-engined wide body aircraft. This is required to allow a balanced use of aircraft across three runways.

This view is based on an assessment of the typical operational configurations of each aircraft type taking account of expert opinions from aircraft manufacturers, NATS and airlines operating at Heathrow.

This assessment indicates that under typical operating configurations it would not be practicable for the Airbus A340, Boeing 747 (all variants) and the Airbus A380 to take-off from a third runway but that it would be technical feasible for some of A340 variants to land on a new runway, dependant on weather conditions and the landing weight of the aircraft. It would not be possible under maximum landing weights.

Based on available technical data, it is assumed that the new generation twin-engined aircraft, the Boeing 787 and the Airbus 350, could use a third runway for both landings and take-offs.

Heathrow Airport: Public Participation

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many households have been sent the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport Summary consultation document, broken down by *(a)* non-London borough local authority and *(b)* ward; and if she will make a statement. [177159]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Over 217,000 households around the airport were sent a copy of the Heathrow consultation summary and response form. Approximately 48,800 of these were to addresses in non-London borough local authorities. By local authority area, the break down is as follows:

Local authority	*Delivery addresses*
Bracknell Forest	400
Runnymede	8,000
Slough	17,700
South Bucks	1,900
Spelthorne	3,500
Windsor and Maidenhead	20,500

By ward, the break down is as follows (all figures rounded to the nearest 100).

Ward	*Borough/district/ unitary authority*	*Delivery addresses*
Ashford North and Stanwell South	Spelthorne	200
Bray	Windsor and Maidenhead	100
Burnham Lent Rise	South Bucks	100
Castle Without	Windsor and Maidenhead	3,400
Chalvey	Slough	1,900
Cippenham Green	Slough	2,900
Cippenham Meadows	Slough	4,000
Clewer East	Windsor and Maidenhead	2,200
Clewer North	Windsor and Maidenhead	2,300
Clewer South	Windsor and Maidenhead	2,200
Colnbrook with Poyle	Slough	2,500
Datchet	Windsor and Maidenhead	2,100
Dorney and Burnham South	South Bucks	300
Egham Hythe	Runnymede	1,900
Egham Town	Runnymede	1,800
Englefield Green East	Runnymede	600
Englefield Green West	Runnymede	2,000
Eton and Castle	Windsor and Maidenhead	800
Eton Wick	Windsor and Maidenhead	1,000
Foxborough	Slough	2,900
Haymill	Slough	800
Horton and Wraysbury	Windsor and Maidenhead	2,100
Iver Village and Richings Park	South Bucks	700
Kedermister	Slough	100
Langley St. Mary's	Slough	1,500
Old Windsor	Windsor and Maidenhead	2,100
Park	Windsor and Maidenhead	2,200
Staines	Spelthorne	<50
Stanwell North	Spelthorne	3,200
Thorpe	Runnymede	1,600
Upton	Slough	1,100
Virginia Water	Runnymede	<50
Wexham and Iver West	South Bucks	700
Winkfield and Cranbourne	Bracknell Forest	400

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the Government intends to amend the Road Vehicles (Display of Registration Marks) Regulations 2001 to permit the display of national flags and symbols on vehicle registration plates. [177146]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No date has been set to lay amending regulations.

Railway Stations: Birmingham

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) when contracts will be let for work on the upgrade of Birmingham New Street station, as set out in Delivering a Sustainable Railway; [170745]

(2) what the funding package is for the upgrade of Birmingham New Street station, as set out in Delivering a Sustainable Railway, broken down by subheading; [170747]

(3) when she expects work to *(a)* start and *(b)* finish on the upgrade of Birmingham New Street station, as set out in Delivering a Sustainable Railway. [170754]

Mr. Tom Harris: £128 million of funding has already been committed to New Street in the recent White Paper 'Delivering a Sustainable Railway'. The city council has bid for up to a further £160 million from the Department, through the regional funding allocation.

A separate bid for £100 million has been made by Advantage West Midlands to the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

There is also a package of funding from the City Council and from the private sector. The council's proposals for private sector funding are commercially confidential.

There is a clear case for improvements to New Street. The council and its partners have made great progress. They know that there are a few final important issues that they must resolve to ensure that plans for the funding and delivery stage are robust, given the significant amount of public funding requested.

The precise timing of contracts for construction is a matter for the council and for Network Rail once funding is in place. Their plans are for design to begin in early 2008, for construction to begin in early 2009 and be fully completed by 2014.

Everyone is working very hard, both within the region and within Government to ensure that decisions can be made as soon as possible.

Rapid Transit Systems

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which light rail schemes she has visited since her appointment as Secretary of State for Transport. [164626]

Mr. Tom Harris: Although the Secretary of State has yet to pay a formal visit to a light rail system, as a Greater Manchester MP she has visited Manchester Metrolink. She has witnessed the success of the scheme in tackling transport problems in the region and is aware of the benefits that light rail systems can bring. I have kept her appraised of the schemes I have viewed and we meet regularly to discuss issues facing the industry system.

Road User Charging (Charges and Penalty Charges) (London) Regulations 2001

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if she will bring forward the amendments to the Road User Charging (Charges and Penalty Charges) (London) Regulations 2001, identified by her Department in 2003, which would make identical the position for rental and leasing companies on the rights to transfer liability where the hiring agreement is longer than six months in duration; what estimate she has made of the resources required to implement the amendments; and if she will make a statement; [176267]

(2) if she will take steps to ensure that the London Low Emission Zone enforcement procedure is not brought in before the rectifying amendments to the Road User Charging (Charges and Penalty Charges) (London) Regulations 2001 are made to allow rental and leasing vehicle companies to transfer liability to the hirer. [176268]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* The Department for Transport (DfT) and Transport for London (TfL) have now agreed which amendments to road user charging regulations will be taken forward. These include the rectifying amendments to the Road User Charging (Charges and Penalty Charges) (London) Regulations 2001. DfT and TfL have also agreed that further consultation is necessary due to the length of time which has elapsed since the initial consultation. We expect to be able to make available the resources necessary to progress the amendments in the next financial year.

The London low emission zone (LLEZ) is the responsibility of the Mayor of London and is being taken forward by TfL on his behalf, any decision to delay the introduction of or suspend the LLEZ is a matter for the Mayor. The Government remain committed to improving air quality and support the aims of the LLEZ.

Roads: Safety

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons funding for the Specific Road Safety Grant (Capital) for Gloucestershire County Council will be reduced between 2009-10 and 2010-11. [177232]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Specific Road Safety Grant has been allocated to local authorities using a consistent formula based on road safety needs (the number of casualties over the 1994-98 period in the local authority area), and a qualitative assessment of their road safety delivery and future plans.

To ensure a smooth transition, from the previous safety camera netting-off arrangements, to the needs-based formula, the amount of funding awarded to those authorities with a strong road safety need gradually increases over the next few years, while funding for

those with a lesser need is gradually reduced. In this way, sudden large increases or reductions in funding are avoided. Gloucestershire county council's allocation reduces as they are deemed to have a lesser road safety need under the needs-based formula. A note explaining the allocation process, including how allocations have been increased or reduced as part of the smooth transition to the needs-based formula, is available on the Road Safety Grants section of the Department for Transport website at www.dft.gov.uk .

Salcombe Harbour

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will categorise Salcombe Harbour as category C waters. [176998]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Salcombe Harbour is already categorised as Category C waters.

Shipping: Qualifications

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will revise Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1808 (M) to allow a suitable Royal Yachting Association qualification to be an alternative to the qualifying service time; and if she will apply that provision to smaller vessels carrying up to 100 passengers on inland and tidal category C waters. [176997]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Although possession of a Royal Yachting Association (RYA) qualification will not in itself reduce the required seatime, it is already the case that, in some specific circumstances, RYA qualifications are considered an acceptable alternative to a Boatmasters' Licence (BML) and the experience gained operating in the relevant area may be considered towards the service time required. This extends to all categories of BML including those necessary for Category C waters.

Surveying: Maritime and Coastguard Agency

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what account was taken of trends in *(a)* UK tonnage over the past five years, *(b)* world seaborne trade, *(c)* the need for security checks and *(d)* new flag state and ISM code requirements in deciding levels of resources and support for Maritime and Coastguard Agency surveyors; [177111]

(2) what account was taken of trends in UK registered ship tonnage when deciding the levels of frontline service staff, in particular the number of ship surveyors. [177112]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency uses a risk based approach to review regularly the marine surveyor and administrative support resources deployed on maintaining ship safety standards, taking account of the changing nature of ships and the shipping industry.

The Agency also takes account of the need to implement safety and security requirements for UK registered and other ships, when considering the Agency's priorities for ship inspection and other work.

Thameslink

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Government have spent on *(a)* construction, *(b)* planning applications and *(c)* other costs relating to the Thameslink project since 1998. [175518]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* The majority of costs from 1998 to date relating to the Thameslink project have been incurred by Network Rail (formerly Railtrack) with most of these costs associated with the development phase. This includes planning, design, environmental assessment and the secural of the necessary planning powers which were obtained in 2006 following two public inquiries. From 1998 to date Network Rail has spent approximately £230 million on this project.

In July 2007 I announced the commencement of the construction phase of the project. Substantive construction work is scheduled to commence by Network Rail in early 2009 following the completion of detailed design and the placement of construction contracts during 2008. Some preliminary construction work commenced at Luton airport in October 2007 although spend to date has been small.

In addition, prior to July 2005 strategic direction for this project was discharged through the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) reporting to the Department for Transport. Since 1998 the SRA (and its predecessor OPRAF) spent approximately £5.9 million on external consultants to advise on the development phase of the Thameslink project. Following the abolition of the SRA in July 2005 the Department for Transport took over direct strategic direction of the project and since this date has spent a further £1.3 million on external consultants for the development phase.

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer of 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 767W, on Vehicle and Operator Services Agency, what progress has been made on the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency's study into the possible outsourcing of elements of its work. [177171]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Following presentation of a Preliminary Business Case to the DfT Board at the end of November 2007, the DfT Programme Team have been asked to complete further work by the end of February 2008 with the aim of recommending a preferred option. This would then be the subject of consultation if outsourcing is recommended.

Written Questions

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she will provide a substantive reply to the request by the hon. Member for Putney for an internal review in relation to the Freedom of Information request of 11 June 2007. [173111]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I apologise that the internal review has taken longer than I would normally expect. This complaint is being treated with thoroughness and urgency and the hon. Member will receive a reply as soon as possible.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Data Protection

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many confirmed security breaches of databases controlled by his Department occurred in each of the last five years; whether the breach resulted from internal or external action in each case; how many records were compromised on each occasion; and what estimate was made of the total number of records accessible to the individuals concerned. [173707]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 13 December 2007]*: It has been the policy of successive administrations not to comment on security matters other than in exceptional circumstances when it is in the public interest to do so.

Departmental Public Consultations

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 682W, on departmental public consultations, if he will place copies in the Library of the *(a)* summary and *(b)* full findings of each such poll undertaken since 27 June 2007. [173145]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to him on 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 682W.

Public Participation: Incentives

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1344W, on public participation: incentives, if he will place in the Library a copy of the report summarising the forum and giving the conclusions on public opinion. [174874]

Gillian Merron: The Leader of the House published "The Government's Draft Legislative Programme—Taking a Wider View", which included information about the Forum, on 14 November 2007 and a copy was placed in the Library.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Christmas

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* postage of Christmas cards in 2007. [176922]

Mr. Malik: DFID has spent £3,320.56 on 7,100 Christmas cards and envelopes in total.

It is not possible to disaggregate the cost of posting Christmas cards from DFID's overall postage costs. Not all cards would be sent by post: some might be sent by Foreign Office bag to overseas contacts, or sent by the internal Government mail system.

Grants

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has allocated in 2007-08 and 2008-09 for grant schemes for *(a)* schools links, *(b)* higher education links, *(c)* general community twinning and *(d)* health links. [176800]

Mr. Malik: Subject to resource allocation decisions for 2008-09 (due to be taken as part of this year's business planning round), indicative programme allocations for each of the areas aforementioned are:

£

	2007-08	*2008-09*
(a) Schools links		
DFID Global School Partnerships (DGSP)	2,700,000	To be confirmed[1]
(b) Higher education links		
Development Partnerships in Higher Education (DELPHE)	2,000,000	3,000,000
(c) General Community Twinning		
Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) Good Practice Scheme	277,000	[2]700,000 (provisional)
DFID linking scheme (new—DFID intends to commence a new scheme in 2008 to enable linking between community groups in order to create higher levels of development awareness. Funding levels yet to be finalised.)	Not applicable	Yet to be confirmed
(d) Health Links		
Project support to Tropical Health and Education Trust (THET) under the Civil Society Challenge Fund	190,000	200,000

[1] The contract for the DGSP programme is currently being re-tendered and the precise budget for 2008-09 will be confirmed at the conclusion of this competitive process.
[2] This funding has been provisionally agreed for the continuation of the CLGF good practice scheme, subject to negotiations.

Iraq: Reconstruction

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 915W, on Iraq: reconstruction, (1) how many projects have been completed in Iraq for each of the last five years; and how many of these projects received the top score for success in meeting its objectives in the relevant project completion report; [172377]

(2) whether the annual output-to-purpose reports on reconstruction in Iraq focus only on projects which have been completed in that year; and if he will make a statement; [172378]

(3) if he will place a copy of the annual output-to-purpose report on reconstruction in Iraq for each of the last five years in the Library. [172379]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: DFID has completed 32 projects in Iraq since 2003. This includes projects which are part of our bilateral programme and assistance channelled through the multilateral agencies such as the United Nations and Red Cross. All our projects valued at £1 million and over are regularly scored and monitored. This includes project scoring mid-way through the project—an Output-to-Purpose Review (OPR)—and a Project Completion Report (PCR) which is produced when the project has come to an end.

The following table summarises the scoring of our completed PCRs since 2003.

	Number of projects completed	*Completely successful*	*Largely successful*	*Partially successful*	*Successful only to a limited extent*
2003	4	4	—	—	—
2004	11	4	4	3	—
2005	12	2	6	3	1
2006	2	—	—	2	—
2007	3	—	1	2	—

Projects and programmes are scored according to whether they achieved their intended objectives. This will depend on a number of factors such as the level of risk and the type of assistance being given.

There is no general output-to-purpose report on reconstruction in Iraq that I can place in the Library, since all OPRs and PCRs are project-specific.

Minimum Wage

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many London-based staff are employed by his Department on the national minimum wage. [175965]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development has no London or UK-based staff who are employed on or below the national minimum wage.

Regulation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development for which regulators and inspectorates his Department has had responsibility in each year since 1997; what the budget was of each such body in each year; and what the cost to the public purse was of any restructuring of each such body in each year. [175309]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development is not directly responsible for any regulators or inspectors.

Tanzania: Overseas Investment

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the UK high commissioner in Tanzania on court actions against UK investors in that country. [166007]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State met the UK high commissioner to Tanzania on his visit to Dar es Salaam on 26-27 November. He was briefed by the high commissioner about a specific court case against a UK investor.

JUSTICE

Custodial Treatment: Children

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 145W, on custodial treatment: children, how many children of age *(a)* 10, *(b)* 11, *(c)* 12 and *(d)* 13 years were held in custody in the same establishment as children aged 14 years or over in (i) 2004, (ii) 2005 and (iii) 2006. [175781]

Mr. Hanson: Young people between the ages of 10 and 13 who have been given a custodial sentence, and those aged 12 and 13 who are remanded to the care of a local authority with a requirement that they be kept in secure accommodation, are placed in secure children's homes or secure training centres. Secure children's homes accommodate boys and girls aged 10 to 14, girls up to the age of 16, and 15- and 16-year-old boys who are assessed as being particularly vulnerable. (Courts cannot order 10- or 11-year-olds to be placed in secure accommodation.)

Secure training centres accommodate young people aged 12 to 14, girls up to the age of 16 and boys aged 15 and over who are assessed as being particularly vulnerable.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 145W, on custodial treatment: children, how many children of age *(a)* 10, *(b)* 11, *(c)* 12 and *(d)* 13 years were held in custody following incidents of assault in (i) 2004, (ii) 2005 and (iii) 2006. [175782][1]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows that the number of young people aged from 10 to 13 in custody on remand or under sentence whose principal offence was assault as at 30 June in the three years in question. Young people in this age range are accommodated in either a secure children's home or a secure training centre. These data have been supplied by the Youth Justice Board.

Number of children aged 10, 11, 12 and 13 years were held in custody (admissions) following incidents of assault in 2004, 2005, and 2006

	2004		*2005*		*2006*	
Age	*Remanded*	*Sentenced*	*Remanded*	*Sentenced*	*Remanded*	*Sentenced*
10	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	8	4	22	3	5	3

1. *[Official Report, 20 February 2008, Vol. 472, c. 10MC.]*

Number of children aged 10, 11, 12 and 13 years were held in custody (admissions) following incidents of assault in 2004, 2005, and 2006

	2004		2005		2006	
Age	*Remanded*	*Sentenced*	*Remanded*	*Sentenced*	*Remanded*	*Sentenced*
13	35	15	24	20	12	12
Grand total	43	19	46	23	17	15

The data include the following offence types: assault occasioning actual bodily harm, assault with intent to resist apprehension or assault on a person assisting a constable, common assault, malicious wounding/ grievous bodily harm, violence against the person and wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

Land Registry: Pay

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what date the current pay agreement at HM Land Registry ended; what the reasons are for the time taken to reach a settlement for 2007; what the timetable for negotiations is for 2008; and if he will make a statement. [177369]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry made a formal pay offer to the Unions on 21 December and is aiming to pay the award to staff in February 2008.

After the publication of the remit guidance on preliminary meetings were held with the Unions to obtain their views on what Land Registry should request in its pay remit. The pay remit was initially submitted to the Treasury on 10 August 2007 and, after correspondence with Treasury officials, was resubmitted on 5 October 2007. Land Registry staff have been kept regularly informed of the progress of the pay review. Clearance of the pay remit was received from the Treasury on 3 December 2007. Meetings were then held with the Unions on 6 December, 11 December and 19 December.

Until the 2007 pay review is settled, Land Registry will continue to apply the rules agreed for the 2006 pay settlement that ended on 31 May 2007.

Land Registry is not in a position to confirm the timetable for the 2008 pay award. However, the target settlement date remains 1 June 2008 and Land Registry will do its utmost to work with the Unions to reach a conclusion as close to 1 June as possible.

Offenders

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of offenders in the North East reoffended in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [175226]

Mr. Hanson: The National Statistics relating to reoffending do not include a regional breakdown. Figures for proven reoffending within two years by adults released from prison or starting a community sentence have been published for 2000, 2002, 2003 and 2004. The most recent data were published in the 2007 report, "Re-offending of adults: Results from the 2004 cohort" which is available online at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb0607.pdf

We have developed more timely area-based management information on a different basis from the National Statistics. These show for each of the 42 criminal justice system areas, the proportion of those on the probation caseload who reoffend within three months and are convicted within six months of the end of every quarter. These experimental statistics are circulated to probation areas four times a year.

Prisoners: Vocational Training

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the Government last reviewed the relevance of vocational training in prisons to the skills needed in the job market. [174552]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The Government reviewed the relevance of vocational training in prisons during the development and implementation of the Offenders' Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) in 2005. The Learning and Skills Council's document 'Developing the Offenders' Learning and Skills Service: the Prospectus' [September 2007] sets out a process for a full review of the vocational learning offer, by Criminal Justice Area, planned to begin in early 2008.

Prisons: Education

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent on education and training in prisons since 1997. [175183]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

Since the transfer of offender learning and skills from HM Prison Service in 2001, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills' Offenders' Learning and Skills Unit (OLSU), and its predecessors, have spent the following on education and training in prisons:

Financial year	*Total spend (£ million)*
2001-02	57
2002-03	73
2003-04	116
2004-05	126
2005-06	151
2006-07	156

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what minimum standards apply to the provision of education, vocational training and work programmes for prisoners. [175184]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) started to implement an integrated Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) across England from August 2005. The LSC's providers are required to deliver the service set out in the 'Offenders Learning Journey' which specifies minimum standards for education and vocational training for prisoners. A separate version of the 'Offenders Learning Journey' specifies the service for those held in Young Offenders Institutions, where the Youth Justice Board requires that 90 per cent. of young people receive 25 hours a week of education, training and personal development activity.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Departmental Co-ordination

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the finance director in her Department is required to authorise policies with significant financial implications for the Department; and if she will make a statement. [164964]

Mr. Byrne: The finance director advises Ministers on the appropriate budget delegations to be set for business areas, consistent with the Home Office's overall budget. The finance director then works with business areas to ensure that policies are affordable within these delegated limits. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 268W, which summarises the Home Office's approach to policies with significant financial implications and the role of the finance director.

Homicide: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many homicides there were in *(a)* Romford, *(b)* the London Borough of Havering and *(c)* London since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [176796]

Mr. McNulty: Information from the Homicide Index can only be broken down to police force area level. The following table of data relates to the number of homicides recorded by the Metropolitan and City of London police forces between 1997 and 2005-06.

Although the number of homicides in London is higher now than in 1997, there has been a reduction in each of the last two years. Moreover, the new Make Communities Safer Public Service Agreement (PSA), effective from April 2008, includes a target to reduce the most serious violence. Many of the actions required to achieve this objective will have an impact on a range of violent and sexual offences, but there will be a particular focus on homicide.

The Government are developing a wide-ranging programme of work to deliver the new PSA target, and will soon set out a new framework for tackling violence, based on the identification and management of risk and supporting victims to reduce harm.

Currently recorded homicides[1, 2] by police in London[3, 4], 1997 to 2005-06[5]

Year[1]	*Number of offences*
1997	156
1997-98	160
1998-99	143
1999-2000	172
2000-01	178
2001-02	179
2002-03	173
2003-04	189
2004-05	182
2005-06	177

[1] Homicide offences are shown according to the year in which police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

[2] As at 9 October 2006, figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

[3] Homicides recorded by City of London and Metropolitan police.

[4] Excludes homicides recorded by British Transport police.

[5] Data for 2006-07 and revised data for the period 1996 to 2005-06 are scheduled to be released in late January 2008.

Hunting: Arrests

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* charges, *(b)* prosecutions, *(c)* convictions, *(d)* cautions and *(e)* fines there have been for breaches of the Hunting Act 2004 in each police force area since its enactment. [176114]

Mr. Coaker: Data for 2005 and 2006 showing the number of defendants proceeded against, found guilty, cautioned and fined under the Hunting Act 2004, broken down by police force area, are in the following table.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty at all courts and fined, and the number of offenders cautioned by the police of offences under the Hunting Act 2004, England and Wales, by police force area[1,2,3,4]

Police force area	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Fined*	*Cautioned*
2005				
Merseyside	1	1	1	—
Northumbria	—	—	—	1
Thames Valley	2	2	2	—
Total	3	3	3	1
2006				
Cheshire	2	2	2	—
Durham	1	—	—	—
Essex	4	3	3	—
Humberside	4	—	—	—
Total	11	5	5	0

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The Hunting Act 2004 came into force in February 2005.

[4] Where police forces are not listed assume a nil figure.

Members: Correspondence

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will reply to Question 167966, tabled by the hon. Member for Cardiff, Central on 21 November for answer on 26 November; and if she will make a statement. [175544]

Meg Hillier: The question was answered on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 280-81W.

Police: Pay

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* total and *(b)* average overtime payments were for police officers in each police force area in England and Wales for each year since 1997. [176062]

Mr. McNulty: Data on police overtime is produced by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. Police Officer overtime for 1997-98 to 2006-07, broken down by police force areas, is shown in the table. The average overtime payment can be calculated by dividing the overtime payment by the official number of Police Officers for that year (using Home Office figures) and is shown in the table.

Data on police overtime is produced by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. Police Officer overtime for 1997-98 to 2006-07, broken down by police force areas, is shown in the table.[2]

2. *[Official Report, 21 January 2008; Vol. 470, c. 14MC.]*

Overtime spend £000

Force	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Avon and Somerset	2,835	3,103	4,054	3,443	5,112	7,000	6,899	6,870	5,351	5,801
Bedfordshire	1,603	2,132	2,372	2,709	3,992	4,106	4,708	4,693	4,181	4,398
Cambridgeshire	2,008	2,081	2,279	2,920	4,102	5,175	4,238	—	5,550	4,976
Cheshire	2,946	2,875	3,406	3,175	3,200	4,751	4,261	3,278	3,951	5,275
City of London	1,554	1,386	1,934	2,065	2,375	2,602	2,135	2,185	1,955	1,096
Cleveland	1,691	1,986	2,713	2,096	2,996	4,035	3,479	2,188	4,038	4,834
Cumbria	1,256	1,376	1,865	1,730	2,095	—	2,314	2,201	2,317	2,042
Derbyshire	2,108	2,287	3,512	2,718	3,278	4,010	3,542	4,009	3,822	3,778
Devon and Cornwall	3,634	3,988	4,653	4,831	7,658	6,441	5,476	6,026	6,566	6,568
Dorset	1,606	1,619	1,812	1,976	2,233	2,880	2,790	3,581	3,089	3,413
Durham	2,046	2,550	2,835	2,538	3,083	3,151	2,868	3,325	3,158	3,221
Dyfed-Powys	1,437	1,504	1,582	1,694	2,017	2,458	1,794	1,936	2,163	2,724
Essex	4,983	6,117	7,204	8,708	8,401	10,601	8,678	10,444	10,688	10,944
Gloucestershire	1,625	1,826	2,416	2,209	2,337	3,257	3,430	2,766	3,273	2,854
Greater Manchester	7,907	8,902	13,999	12,518	15,981	19,438	14,727	16,138	16,226	22,671
Gwent	1,788	1,954	2,934	2,993	3,020	3,184	4,077	3,447	4,123	3,993
Hampshire	6,016	7,367	8,322	7,109	8,557	11,603	9,703	11,818	11,243	12,001
Hertfordshire	2,907	2,806	3,840	7,056	—	9,036	7,494	6,854	6,576	6,742
Humberside	3,046	3,304	4,259	4,486	5,760	5,790	5,375	5,896	5,991	7,461
Kent	4,984	5,307	6,695	6,941	7,420	10,301	9,523	9,877	11,405	11,992
Lancashire	4,006	4,853	3,360	4,772	6,773	9,595	7,758	7,057	7,226	7,349
Leicestershire	2,634	2,787	3,122	2,946	3,305	4,404	4,123	4,342	4,720	4,482
Lincolnshire	1,781	1,702	2,380	2,945	2,537	3,199	2,193	2,856	2,345	2,214
Merseyside	6,372	8,411	9,207	8,848	10,455	11,144	11,637	12,577	12,103	11,215
Metropolitan Police	57,483	61,816	83,713	94,930	96,428	112,228	132,815	135,717	150,274	136901
Norfolk	3,260	2,826	3,694	3,848	3,737	3,884	3,653	3,950	3,640	3,374
North Wales	1,798	1,798	2,389	2,594	2,740	3,446	3,885	3,403	4,099	2,767
North Yorkshire	2,111	2,364	3,048	3,738	3,584	3,534	3,199	3,690	4,889	4,352
Northamptonshire	1,865	2,181	2,157	2,197	—	2,688	1,311	2,991	2,246	834
Northumbria	5,037	5,007	3,970	4,421	4,776	6,217	6,452	7,395	7,736	8,135
Nottinghamshire	2,215	2,660	3,567	3,210	4,304	4,626	—	6,782	5,886	5,091
South Wales	2,599	2,805	3,845	4,181	3,993	4,977	5,328	6,291	5,002	6,473
South Yorkshire	5,661	5,712	6,218	5,605	—	8,097	7,601	8,962	9,467	9,605
Staffordshire	3,080	3,347	—	4,664	5,089	7,580	6,241	5,973	6,054	5,210
Suffolk	1,304	1,421	1,367	1,760	1,775	1,815	2,031	2,171	2,041	3,467
Surrey	—	2,457	3,999	5,028	5,674	6,573	5,676	6,228	6,322	6,354
Sussex	3,985	3,753	—	14,418	8,159	6,098	7,971	8,887	8,213	7,271
Thames Valley	7,408	6,919	7,713	8,381	12,052	12,006	11,504	12,345	11,810	15,897
Warwickshire	1,077	1,372	1,585	1,773	1,811	2,207	1,945	2,279	3,056	3,207
West Mercia	2,654	2,896	3,088	3,837	4,495	4,857	4,503	4,491	4,107	5,237
West Midlands	8,657	10,283	9,838	11,366	—	18,785	16,637	18,009	23,496	20,081
West Yorkshire	6,461	5,365	6,746	7,322	11,839	13,510	10,997	13,549	13,323	13,244
Wiltshire	1,408	1,535	2,028	1,850	1,770	1,940	1,440	2,430	1,903	2,385

Source:
CIPFA Police Statistics: Actuals 2006-07 1997-98

Force	Average overtime per officer									
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Avon and Somerset	949	1,043	1,352	1,173	1,727	2,261	2,191	2,020	1,581	1,712
Bedfordshire	1,466	1,977	2,278	2,635	3,853	3,841	4,257	3,974	3,441	3,671
Cambridgeshire	1,542	1,611	1,788	2,361	3,165	3,800	3,062	—	3,959	3,480
Cheshire	1,440	1,408	1,645	1,579	1,598	2,307	2,011	1,506	1,807	2,426
City of London	1,809	1,680	2,486	2,823	3,378	3,406	2,642	2,562	2,232	1,261
Cleveland	1,159	1,339	1,917	1,493	2,129	2,762	2,199	1,297	2,409	2,883
Cumbria	1,098	1,183	1,656	1,596	1,999	—	2,030	1,801	1,881	1,660
Derbyshire	1,177	1,294	1,997	1,530	1,798	2,170	1,768	1,937	1,846	1,847
Devon and Cornwall	1,269	1,347	1,612	1,700	2,610	2,110	1,710	1,836	1,949	1,880
Dorset	1,251	1,236	1,417	1,513	1,649	2,085	1,970	2,499	2,130	2,298
Durham	1,401	1,683	1,808	1,629	1,933	1,952	1,737	1,973	1,838	1,896
Dyfed-Powys	1,431	1,501	1,542	1,629	1,912	2,171	1,561	1,669	1,842	2,305
Essex	1,683	2,089	2,492	3,104	2,910	3,598	2,903	3,371	3,350	3,338
Gloucestershire	1,435	1,654	2,188	1,983	1,992	2,753	2,795	2,154	2,535	2,214
Greater Manchester	1,142	1,281	2,056	1,842	2,313	2,693	2,006	2,007	2,018	2,848
Gwent	1,438	1,585	2,353	2,369	2,370	2,389	3,040	2,512	2,867	2,722
Hampshire	1,743	2,111	2,396	2,079	2,491	3,334	2,645	3,189	3,018	3,237
Hertfordshire	1,653	1,613	2,228	3,994	—	4,951	3,829	3,286	3,125	3,171
Humberside	1,490	1,635	2,157	2,322	3,005	2,813	2,553	2,664	2,687	3,355
Kent	1,529	1,633	2,092	2,166	2,236	3,070	2,731	2,762	3,180	3,332
Lancashire	1,234	1,490	1,036	1,501	2,081	2,904	2,323	1,988	2,035	2,051
Leicestershire	1,352	1,405	1,566	1,478	1,626	2,097	1,950	1,907	2,067	1,992
Lincolnshire	1,489	1,429	2,089	2,641	2,111	2,670	1,796	2,326	1,921	1,825
Merseyside	1,506	1,995	2,186	2,166	2,562	2,702	2,845	3,051	2,804	2,627
Metropolitan Police	2,155	2,369	3,211	3,725	3,876	4,280	4,746	4,564	4,893	4,483
Norfolk	2,277	1,977	2,674	2,786	2,632	2,646	2,437	2,616	2,358	2,167
North Wales	1,313	1,288	1,717	1,849	1,898	2,288	2,524	2,123	2,481	1,711
North Yorkshire	1,794	2,023	2,680	3,347	3,098	2,911	2,644	2,978	3,859	3,304
Northamptonshire	507	579	562	580	—	684	332	740	555	269
Northumbria	3,766	3,662	2,970	3,445	3,660	4,387	4,468	4,836	5,014	4,972
Nottinghamshire	953	1,145	1,603	1,456	1,946	1,985	—	2,730	2,353	2,055
South Wales	873	939	1,290	1,429	1,288	1,545	1,645	1,919	1,525	1,984
South Yorkshire	1,792	1,795	1,963	1,772	—	2,531	2,388	2,733	2,900	2,951
Staffordshire	1,393	1,460	—	2,150	2,390	3,554	2,834	2,636	2,655	2,293
Suffolk	1,105	1,198	1,149	1,537	1,567	1,509	1,621	1,665	1,554	2,667
Surrey	—	1,528	2,406	2,817	2,746	3,300	2,978	3,256	3,301	3,306
Sussex	1,292	1,253	—	5,108	2,858	2,108	2,667	2,924	2,698	2,352
Thames Valley	2,005	1,833	2,058	2,241	3,255	3,191	3,001	3,060	2,871	3,759
Warwickshire	1,163	1,485	1,746	1,971	1,956	2,278	1,951	2,261	3,023	3,108
West Mercia	1,301	1,441	1,525	2,034	2,304	2,407	1,996	1,907	1,735	2,228
West Midlands	1,217	1,437	1,344	1,580	—	2,466	2,146	2,283	2,917	2,480
West Yorkshire	1,240	1,041	1,354	1,518	2,459	2,763	2,187	2,569	2,366	2,347
Wiltshire	1,220	1,327	1,762	1,655	1,580	1,677	1,244	1,997	1,557	1,957

Source:
CIPFA Police Statistics: Actuals 2006-07 to 1997-98 / Home Office Police Officer Numbers

Police: Retirement

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of police officers who will retire in each of the next five years. [176070]

Mr. McNulty: The requested information can be estimated from the centrally collected data within the police personnel statistics series.

Police officers are eligible for retirement with an ordinary pension after 25 years of service. An ordinary pension is payable from age 50 unless the officer has completed 30 years of service, in which case he or she may retire with an immediate pension even if under the age of 50. Data for the number of police officers with 25 to 26 years, 26 to 27 years, 27 to 28 years, 28 to 29 years and 29 to 30 years of service are available.

Officers with less than 25 years of service may retire with an immediate pension between the ages of 55 and 60, depending on their rank and police force. Data for the number of police officers over the age of 55 are available.

We estimate that between 4,000 and 5,000 officers will retire with an ordinary, short-service or ill-health pension in each of the next five years.

Police: Standards

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of calls were met within the target time adopted by the Metropolitan Police in each of the last three years, broken down by borough. [176071]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested on emergency call handling is published in the Annual Reports of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC). The data are available at the force level only, although the City of London's emergency calls are also dealt with by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS). The MPS has adopted a target time of 15 seconds for responding to 999 calls.

The latest available data refer to the 2004-05 financial year, and can be found in Figure 8 of the HMIC Annual Report 2004-05. This publication is available via the Home Office website at

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc0506/hc08/0842/0842.pdf

In 2004-05 86.4 per cent of calls were responded to within the MRS target time, in 2003-04 87.9 per cent were responded to and in 2002-03 the figure was 82.3 per cent.

Prosecutions: Driving Offences

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* successful prosecutions, *(b)* cautions and *(c)* fixed-penalty notices there have been in relation to uninsured drivers (i) in total and (ii) in each police force area in each of the last 10 years; and what the average penalty was in each category. [176297]

Mr. Coaker: Available information taken from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Ministry of Justice for the offence of 'using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks', from 1997-2005 (latest available) is provided in the tables.

2006 data will be available later this year.

Proceedings at magistrates courts for the offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks[1], and average fine imposed[2] by police force area, England and Wales, 1997-2004

Number of offences

	1997		*1998*		*1999*		*2000*		*2001*	
Police force area	*Findings of guilt*	*Average fine (£)*	*Findings of guilt*	*Average fine (£)*	*Findings of guilt*	*Average fine (£)*	*Findings of guilt*	*Average fine (£)*	*Findings of guilt*	*Average fine (£)*
Avon and Somerset	9,424	259	9,875	204	9,357	165	9,578	182	8,455	130
Bedfordshire	2,951	314	2,992	293	2,328	274	2,323	226	2,916	164
Cambridgeshire	2,394	221	2,507	209	2,233	215	2,226	182	1,989	419
Cheshire	3,499	274	3,658	248	3,872	237	4,110	211	3,927	149
Cleveland	2,798	162	2,908	167	3,027	170	3,597	179	3,643	167
Cumbria	3,089	150	2,866	171	2,772	220	2,699	265	2,906	152
Derbyshire	3,830	270	3,522	279	3,613	283	3,945	296	4,261	337
Devon and Cornwall	4,967	184	4,263	185	4,681	178	5,890	179	5,742	133
Dorset	3,458	295	2,777	302	3,013	301	3,548	261	2,986	124
Durham	2,912	181	3,086	177	4,475	194	4,338	160	4,361	118
Essex	4,507	174	4,635	149	5,035	140	5,356	123	5,417	101
Gloucestershire	2,114	154	2,885	202	2,867	247	2,548	240	2,692	91
Greater Manchester	20,548	245	21,430	226	23,696	236	24,020	232	26,600	152
Hampshire	7,844	132	8,028	135	8,123	138	7,578	136	7,677	119
Hertfordshire	2,573	193	3,056	164	2,789	173	3,332	204	3,691	155
Humberside	3,479	159	3,501	148	3,920	143	4,065	137	3,657	122
Kent	4,754	246	4,808	241	4,232	227	6,431	271	7,063	209
Lancashire	11,577	332	11,198	296	10,800	237	11,054	219	9,812	111
Leicestershire	5,990	318	6,265	318	7,281	276	6,752	254	6,849	134
Lincolnshire	3,001	159	3,466	197	3,744	209	3,321	188	2,970	133
London, City of	1,382	332	1,431	314	1,141	346	777	375	1,021	369
Merseyside	8,432	200	7,694	203	6,920	200	7,813	207	7,794	163
Metropolitan Police	25,866	202	22,874	185	20,893	184	20,247	169	22,677	139
Norfolk	3,456	242	3,060	256	3,000	265	2,851	210	3,040	99
Northamptonshire	3,083	243	3,271	286	4,151	310	2,998	280	1,643	280
Northumbria	8,064	136	8,079	146	9,299	148	9,430	144	9,251	130
North Yorkshire	2,778	249	2,538	236	2,656	230	2,572	211	2,216	130

Proceedings at magistrates courts for the offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks[1], and average fine imposed[2] by police force area, England and Wales, 1997-2004

Number of offences

	1997		1998		1999		2000		2001	
Police force area	*Findings of guilt*	*Average fine (£)*	*Findings of guilt*	*Average fine (£)*	*Findings of guilt*	*Average fine (£)*	*Findings of guilt*	*Average fine (£)*	*Findings of guilt*	*Average fine (£)*
Nottinghamshire	6,149	164	6,658	165	6,156	153	6,082	150	6,261	152
South Yorkshire	7,342	194	7,831	206	8,424	191	8,956	170	10,163	128
Staffordshire	5,251	251	5,379	228	5,725	234	6,760	198	4,723	152
Suffolk	2,202	193	2,283	192	2,547	192	2,330	183	2,387	128
Surrey	2,439	243	2,051	242	2,278	215	2,577	218	2,826	201
Sussex	4,726	218	4,150	186	4,198	181	3,808	167	4,016	118
Thames Valley	6,258	292	6,311	257	7,291	268	7,456	250	7,128	134
Warwickshire	2,595	228	2,394	175	2,192	177	2,316	188	2,672	156
West Mercia	4,848	268	5,624	282	5,224	282	5,542	263	5,766	176
West Midlands	18,484	207	18,969	190	16,407	189	18,010	201	18,221	169
West Yorkshire	15,041	255	14,682	242	15,903	242	15,649	209	15,934	120
Wiltshire	2,310	152	2,712	182	2,558	186	2,625	204	3,281	283
Dyfed-Powys	1,953	183	1,952	182	2,044	175	2,076	169	1,914	155
Gwent	2,899	253	3,344	225	3,452	225	3,808	208	3,836	148
North Wales	3,280	210	3,309	226	3,097	272	2,848	230	2,565	144
South Wales	9,936	190	10,629	180	10,467	183	10,335	188	9,809	159
England and Wales	254,483	224	254,951	214	257,881	212	264,577	203	266,758	150

Number of offences

	2002		2003[3]		2004		2005	
Police force area	*Findings of guilt*	*Average fine (£)*	*Findings of guilt*	*Average fine (£)*	*Findings of guilt*	*Average fine (£)*	*Findings of guilt*	*Average fine (£)*
Avon and Somerset	9,766	133	10,633	138	10,925	154	8,688	154
Bedfordshire	3,184	169	3,524	137	3,220	143	3,334	156
Cambridgeshire	2,298	118	2,728	131	2,678	152	2,827	171
Cheshire	4,600	153	5,414	167	5,412	179	3,871	190
Cleveland	4,325	173	4,017	171	5,124	189	3,819	202
Cumbria	2,888	151	2,868	159	2,762	169	2,199	171
Derbyshire	4,736	355	4,956	367	5,557	367	5,190	376
Devon and Cornwall	6,380	132	6,635	127	6,217	134	5,241	145
Dorset	3,388	114	4,276	125	3,634	158	3,584	171
Durham	4,632	122	4,535	121	4,065	116	3,186	123
Essex	5,401	104	5,487	112	5,368	164	5,413	182
Gloucestershire	2,297	86	2,599	133	2,451	147	2,042	143
Greater Manchester	27,805	151	29,826	157	26,939	167	22,869	176
Hampshire	8,135	122	8,148	124	7,509	131	6,251	138
Hertfordshire	4,214	166	5,099	181	5,401	198	5,716	208
Humberside	3,576	132	4,460	137	4,348	150	4,136	180
Kent	7,722	192	7,485	191	8,377	197	7,050	204
Lancashire	11,107	113	13,770	141	10,011	156	10,945	169
Leicestershire	7,435	135	8,114	138	7,822	150	5,340	145
Lincolnshire	3,070	134	4,298	148	4,781	179	3,907	185
London, City of	1,333	368	1,606	334	1,125	230	1,068	198
Merseyside	8,688	167	10,756	148	10,555	137	8,757	141
Metropolitan Police	27,307	140	31,702	143	36,707	147	36,033	165
Norfolk	3,610	107	4,485	139	3,750	152	3,436	152
Northamptonshire	913	339	3,261	245	4,671	183	3,606	156
Northumbria	9,364	135	9,904	135	9,159	137	9,348	142
North Yorkshire	2,124	136	2,369	141	2,537	166	2,569	177
Nottinghamshire	6,005	156	7,730	152	7,833	188	6,299	138
South Yorkshire	10,101	137	9,965	146	8,571	125	8,484	147
Staffordshire	5,764	163	6,128	166	6,370	186	5,959	230
Suffolk	2,862	138	3,594	133	3,548	136	2,738	156

Number of offences

Police force area	2002 Findings of guilt[1]	2002 Average fine (£)	2003[2] Findings of guilt	2003[2] Average fine (£)	2004 Findings of guilt	2004 Average fine (£)	2005 Findings of guilt	2005 Average fine (£)
Surrey	3,158	215	2,900	221	2,604	197	2,874	195
Sussex	3,730	117	3,694	138	3,102	162	3,370	170
Thames Valley	8,334	135	9,759	158	9,208	198	7,887	206
Warwickshire	2,395	168	2,905	164	3,438	210	2,958	200
West Mercia	5,858	180	6,051	165	5,540	193	5,604	208
West Midlands	22,202	192	25,557	200	27,734	206	24,890	207
West Yorkshire	14,043	123	17,101	134	20,308	144	16,220	144
Wiltshire	3,170	286	3,022	280	2,794	200	2,814	208
Dyfed-Powys	2,293	166	2,243	172	1,650	187	1,890	184
Gwent	3,676	154	3,465	171	2,980	157	2,761	171
North Wales	3,003	150	4,542	149	4,797	154	3,331	163
South Wales	11,607	173	11,756	158	11,232	154	8,694	149
England and Wales	288,499	155	323,367	160	322,814	169	287,198	177

[1] An offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s. 143 (2).
[2] Magistrates courts data only. Fines given at the Crown court total nationally (England and Wales) less than 10 each year.
[3] As from 1 June 2003, 'driving a motor vehicle while uninsured against third party risks' became a fixed penalty offence.

Notes:
1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences may be less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Racially Aggravated Offences

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of crimes recorded as racially motivated were perpetrated against asylum seekers in the last *(a)* year, *(b)* five years and *(c)* 10 years. [177042]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available centrally. The Home Office collects and publishes data on the number of racially or religiously aggravated offences recorded by the police. However, no information is collected on the status of the victims of these crimes.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Casinos: Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 556-7W, on casinos: planning permission, if she will place in the Library a copy of the Planning Inspectorate ruling for each of the eight appeals. [176260]

Mr. Iain Wright: Copies of the Planning Inspectors' decisions, referred to in the answer given to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 556-7W, have been placed in the Library of the House.

Council Housing: Sales

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of income from the sale of council accommodation was used for the development of new council *(a)* housing and *(b)* affordable housing in each London borough in 2006-07. [168057]

Mr. Iain Wright: We hold no data which separately identify how the receipts from council house sales are used. Receipts from housing-related asset sales, including from right to buy, are subject to a 'pooling' regime whereby a proportion of the receipts come to central Government and a proportion is retained by the local authority. The proportion that comes to central Government is 75 per cent. for a dwelling or 50 per cent. for a non-dwelling asset such as housing land. The local authority is free to use the remaining 25 per cent. and 50 per cent. respectively for any capital purpose it sees fit, including the development of new council housing and affordable housing.

Audited data are currently only available for 2005-06, when pooled capital receipts in London totalled £319 million. Housing Corporation spend through the Affordable Housing Programme on affordable housing in London was £714.5 million for that financial year. Local authorities may also spend their own capital resources on provision of affordable housing, but separate figures are not available for this.

The following table shows Housing Corporation spend on the provision of new affordable housing for both social rented and low cost home ownership in London. The spend includes both new build and acquisition and refurbishment. It excludes spend on works (repairs/improvements) to existing registered social landlord stock.

London borough	Total (£ million)
City of London	2.5
Barking and Dagenham	12.9
Barnet	21.5
Bexley	13.5
Brent	24.3
Bromley	19.2
Camden	17.9
Croydon	34.5
Ealing	28.6
Enfield	24.2
Greenwich	22.1
Hackney	34.1
Hammersmith and Fulham	21.5
Haringey	26.6
Harrow	9.0
Havering	10.3
Hillingdon	17.1
Hounslow	30.9
Islington	25.3
Kensington and Chelsea	6.7
Kingston upon Thames	10.9
Lambeth	45.7
Lewisham	20.9
Merton	9.2
Newham	39.4
Redbridge	12.2
Richmond upon Thames	6.2
Southwark	39.0
Sutton	13.4
Tower Hamlets	38.9
Waltham Forest	14.5
Wandsworth	21.5
Westminster	24.9

Empowerment Champions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the criteria were by which she decided which local authorities were to be named as empowerment champions. [176159]

John Healey: The 18 local authorities named as empowerment champions were selected because they demonstrated that improvements were being made to people's lives in their area through a number of specific empowerment initiatives, and that there were plans for further development action. They agreed to work with the Department to spotlight good practice, develop peer learning programmes and contribute to the development of national policy. The selections took into account the views of the Government offices for the regions and the importance of including all the English regions, a cross-section of political control, types of council, and types of community served, to ensure the widest relevance of the learning programmes developed through the network.

Empty Property

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many unoccupied domestic properties there were in England and Wales in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [176902]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* The numbers of vacant dwellings are tabulated for England. The figures include long and short-term vacancies of less than six months.

	Snapshot date	Long term vacancies	Short term vacancies	Total for England
2002	1 November	375,600	382,500	758,100
2003	3 November	360,500	383,300	743,800
2004	1 November	318,600	395,300	714,000
2005	10 October	313,600	409,600	723,200
2006	9 October	318,400	429,700	748,200

Figures are available for England only.
Source:
Council Tax Base (CTB1) returns

Empty Property: Urban Areas

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the number of unoccupied flats and apartments in city centres. [177194]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on vacancies by type of dwelling is not held centrally.

English Regions Network

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* function and *(b)* purpose is of the English Regions Network. [176586]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1158W.

Greater London Authority Act 2007

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which provisions of the Greater London Authority Act 2007 will come into force before May 2008. [176209]

John Healey: The Government intend to commence all the provisions of the Greater London Authority Act 2007 before the GLA elections on 1 May.

Green Belt

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 563-4W, on Green Belt, for what reasons green belt protection is not compatible with National Park designation. [176456]

Mr. Iain Wright: Green belt protection is not incompatible with National Park designation, although they have different purposes. The primary purposes of green belt are to prevent urban sprawl and prevent towns from merging, and to assist in urban regeneration by encouraging reuse of urban brownfield land, whereas the aims of the National Parks are to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of each park and

to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of their special qualities by the public. However, both provide particularly strong controls over development.

In relation to New Forest National Park, it was the decision of Hampshire county council and New Forest district council as part of their review of relevant development plans, to de-designate green belt land in the area of the National Park once the Park was created.

Housing: Disabled

Ms Hewitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what support her Department provides to local authorities to ensure that enough homes are available with appropriate adaptations to meet the needs of people using wheelchairs. [169925]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department for Communities and Local Government funds local authorities with an annual grant of £121 million to help finance the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) programme (increasing to £146 million in 2008-09). The DFG programme helps around 37,000 disabled people each year by providing assistance with a wide range of housing adaptations, which helps to enable them to remain living independently in their home.

The Department has also set out proposals for the implementation of the Lifetime Homes Standards in our response to the consultation on the Code for Sustainable Homes. The standards significantly improve the suitability and adaptability of homes for people in wheelchairs as well as for other people whose circumstances undergo change. From 2011 all publicly funded housing will be built to the Lifetime Homes Standards, significantly increasing the provision of this type of accommodation.

Additionally, as part of their approach to planning and housing policy, local authorities are required to identify households with specific needs. The Department's Strategic Housing Market Assessment Practice Guidance explains how authorities can undertake such assessments. That includes identifying the number of people with disabilities who require adapted housing.

Housing: Green Belt

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the number of dwellings that were built in *(a)* St Albans District and *(b)* Hertfordshire on land (i) designated and (ii) previously designated as green belt in 2007; and what estimate it has made of the number likely to be built in each case under the proposed regional spatial strategies in each year of those strategies. [177023]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not hold information in a format which would enable the number of dwellings built on designated, or previously designated, green belt in either St Albans or Hertfordshire to be readily identified. The Draft East of England Plan includes housing allocations for St Albans of 360 dwellings per annum to 2021 and, for Hertfordshire, 4,380 dwellings per annum to 2021.

The East of England Plan identifies a need for strategic green belt reviews at Hemel Hempstead, Welwyn Hatfield, Stevenage and around Harlow to permit those towns to develop further as Key Centres for Development and Change. It is not possible to predict the proportion of housing which may be built on land excluded from the green belt—that will depend on the Local Development Documents prepared by local planning authorities. However, the East of England Plan also contains a requirement that 60 per cent. of new homes should be built on previously developed land.

Land Use

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many civil servants are assisting the hon. Member for Truro and St. Austell in his review of land use and planning. [176188]

Mr. Iain Wright: The secretariat support for the review currently consists of two full-time civil servants, but will draw upon the expertise of a range of officials from the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and across Government, where applicable.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her proposals to introduce powers to ballot on spending decisions would involve *(a)* the council and *(b)* the public. [176738]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1152W.

Members: Pay

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the hon. Member for Truro and St. Austell is receiving *(a)* payment from the public purse and *(b)* expenses for his review of land use and planning. [176197]

Mr. Iain Wright: In accordance with Cabinet Office guidance, the hon. Member for Truro and St. Austell is not receiving payment to conduct his review but is able to claim out-of-pocket expenses associated with the role.

Mortgages

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of first-time buyers took out mortgages of 100 per cent. or more of the purchase price of the property in each year for which figures are available from 1997 to 2005. [176594]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 686W.

Non-Domestic Rates: Renewable Energy

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average additional contribution is of a ground source heat pump to the rental value of a business premises in the assessment of its rateable value for business rates by the Valuation Office Agency. [176618]

John Healey: Where business premises are heated this will normally increase the rental, and therefore the rateable value, as compared to similar premises that are unheated. This will be the case whether the heating plant is of traditional design or a ground source heat pump is used.

However, it is not possible, at reasonable cost, to identify premises with ground source heat pumps and calculate the average addition for that portion of the rateable value attributable to ground source heat pumps.

Planning Permission: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what is the estimated change in revenue to be raised from the new planning charges system. [176561]

Mr. Iain Wright: The community infrastructure levy (CIL) proposals in the Planning Bill would empower local planning authorities (LPAs) and other authorities to levy a charge to help fund the infrastructure needed to support housing growth and other new development. LPAs would need to decide whether to introduce a CIL in their areas and the level at which it was set. The CIL has the potential to raise hundreds of millions of pounds of additional investment across England.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* central Government, *(b)* regional planning bodies or *(c)* regional development agencies will receive revenue raised by the new planning charges. [176562]

Mr. Iain Wright: The community infrastructure levy (CIL) is a local mechanism designed to help fund the infrastructure needed to support the growth in housing and other new development. The charging authorities for the CIL will usually be local planning authorities (LPAs) but it may be appropriate for charging authorities to pass CIL revenue to other bodies to deliver infrastructure as is common under the current planning obligations regime. The Government will continue to work with stakeholders to develop the detail of how this could be achieved.

Planning: Retail Trade

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to publish changes to Planning Policy Statement 6; and whether she plans to consult on those changes. [175959]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government's response to "Planning White Paper Consultation: Government response to consultation replies", which was published on 27 November 2007, reported that it remains our intention to consult on revisions to Planning Policy Statement 6: "Planning for town centres (PPS6)" early this year.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 settlement letter from HM Treasury sent to her Department. [176557]

John Healey: Details of the DCLG's overall Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 settlement were published on 9 October 2007 as part of the 2007 pre-Budget report and Comprehensive Spending Review White Paper (Command Paper 7227). These were placed in the Library of the House at time of publication and can also be found on the HM Treasury website via

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pbr_csr/report/pbr_csr07_repindex.cfm

Further announcements of CLG programmes over the CSR period have been made following the CSR, including on 6 December 2007 as part of the provisional Local Government Finance settlement. Details of this can be found on the CLG website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/0809/grant.htm

Regional Government: Manpower

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* communications, *(b)* marketing, *(c)* information and *(d)* press officers work for each regional chamber in England. [176747]

John Healey: The following table sets out the number of staff employed by each regional assembly whose work includes *(a)* communications, *(b)* marketing, *(c)* information and/or *(d)* press officer duties.

Regional assembly	*Number of staff*	*Notes*
East of England	1.5	(a) only
East Midlands	1	(a) and (d) only
North-east	0.2	(a) only
North-west	0.75	(a) (b) (c) and (d)
South-east	4	(a) (c) and (d) only
South-west	1.8	(a) (b) (c) and (d)
West midlands	1.5	(a) (b) (c) and (d)
Yorkshire and the Humber	1.5	(a) (c) and (d) only

Note:
Figures given are totals for full-time equivalent staff

Regional Planning and Development

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the status is of the National Spatial Address Infrastructure; and what the public expenditure has been on the scheme to date. [176753]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 548W.

Standards Board: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what annual financial saving is expected following the relocation from London to Manchester of the Standards Board. [176598]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1350W.

Supporting People Programme: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding was allocated to the Supporting People budget in each year since its inception; and what the planned expenditure is in the next three years. [176217]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the indicative allocations of funding for the next three years announced by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing on 6 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 81WS. Funding since the inception of the Supporting People programme in 2003 is set out in the table as follows:

	SP Grant (£ billion)
2003-04	1.814
2004-05	1.805
2005-06	1.715
2006-07	1.685
2007-08	1.696

UK Location Strategy

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to publish the UK Location Strategy. [175656]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government expect to publish Place Matters: The Location Strategy for the United Kingdom early this year.

UK Location Strategy: Geographic Information Panel

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Geographic Information Panel has taken to engage the private sector in the development of the UK Location Strategy. [175653]

Mr. Iain Wright: Place Matters: The Location Strategy for the United Kingdom was developed by the United Kingdom Geographic Information Panel (GI Panel) during 2006 and 2007. Membership of the GI Panel was approved by the Minister responsible for the Panel in 2004, and is drawn from both public and private sectors, including a representative from the Association for Geographic Information representing the wider UK geographic information industry: over 50,000 companies and individual professionals from the private sector are represented on the Panel.

The GI Panel appointed consultants to co-ordinate dialogue with a wide range of contributors from across the UK geographic information industry and related interests, representing both public and private sectors. Several workshops were arranged to gather views and discuss areas of concern. In addition wider contributions were invited by the consultants via the GI Panel website.

These views were drawn together by the consultants to formulate the draft Strategy which was then reviewed and refined by the Location Strategy Development Group, drawn from members of the GI Panel, and finally agreed by the GI Panel itself.

UK Location Strategy: Ordnance Survey

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role the Ordnance Survey has in preparing the UK Location Strategy. [175654]

Mr. Iain Wright: Place Matters: The Location Strategy for the United Kingdom has been prepared and submitted to Ministers by the UK Geographic Information Panel (GI Panel).

Ordnance Survey currently provides the secretariat to the GI Panel. This role involves administrative support and preparation and circulation of documentation for consideration by the GI Panel and others as appropriate, including during preparation of the Location Strategy.

Vanessa Lawrence (Director General and Chief Executive of Ordnance Survey) is currently Chair of the GI Panel. She was planning to stand down in April 2007, but on the recommendation of the members of the GI Panel, the Minister reappointed her as Chair for a further period.

In this role she has chaired meetings of both the GI Panel and the UK Location Strategy Development Group drawn from the Panel. She has facilitated meetings of relevant parties during the preparation of the Strategy, and on behalf of the GI Panel, has submitted the Location Strategy to Ministers.

Urban Areas: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its predecessor and *(c)* the Government Office for the South West has provided for the sustainability of land use and transport in outer neighbourhoods project. [176174]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing on 19 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 1424W. The situation has not changed since that time. The then ODPM contributed £35,000 to this project, which was part of a larger £1.75 million study being carried out by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC).

No financial contributions were made by the Government office for the south-west.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the statement by the Prime Minister of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 305, on Afghanistan, if he will make a statement on the national solidarity programme in Afghanistan. [175481]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

In his recent statement on Afghanistan, the Prime Minister announced funding of £21.65 million for the next phase of the Government of Afghanistan's National Solidarity Programme (NSP). This reflects the UK Government's continued commitment to this important programme. The NSP has been running since May 2003 and has so far reached over 20,500 communities, providing over $400 million to support more than 31,000 development projects in the areas of agriculture, education, emergency response, health, irrigation, legal livelihoods, power, public buildings, rural development, transport, water supply and sanitation.

DFID has committed a total of almost £50 million to the NSP since 2003. We provided £17 million for Phase I (2003-06) and have made available up to £10.9 million for the roll-out of the NSP in Helmand (2006-09).

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral statement of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 303, on Afghanistan, what steps he plans to take to increase burden-sharing between partners and allies in relation to Afghanistan; and what assessment he made of the practicality of international policy on Afghanistan before his review of strategy. [175215]

Dr. Howells: According to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), key shortfalls in Afghanistan at present, which will need to be met by greater burden-sharing, are trainers/mentors for Afghan National Security Forces and helicopters. The UK has launched, as a means to help meet helicopter deployability shortfalls globally, including currently notably Afghanistan and Darfur, a helicopter initiative in both the EU and NATO which involves developing an inventory of helicopter assets of partners and determining which enabling capabilities are necessary to ensure deployability on operations. We are also looking at other innovative approaches, including the potential development of consortia of countries with the right mix of helicopters, enablers and funding.

In support of the Government of Afghanistan, we have always worked closely with the international community on the creation and implementation of international policy. Mechanisms such as the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board are used to monitor the practical implementation of internationally agreed objectives, as detailed in the Afghanistan Compact agreed by international partners at the London conference in January 2006.

Committee of Permanent Representatives

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* A, *(b)* B, *(c)* I and *(d)* False B Points were presented to the Council from the Committee of Permanent Representatives in 2007. [176825]

Mr. Jim Murphy: This information is not held centrally and would be difficult and disproportionately costly to compile.

The Council Secretariat does not collect and publish details of the number of A and B points presented to the Council.

There is no formal differentiation between Ordinary B Points and False B Points. It follows that the Secretariat's records do not show False B Points.

I Points are not referred to the Council; members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives deal with this subject.

Departmental Languages

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in what roles his Department employs native Pashtun speakers. [176082]

Dr. Howells: Our embassy in Kabul and the UK-led Provincial Reconstruction Team in Lashkar Gah employ native Pashtun speakers in a variety of roles, including as special advisers, project managers, translators and office staff.

Embassies

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 159W, on embassies, what arrangements are in place to provide alternative consular services in the case of each of the embassies, high commissions and consulates closed since May 1997. [174844]

David Miliband: Where a non-sovereign post (British consulate or British consulate general) has closed, consular services will be provided by either the sovereign post (embassy or high commission), or the nearest non-sovereign post in the country concerned, possibly through an honorary consul.

Should a sovereign post close, an honorary consul supervised by a neighbouring post will normally be appointed. In some countries where we have no representation, under reciprocal arrangements, either an EU member state or a Commonwealth country that has representation in the country concerned may provide consular services in an emergency. Under article 20 of the treaty establishing the European Community, EU nationals in a country where their own state is not represented are entitled to consular protection from an embassy or consulate of another member state, on the same conditions as the nationals of that state.

Our provision of consular services in those posts closed since May 1997 is as follows.

Posts closed since 1997-98

	Country	*Post name*	*Status*	*Consular services*
1997-98	Colombia	Barranquilla	Consulate	Covered by the Bogota Embassy
1997-98	Switzerland	Zurich	Consulate General	British Vice-Consulate reporting to Berne
1998-99	Malaysia	Kuching	Consulate	Honorary Consul reporting to Kuala Lumpur
1998-99	Thailand	Chiang Mai	Consulate	Honorary Consul reporting to Bangkok
1999-2000	USA	Cleveland	Consulate	Honorary Consul reporting to Chicago
2000-01	Spain	Seville	Consulate	Honorary Consul reporting to Malaga
2003-04	Mali	Bamako	Embassy	British Embassy Liaison Office in Canadian Embassy reporting to Accra
2003-04	El Salvador	San Salvador	Embassy	Honorary Consul reporting to Guatemala City
2003-04	Honduras	Tegucigalpa	Embassy	Honorary Consul reporting to Guatemala City
2003-04	Nicaragua	Managua	Embassy	Honorary Consul reporting to San Jose
2004-05	Cameroon	Douala	Consulate	Honorary Consul reporting to Yaounde
2004-05	Portugal	Oporto	Consulate	Honorary Consul reporting to Lisbon
2005-06	Lesotho	Maseru	High Commission	Honorary Consul reporting to Pretoria
2005-06	Madagascar	Antananarivo	Embassy	Honorary Consul reporting to Port Louis
2005-06	Swaziland	Mbabane	High Commission	Honorary Consul reporting to Pretoria
2005-06	Cote d'Ivoire	Abidjan	Embassy	UK based staff stationed in US Embassy reporting to Accra
2005-06	Bahamas	Nassau	High Commission	Honorary Consul reporting to Kingston
2005-06	Paraguay	Asuncion	Embassy	Honorary Consul reporting to Buenos Aires
2005-06	USA	Dallas	Consulate	Covered by Houston
2005-06	USA	San Juan (Puerto Rico)	Consulate	Honorary Consul reporting to Atlanta
2005-06	Japan	Fukuoka	Consulate	Covered by Osaka
2005-06	Vanuatu	Port Vila	High Commission	Reciprocal agreement with New Zealand High Commission, covered from Suva
2005-06	Germany	Frankfurt	Consulate General	Honorary Consul reporting to Dusseldorf
2005-06	Germany	Stuttgart	Consulate General	Honorary Consul reporting to Munich
2005-06	Yemen	Aden	Consulate General	Covered by Sana'a
2005-06	Tonga	Nuku' alofa	High Commission	Reciprocal agreement with NZ High Commission, covered from Suva
2005-06	Haiti	Port-au-Prince	British Consulate	Covered by British Embassy in the Dominican Republic
2006-07	Australia	Adelaide	Consulate	Honorary Consul reporting to Melbourne
2006-07	East Timor	Dili	Embassy	Covered by Jakarta
2006-07	Germany	Hamburg	Consulate General	Honorary Consul reporting to Berlin
2006-07	Sweden	Gothenberg	Consulate General	Honorary Consul reporting to Stockholm
2006-07	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Kingston	High Commission	Honorary Consul reporting to Bridgetown
2006-07	USA	Seattle	Consulate	Honorary Consul reporting to San Francisco

Iraq: Global Strategies Group

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government have employed the services of Global Strategies Group in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [162882]

David Miliband: The Government have not to date contracted the services of Global Strategies Group in either Iraq or Afghanistan.

The Government ensures that all contracts are subject to a rigorous selection process so that we obtain best value for money. Any company engaged by the Government needs to pass through a stringent and transparent procurement process in line with Public Procurement Guidelines and best practice.

Malaysia: Political Prisoners

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the Malaysian Government on the imprisonment of Hindu Rights Action Force leaders P. Uthayakumar, M. Manoharan, V. Ganabatirau, R. Kenghadharan and T. Vasanthakumar under the Malaysian Internal Security Act. [176089]

Meg Munn: As yet, we have made no representations on these specific cases. However, we are considering these cases with our EU partners. The EU has previously expressed concern to the Malaysian Government about the use of the Internal Security Act.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the Malaysian Government regarding Malaysia's Internal Security Act, with particular reference to its provisions which allow indefinite detention without charge or trial. [176090]

Meg Munn: We are discussing with our EU partners recent arrests under the Internal Security Act. The EU has previously expressed concern to the Malaysian Government about the use of the Internal Security Act.

Maldives: Chagos Archipelago

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in negotiations with the Maldives on maritime demarcations between Maldive territorial waters and those around the Chagos Archipelago; and if he will make a statement. [175823]

Dr. Howells: There is no overlap of territorial waters between the Maldives and the British Indian Ocean Territory.

A draft agreement on the boundary between the Maldives Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the British Indian Ocean Territory Fishery Zone was agreed at technical level in 1992, but it has never been signed and is not in force. Since 1992, the Maldives has replaced its 1976 legislation on the EEZ with Act No 6/96 dated June 1996. Notwithstanding the changes to this EEZ legislation, which introduces archipelagic baseline points, it seems to respect the boundary agreed in draft in 1992.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what use was made of the equidistance principle in determining the maritime boundaries between the Republic of Maldives and the United Kingdom territory of the Chagos Archipelago; and if he will make a statement. [175826]

Dr. Howells: The draft agreement reached in 1992, which would set out the maritime boundary between the Maldives Exclusive Economic Zone and the British Indian Ocean Territory Fishery Zone, is based entirely on the equidistance principle with no adjustment.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library copies of the exchange of correspondence between the UK and the Republic of Maldives that led to the Memorandum of Agreement of 1993 on the Chagos Archipelago maritime delimitation line. [175827]

Dr. Howells: Representatives of the Government of the Republic of Maldives and the Government met in November 1992 to discuss the delimitation of the maritime boundary between the Maldives and the British Indian Ocean Territory. Disclosure of the minutes to this meeting, together with a copy of the draft agreement attached thereto, could only be made after consultation with the Government of the Maldives.

Maldives: Politics and Government

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations the UK has made to the Government of the Republic of the Maldives on human rights and the development of parliamentary democracy; and if he will make a statement. [175829]

Dr. Howells: I told the House on 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 939-942, during a debate on Maldives that we understood the challenges the Maldivian Government face to adopt and implement multi-party liberal democracy that fully observes international human rights obligations.

Maldives has acceded to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and is now a signatory to the six core UN human rights instruments. We welcome these developments. We have always made clear to the Maldivian Government the importance of meeting international obligations on human rights, including the full and transparent investigation of any human rights based allegations. We understand that a UN human rights adviser invited by the Maldivian Government are working with them on this.

When my right hon. and noble Friend the Minister responsible for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, met President Gayoom of Maldives in July 2007, he underlined the need to keep the reform process on track and the importance of this year's elections being free, fair, inclusive and supported by the Maldivian people. In meetings with the Maldivian Foreign Minister, Abdullah Shahid, his deputy, Dhunya Maumoon, and with the Chairman of the opposition Maldivian Democratic Party, senior Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have emphasised the need for good faith among all political parties and for all to redouble efforts to implement democratic change in Maldives.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings he and *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had in the last six months with officials from the Palestinian Authority to discuss progress on the Middle East peace plan; and if he will make a statement. [175565]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary visited Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories from 17 to 19 November 2007 and met President Abbas, and Prime Minister Fayyad of the Palestinian Authority (PA). On 10 and 11 December 2007, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development called on the President, the Prime Minister and a number of Palestinian officials. On 18 December, President Abbas visited London and held meetings with my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary.

Officials at our Consulate General in Jerusalem have regular dialogue with a wide range of PA Ministers and officials.

Russia: Entry Clearances

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent changes have been introduced to the types of UK visas available to Russian citizens. [177148]

Dr. Howells: There have been no recent changes to the types of UK visa available to Russian citizens specifically. Generally, the various categories in which a person may apply to enter the UK are open to all non-European economic area nationals, regardless of their country of origin.

Saudi Arabia: Human Rights

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on which occasions in the last 12 months he raised concerns about human rights in Saudi Arabia with *(a)* the King of Saudi Arabia, *(b)* members of the Government of Saudi Arabia and *(c)* non-governmental organisations in Saudi Arabia. [176874]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not raised human rights with either the King, members of the Saudi Government, or non-governmental organisations since coming to office on 27 June 2007. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not visited Saudi Arabia and has not met the King.

Our ambassador in Riyadh raises human rights on a regular basis with the Saudi authorities as part of his day-to-day responsibilities.

Saudi Arabia: Punishment

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations were made to the King of Saudi Arabia on the recent threatened punishment of a 19-year-old female rape victim. [176879]

Dr. Howells: The Government raised the threatened punishment of a 19-year old rape victim with the Saudi authorities on several occasions, both before and after the case went to appeal. The Government also supported EU action co-ordinated by the German presidency in Riyadh.

In December 2007, King Abdullah granted a Royal Pardon to the victim.

Terrorism: Death

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK citizens have been killed as a consequence of terrorist acts overseas in each of the last 10 years. [177161]

Dr. Howells: Our records show that the number of UK citizens killed as a consequence of terrorist acts overseas since 1997 is as follows:

	Number
1997	7
1998	4
1999	0
2000	1
2001	82
2002	28
2003	5
2004	7
2005	18
2006	1
2007	0

These figures are for both British and dual British nationals. However, they do not include the number of British nationals in the armed forces or those working for private military security firms, who have been killed in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Turkey: Human Rights

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will seek to hold discussions with his Turkish counterpart on the observance of the human rights of the Assyrian minority living within Turkey. [177104]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We raise freedom of religion issues with the Turkish Government on a regular basis and meetings with members of the Assyrian minority are always included in the regional visits programme. In 2007, officials from our Embassy in Ankara visited Assyrian communities in Diyarbakir, Elazig and Mardin and His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales met Archbishop Mor Philoxenos Yusuf Cetin in Istanbul on 28 November 2007.

Turkey's overall human rights record is subject to intense scrutiny during EU accession negotiations, and advancement in the negotiations is measured against Turkey's progress in a number of areas, including the fundamental and cultural rights of religious and other minority groups in Turkey.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carers: Finance

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what budget was allocated for carers and the carer's allowance in *(a)* Dacorum and *(b)* England in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [165063]

Mrs. McGuire: Funding for carers in general is a matter for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health. For carer's allowance, which is paid for by DWP, no set budget is allocated. All claims that meet the conditions of entitlement are awarded. Details of expenditure on carer's allowance are in the following table.

Carer's allowance paid out in the local authority of Dacorum and in England

		£ million cash terms		*£ million in 2007-08 prices*	
	Status	*Dacorum*	*England*	*Dacorum*	*England*
2003-04	Outturn	1.6	876.1	1.8	975.5
2004-05	Outturn	1.7	912.8	1.8	989.0
2005-06	Outturn	1.8	958.8	1.9	1017.6
2006-07	Provisional outturn	1.8	996.8	1.9	1029.2

Notes:
1. All figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand pounds.
2. Prior to August 2003, carer's allowance (CA) figures were based on those with entitlement only. This means that caseloads cannot be broken down by whether or not a case is in payment. As a result, CA figures are restricted to August 2003 onwards.
3. All figures are consistent with the 2007 pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review.

Source:
Expenditure has been taken from departmental accounting systems and combined with 100 per cent. statistical data to identify the proportion of expenditure paid as carer's allowance in Dacorum and in England.

Child Support

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of Child Support Agency cases have been transferred from the original system to the 2003 system. [166314]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 9 January 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many and what proportion of Child Support Agency cases have been transferred from the original system to the 2003 system.

The total number of cases being handled by the Agency at the end of September 2007 can be found on Table 1 of the September 2007 Quarterly Summary of Statistics. A copy of this is available in the House of Commons Library, or on the internet via the following link: www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_sep07.asp.

At the end of September 2007, 756,700 cases had transferred from the old computer system to the new computer system. 405,800 of these cases are currently being handled by the Agency. This represents 30 per cent of the total cases the Agency is currently handling. The remaining 350,900 cases are closed. Of the total cases transferred from the old computer system to the new computer system, the number which have then been transferred from an old scheme assessment to a new scheme assessment is 70,300. Of these, 69,400 are currently being handled by the Agency, representing 5 per cent of the total cases the Agency is currently handling. The remaining 900 cases are closed.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency: Bolton

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of staff at the Bolton Child Support Agency offices were employed *(a)* on permanent contracts, *(b)* on temporary contracts and *(c)* via an employment agency in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [169334]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 9 January 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what proportion of staff at the Bolton Child Support Agency offices were employed (a) on permanent contracts (b) on temporary contracts and (c) via an employment agency in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [169334]

The Agency contracted out the management of its clerical cases to Vertex Data Science Ltd in September 2006. They process this work on our behalf at the Bolton site. The decision to contract out the management of clerical work was always a short-term measure which allowed the Agency to increase the number of people focusing on other improvement work outlined in the Operational Improvement Plan, including reducing the number of uncleared applications and strengthening enforcement. The intention has always been to make the necessary changes to our IT to allow these cases to be maintained on the Agency's computer systems.

Vertex Data Science Ltd are therefore responsible for employing the necessary staff to deliver the service, under a contract which currently runs to September 2008. I can assure you however, that the procurement exercise undertaken to award the contract included a thorough evaluation of all recruitment and employment practices including HR policies, to ensure that they were compatible with those of the Department.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency: Complaints

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time was for the Child Support Agency to resolve a complaint about their actions in 2006-07. [167813]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 9 January 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the average time was for the Child Support Agency to resolve a complaint about their actions in 2006-07.

The Agency measures the proportion of complaints which were resolved, or which had a resolution plan agreed with the client, within 15 days of receiving the complaint. In the year to March 2007, 88 percent of both old and new scheme complaints met this standard.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many absent parents in each constituency in Scotland have been transferred from the old to the new system of assessment by the Child Support Agency in each year since its introduction; and how many of these transfers were triggered by a new case involving the individual. [162753]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 9 Januaryj2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many absent parents in each constituency in Scotland have been transferred from the old to the new system of assessment by the Child Support Agency in each year since its introduction; and how many of these transfers were triggered by a new case involving the individual. [162753]

The number of converted cases transferring from the old to the new system of assessment is provided in the attached table. When a new child support application is made, the case may have one or more links, through the parent with care or non-resident parent or their partners, to existing cases. If a link is established to one or more cases on the old computer system, then these cases will be transferred to the new computer system, along with any further cases that are linked to them.

We are not able to say how many converted cases were triggered by a new case involving the individual. Cases converted may be due to a link through the Non-Resident Parents partner.

A similar question was tabled by Mr Michael Weir MP on 12 October 2007 [PQ/07/158435], requesting the number of converted cases in Angus constituency and in Scotland. While answering your related question, an error was discovered in the response given to Mr Weir concerning the number of converted cases for 2006/07. The revised figures for Scotland are therefore included in this answer.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

The volume of converted cases by constituency in Scotland each year

Parliamentary constituency	*April 2003 - March 2004*	*April 2004 - March 2005*	*April 2005 - March 2006*	*April 2006 - March 2007*	*April 2007 - September 2007*
Aberdeen North	10	20	30	40	10
Aberdeen South	0	10	10	20	10
Airdrie and Shotts	10	20	20	30	10
Angus	20	20	30	40	20
Argyll and Bute	0	10	20	20	10
Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock	20	30	30	30	10
Banff and Buchan	0	10	10	30	20
Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk	10	10	20	40	10
Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross	10	0	20	20	0
Central Ayrshire	10	10	30	30	10
Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill	10	10	30	40	20
Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East	10	20	20	40	10
Dumfries and Galloway	10	20	30	50	10
Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale	10	10	30	20	10
Dundee East	10	10	40	50	20
Dundee West	30	40	60	60	20
Dunfermline and West Fife	20	20	40	40	20
East Dunbartonshire	0	0	10	10	0
East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow	10	0	20	20	10
East Lothian	10	10	20	20	10
East Renfrewshire	0	0	10	10	0
Edinburgh East	10	10	20	20	20
Edinburgh North and Leith	10	20	20	30	10
Edinburgh South	0	10	10	20	10
Edinburgh South West	10	10	30	30	10
Edinburgh West	10	10	10	10	10
Falkirk	10	10	30	20	10
Glasgow Central	10	10	20	30	10
Glasgow East	10	20	40	40	10
Glasgow North	0	10	10	20	0
Glasgow North East	10	20	40	30	20
Glasgow North West	10	20	30	40	20
Glasgow South	0	20	110	20	10
Glasgow South West	10	20	50	50	10
Glenrothes	20	20	50	60	20
Gordon	10	10	10	10	0
Inverclyde	10	20	40	30	10
Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey	10	20	20	20	20
Kilmarnock and Loudoun	10	20	40	50	20
Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath	20	30	50	60	20
Lanark and Hamilton East	10	10	20	40	10
Linlithgow and East Falkirk	20	20	20	40	20
Livingston	20	30	30	40	10
Midlothian	0	10	20	30	10
Moray	10	10	20	30	10
Motherwell and Wishaw	10	30	30	50	20
Na h-Eileanan an Iar	0	0	0	10	0
North Ayrshire and Arran	10	20	30	40	10
North East Fife	10	10	20	20	10
Ochil and South Perthshire	10	20	30	40	20
Orkney and Shetland	0	0	0	10	10
Paisley and Renfrewshire North	10	10	10	30	0
Paisley and Renfrewshire South	10	10	30	30	10
Perth and North Perthshire	10	20	30	40	20

The volume of converted cases by constituency in Scotland each year

Parliamentary constituency	*April 2003 -March 2004*	*April 2004 -March 2005*	*April 2005 -March 2006*	*April 2006 -March 2007*	*April 2007 -September 2007*
Ross, Skye and Lochaber	10	10	10	10	10
Rutherglen and Hamilton West	10	20	20	30	10
Stirling	10	10	20	20	10
West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine	10	10	10	20	10
West Dunbartonshire	20	20	30	30	20
Total Converted cases	540	820	1,420	1,760	680

Notes:
1. A converted case is classified as where a new scheme application can have a financial impact on an existing old scheme case, when either the non-resident parent or the parent with care on the new application is also the non-resident parent or parent with care on the existing case. In this situation, the old scheme cases in question will also be converted to the new scheme.
2. When a conversion is completed, it may reveal other links which also require conversion.
3. The latest available data is at September 2007.
4. This table revises information given in response to PQ458435 which overstated the volume of converted cases in Scotland in 2006-07 by 130.
5. Volumes are rounded to the nearest 10.
6. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many non-resident parents have been asked by the Child Support Agency (CSA) to pay historical arrears from 10 years or more ago; what evidence is used by the CSA to establish the level of arrears; and how many people have been unable to pay within two years. [166664]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, 9 January 2008:

In reply to your recent parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many non-resident parents have been asked by the Child Support Agency (CSA) to pay historical arrears from 10 years or more ago; what evidence is used by the CSA to establish the level of arrears; and how many people have been unable to pay within two years. [166664]

Information on how many non-resident parents have been asked by the Child Support Agency to pay historical arrears from 10 years or more ago or on how many people have been unable to repay maintenance due within two years is not available.

The Agency establishes the level of child support arrears based on the weekly liability of the non-resident parent for any period that payments have not been made. In many cases, as the non-resident parent may not have co-operated fully in the assessment of their maintenance liability, the Agency will proceed on the basis of the best information available in order to start maintenance flowing to the children involved.

In cases where the non-resident parent has initially provided enough evidence to assess the maintenance liability but has subsequently failed to comply or to keep the Agency informed of any relevant changes, arrears will accrue based on the last maintenance assessment. Although the non-resident parent can at any time supply information which may lead to a review of this maintenance assessment from the time that the new information is supplied, regulations do not allow the arrears already accrued to be recalculated. In addition, any support that the non-resident parent may have provided direct to their children and without the Agency's involvement, can only be counted as complying with the maintenance assessment, and therefore reducing the arrears, if the parent with care agrees.

In cases where the non-resident parent, assessed under the old rules, has not supplied enough information to assess the maintenance liability the Agency may apply an interim maintenance assessment. This assessment is likely to be set at a rate higher than the non-resident parent's maintenance assessment would have been had they cooperated with the Agency, but it nevertheless remains enforceable. The high level of the assessment is intended to provide an incentive to co-operate with the Agency and provide the information required to make a full maintenance assessment.

In cases where the non-resident parent, assessed under the new rules, is unable to supply enough information to assess the maintenance liability the Agency may apply a default maintenance assessment. A default maintenance assessment is used to ensure that at least some maintenance flows to the children although it tends to be set at a safe level, usually lower than a full maintenance assessment.

In both these cases, where a full maintenance assessment is not in force, the non-resident parent can at any time supply the relevant information which may lead to a review of the interim or default maintenance assessment and obtain a revised arrears calculation where appropriate. In the case of interim maintenance assessments, this can lead to a substantial reduction in arrears owed.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Conditions of Employment: Mental Health

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 27-30WS, on mental health and employment, when he expects to publish a national strategy for mental health and work; and if he will make a statement. [169842]

Mrs. McGuire: On 27 November we announced our intention to develop a national strategy for mental health and employment. The strategy will ensure that there is a co-ordinated response across Government to the challenges faced by people of working age with mental health conditions, improving their employment chances.

We intend to appoint a stakeholder steering group, to be chaired by Dame Carol Black, the National Director for Health and Work, to oversee the development of the strategy. This steering group will be appointed in the new year and will then lead work on the development of the strategy which forms part of wider work on the health and employment agenda.

The expansion of the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme at a cost of £170 million over three years, together with the £13 million now made available by the DWP for additional support for GPs and employers, represents a considerable Government commitment to supporting those with mental health conditions. This is in addition to the funding already

committed to the roll-out of Pathways to Work, including the Condition Management programmes.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 27-30WS, on mental health and employment, what the evidential basis is for his statement that substantial progress has been made in mental health and employment since 1997. [169948]

Mrs. McGuire: Mental health and employment has been a long-standing problem, requiring a long-term solution. We have made progress in putting in place the necessary structures and initiatives which are already helping people with mental health conditions both to obtain and to remain in work.

The latest employment rate for disabled people whose main health condition is mental illness, depression or anxiety is 22 per cent. (Labour Force Survey July-September 2007). The employment rate for this group has significantly improved since 1998 when the employment rate was around 15 per cent.

Since 1997, there has been a significant increase in the funding provided for mental health services. We now have 55 per cent. more consultant psychiatrists than we had in 1997, almost 70 per cent. more clinical psychologists and at least 20 per cent. more mental health nurses. In October 2007, the Department of Health announced the expansion of the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme at a cost of £170 million over three years.

Additionally, this Department has greatly increased the employment support it offers people with health conditions. Examples include the new deal for disabled people, including specialist individually tailored support and advice, as well as the piloting and continuing national roll-out of Pathways to Work, which includes the groundbreaking Condition Management Programmes.

Furthermore, from October 2008 incapacity benefits will be replaced by the new employment and support allowance, a more positive benefit offering additional support for customers in return for increased responsibility on them to engage with Jobcentre Plus. Underpinning the allowance will be a new medical test, the work capability assessment. The new assessment's test of mental health will be significantly improved compared to the current personal capability assessment, dealing better with the challenges faced by people with mental health conditions and learning disabilities.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 27-30WS, on mental health and employment, how much his Department has spent on mental health services *(a)* in total and *(b)* as a percentage of departmental expenditure in each year since 1997. [169949]

Mrs. McGuire: Spending on mental health services generally, is a matter for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health.

This Department provides a range of services that provide help and support to people with mental health problems. These programmes are generally available to those with mental and/or physical health problems. It is not possible to break down programme expenditure by specific health condition.

Departmental ICT

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many attempted hacking or suspected cyber attacks or other malicious computer security breaches were committed against the computer systems of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Child Support Agency in each of the last three years for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [167985]

Mrs. McGuire: It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for Departments to confirm whether they hold information about attacks against their IT systems. This would enable individuals to deduce how successful the UK is in detecting these attacks and so assist such persons in testing the effectiveness of the UK's IT defences. This is not in the public interest.

Departmental Labour Turnover

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the percentage turnover of staff was in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies in (i) the last 12-month period and (ii) the last 24-month period for which figures are available. [169045]

Mrs. McGuire: The percentage turnover of staff in the Department for Work and Pensions and its agencies for the 12-month period ending March 2006 and the 12-month period ending March 2007 is in the following table.

	Percentage turnover 12-months ending March 2007	*Percentage turnover 12-months ending March 2006*
DWP Overall	6.37	7.11
Jobcentre Plus	6.12	6.69
The Pension Service	7.46	8.68
Child Support Agency	8.79	8.70
Disability and Carers Service	4.62	5.89
The Rent Service	5.87	8.28
Appeals Service	n/a	9.48
Departmental Corporate Units	5.13	6.76

Note:
Appeals Service transferred to the Department for Constitutional Affairs on 1 April 2006.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the possibility of allocating savings made from the annual management expenditure budget to the departmental expenditure limit; and if he will make a statement. [169915]

Mrs. McGuire: My Department and HM Treasury have agreed that as savings in annual managed expenditure delivered by the Pathways to Work programme are demonstrated, HM Treasury will look to provide additional DEL funding to DWP to help fund further roll-out of the welfare reform agenda. Any such funding will be allocated through normal processes.

Employment

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of people who were in part-time work and who were seeking full-time work in each year since 1997. [173892]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 7 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question what estimate has been made of the number and proportion of people who were in part-time work and who were seeking full-time work in each year since 1997 [173892].

The information requested is given in the table overleaf.

The figures in the table are estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) for the three month period ending in June of 1997, 1999 and 2001-07. Comparable estimates are not currently available for 1998 or 2000.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Part-time workers[1] by whether looking for a replacement or additional full-time or part-time job[2,3], United Kingdom, April-June 1997, 1999, 2001-07, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand and percentage

	Looking for a new job to replace present (main) job				*Looking for an additional job*					
Three months ending June	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*No preference full-time or part-time*	*Total[4]*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*No preference full-time or part-time*	*Total[4]*	*Not looking for a replacement or additional job*	*Total[5]*
Thousand										
1997	249	138	29	424	35	89	20	161	5,924	6,520
1998	[7]	[7]	[7]	[7]	[7]	[7]	[7]	[7]	[7]	[7]
1999	213	150	27	398	29	75	11	127	6,136	6,665
2000	[7]	[7]	[7]	[7]	[7]	[7]	[7]	[7]	[7]	[7]
2001	190	139	28	366	21	65	8	105	6,374	6,852
2002	188	134	21	354	23	69	9	114	6,527	7,004
2003	194	143	27	373	23	55	12	103	6,672	7,155
2004	201	125	21	362	24	69	12	121	6,718	7,211
2005	195	134	24	362	25	67	10	115	6,672	7,162
2006	221	154	22	406	20	68	6	106	6,641	7,163
2007	240	132	25	406	19	76	9	117	6,635	7,173
Percentage[6]										
1997	3.9	2.2	0.5	6.5	0.6	1.5	0.3	2.5	91.0	100.0
1998	[7]	[7]	[7]	[7]	[7]	[7]	[7]	[7]	[7]	[7]
1999	3.3	2.3	0.4	6.0	0.5	1.2	0.2	1.9	92.1	100.0
2000	[7]	[7]	[7]	[7]	[7]	[7]	[7]	[7]	[7]	[7]
2001	2.8	2.1	0.4	5.3	0.4	1.1	0.1	1.5	93.1	100.0
2002	2.8	2.0	0.3	5.1	0.4	1.1	0.2	1.6	93.3	100.0
2003	2.8	2.0	0.4	5.2	0.4	0.9	0.2	1.4	93.3	100.0
2004	2.9	1.8	0.3	5.0	0.4	1.1	0.2	1.7	93.3	100.0
2005	2.8	1.9	0.3	5.1	0.4	1.1	0.2	1.6	93.3	100.0
2006	3.2	2.2	0.3	5.7	0.3	1.1	0.1	1.5	92.9	100.0
2007	3.4	1.9	0.4	5.7	0.3	1.2	0.1	1.6	92.7	100.0

[1] Employees and self-employed people whose main job is part-time (based on respondents' self-classification of full-time/part-time status).
[2] Whether looking for a different job (to replace present main job) or for an additional job during the survey reference week.
[3] Estimates at this detailed level are produced from the LFS microdata, which are weighted to the population estimates published by ONS in February and March 2003. They do not incorporate the more recent population estimates used in the headline LFS series that are published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release.
[4] Total includes people who did not state whether they were looking for a full-time or part-time job.
[5] Total includes people who did not state whether or not they were looking for a different or additional job.
[6] Base for percentage excludes people who did not state whether they were looking for a different/additional job, or whether they were looking for a full-time or part-time job.
[7] Comparable estimates are not currently available for 1998 or 2000.

Note:
As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Source:
Labour Source Survey

Incapacity Benefits: Mental Health

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* other out-of-work benefits as a result of mental health conditions in each year since 1997. [169950]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance claimants whose primary diagnosis is within the mental and behavioural disorders group of diagnoses, in Great Britain: as at May each year

	Number of claimants
1997	732,100
1998	787,500
1999	830,400
2000	869,750
2001	933,070
2002	980,670
2003	1,025,820
2004	1,065,520
2005	1,086,190
2006	1,092,910
2007	1,104,310

Notes:
1. These figures relate to people claiming incapacity benefit and not just people of working age.
2. May 1997 to May 1999 (inclusive) figures are uprated to WPLS totals and rounded to the nearest hundred.
3. May 2000 to May 2007 (inclusive) numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
4. Incapacity benefit claimants include those receiving national insurance-credits only; some claimants may also receive income support.
5. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 5 per cent. sample and 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

National Insurance: Foreign Workers

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many national insurance numbers were issued to *(a)* dependants of non-EU work permit holders, *(b)* non-EU students, *(c)* non-EU highly skilled migrants, *(d)* non-EU International Graduate Scheme participants, *(e)* non-EU Fresh Talent in Scotland Scheme participants, *(f)* non-EU working holidaymakers and *(g)* non-EU work permit holders since 1 January 2004, broken down by nationality; [162686]

(2) how many national insurance numbers were issued to non-EU citizens with leave to remain in the UK by virtue of *(a)* refugee status, *(b)* humanitarian protection, *(c)* discretionary leave and *(d)* leave under the backlog criteria between (i) 3 April 2002 and 31 December 2003 and (ii) 1 January 2004 to 5 April 2007; [162687]

(3) how many national insurance numbers were issued to *(a)* dependants of non-EU work permit holders, *(b)* non-EU students, *(c)* non-EU highly skilled migrants, *(d)* non-EU Fresh Talent Working in Scotland Scheme participants, *(e)* non-EU working holidaymakers and *(f)* non-EU work permit holders between (i) 3 April 2002 and 31 December 2003 and (ii) 1 January 2004 to 5 April 2007. [162688]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* The information requested is not available.

Information on a foreign national's basis of stay in the United Kingdom is not held on NINO registrations database.

Pensions: Financial Assistance Scheme

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to report on the Young review on the Financial Assistance Scheme. [168136]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Young review was published on 17 December 2007.

Social Security Benefits: Personal Records

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether staff authorised to access the entire database for benefits administered by his Department are subject to criminal records checks. [167678]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* All prospective employees, including those who are authorised to access the databases containing benefits information, are required to complete a declaration as to whether they have any criminal records, prior to appointment. The Department carries out a percentage criminal records check of successful applicants.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what files are held by his Department on *(a)* the Abortion (Amendment) Bill of Session 1987-88 and *(b)* the Unborn Children (Protection) Bills of sessions (i) 1984-85, (ii) 1985-86 and (iii) 1987-88; and if he will make a statement. [172430]

Dawn Primarolo: There are two registered files held by the Department covering the Abortion (Amendment) Bill of Session 1987-88 and six files held by the Department on the Unborn Children (Protection) Bills of sessions 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1987-88.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what files are held by his Department on the Abortion Act 1967; and if he will make a statement. [169534]

Dawn Primarolo: There are approximately 856 registered files held by the Department on different aspects of abortion policy and on the delivery of the services permitted under the Abortion Act 1967.

Alcoholic Drinks: Abuse

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the alcohol industry on new programmes to reduce binge drinking among young *(a)* men and *(b)* women; and if he will make a statement. [173261]

Dawn Primarolo: The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Coaker) and I met representatives of the alcohol industry on 17 December 2007. We discussed among other matters, the independent review of the industry's social responsibility standards shortly to be commissioned by the Home Office. I updated the industry on the independent review of alcohol pricing, promotion and harm shortly to be commissioned by the Department. We discussed the possibility of voluntary action by the industry to restrict irresponsible alcohol promotions, including those which appeal to young people and agreed to continue discussions early in 2008.

The Government are working with the police, and the alcohol industry to prevent the sale of alcohol to under-18s. This includes the wider use of fixed penalty notices to staff who sell to under-18s, confiscation of alcohol from minors, working with the industry to improve premises management and training for bar staff to ensure that identification is requested and checked from anyone who looks under age. The recent Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaigns have shown that a united effort to crack down on binge-drinking, as well as the sale of alcohol to under-18s, can make a real impact. The industry expressed support for these actions.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children were admitted to accident and emergency departments in England as a result of drinking alcohol in the last (i) 12 months and (ii) five years, broken down by strategic health authority. [171689]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available has been placed in the Library.

Ambulance Services: Crimes of Violence

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many assaults on ambulance staff have been committed in each of the last three years, broken down by ambulance trust. [173230]

Ann Keen: In April 2003 the National Health Service Security Management Service (NHS SMS) was created and assumed responsibility for tackling violence against NHS staff. The NHS SMS has collected data on the number of reported physical assaults on NHS ambulance staff in England in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07.

The number of physical assaults reported in the period 2004-05 to 2006-07, broken down by ambulance trust, is shown in the following tables:

Reported physical assaults on ambulance staff in England in 2004-05 and 2005-06

	2004-05	2005-06
Avon Ambulance Service NHS Trust	40	32
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Ambulance and Paramedic Service NHS Trust	23	23
Coventry and Warwickshire Ambulance NHS Trust	17	31
Cumbria Ambulance Service NHS Trust	16	5
Dorset Ambulance NHS Trust	19	20
East Anglian Ambulance NHS Trust	28	36
East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	58	53
Essex Ambulance Service NHS Trust	33	6
Gloucestershire Ambulance Services NHS Trust	2	4
Greater Manchester Ambulance Service NHS Trust	165	112
Hampshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	32	28
Hereford and Worcester Ambulance Service NHS Trust	18	15
Kent Ambulance NHS Trust	30	16
Lancashire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	15	9
Lincolnshire Ambulance and Health Transport Service NHS Trust	10	17
London Ambulance Service NHS Trust	364	325
Mersey Regional Ambulance Service NHS Trust	64	47
North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust	73	46
Oxfordshire Ambulance NHS Trust	5	4
Royal Berkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	18	10
South Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	14	14
Staffordshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	16	15
Surrey Ambulance Service NHS Trust	36	36
Sussex Ambulance Service NHS Trust	38	21
Tees East and North Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	35	41
Two Shires Ambulance NHS Trust	8	9
West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	47	46
West Yorkshire Metropolitan Ambulance Service NHS Trust	49	29
Westcountry Ambulance Services NHS Trust	49	44
Wiltshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	11	16
Totals	1,333	1,104

Reported physical assaults on ambulance staff in England in 2006-07

	2006-07
East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	74
East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust	77
Great Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust	34
London Ambulance Service NHS Trust	297
North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust	39
North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust	166
South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust	38
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust	81

Reported physical assaults on ambulance staff in England in 2006-07

	2006-07
South Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust	47
Staffordshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	11
West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	99
Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	43
Totals	1,006

Note:
In 2006-07 reconfiguration reduced the number of ambulance trusts from 30 to 12.

Arthritis: Medical Treatments

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish the assessment of the availability of access to *(a)* anti-TNF medicines and *(b)* other biologic therapies for patients with rheumatoid arthritis; whether any overall assessment has been made of (i) access to and (ii) efficiency of rheumatoid arthritis medicines and therapies; and if he will make a statement. [175351]

Ann Keen: The Department has made no assessment of the availability of anti-TNF medicines, and other biologic therapies, for patients with rheumatoid arthritis. All primary care trusts in England and Wales are obliged to fund, from general allocations, anti-TNF therapy for those patients with rheumatoid arthritis who meet the clinical guidelines issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

We are not aware of any overall assessment of access to, and the efficiency of, medicines and therapies for rheumatoid arthritis.

Assura Group

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that his Department collects and publishes information on *(a)* activities of the Assura Group throughout the NHS and *(b)* the expenditure of the Assura Group via polyclinics. [177160]

Mr. Bradshaw: This is not a matter for the Department. It is for primary care trusts to collect information, including details of locally negotiated contracts, on those providers delivering services on its behalf.

Baby Care Units: West Midlands

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many neo-natal unit nurses there are in hospitals in the West Midlands. [175440]

Dawn Primarolo: Information relating to the numbers of neo-natal unit nurses requested is not held centrally by the Department.

It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) and strategic health authorities to analyse their local workforce needs and develop plans, in liaison with providers and service users, to deliver high quality, safe services and take action to secure the appropriate staff and skills to deliver these services.

The 2008-09 operating framework has reinforced neonatal services as a top national health service priority. In 2008-009, PCTs should aim to ensure that sufficient numbers of maternity staff and neonatal teams are in place to meet local needs.

The Department has sponsored research by the NHS National Workforce Projects, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health to review the workforce in maternity, paediatric and neonatal services and to promote sustainable service models. This includes looking at the challenge of fully implementing the European Working Time Directive for doctors in training from August 2009. Findings will be published in 2008.

Blood Contamination

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* malaria and *(b)* other diseases apart from HIV and CJD were caused by blood transfusion in England between (i) 1980 and 1990 and (ii) 2000 and 2005. [174144]

Dawn Primarolo: There have been five cases of malaria transmission in England since the mid-1980s: in 1986 (two cases), 1994, 1997, and 2003. The National Blood Service (NBS) does not hold data on transmission of other infections prior to 1995.

For the years 2000 to 2005, the annual summaries of the NBS/Health Protection Agency Infection Surveillance Scheme record the following infections (excluding malaria) transmitted by blood transfusion for the United Kingdom (excluding Scotland):

Hepatitis A: two incidents (two infected recipients);

Hepatitis B: four incidents (four infected recipients);

Hepatitis E: one incident (one infected recipient); and

Bacteria: 16 incidents (16 infected recipients) including:

one incident of Bacillus cereus, one incident of Coagulase negative Staphylococci,

one incident of Enterobacter aerogenes, two incidents of Group B Streptococcus,

one incident of Morganella morganii, two incidents of Staphylococcus aureus and

eight incidents of Staphylococcus epidermidis.

Bone Diseases: Medical Treatments

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ensure that the issuing of final guidance by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) on the two anti-TNF treatments for ankylosing spondylitis is not affected by appeals relating to the anti-TNF treatment rejected by NICE. [175155]

Ann Keen: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has received two appeals against its final appraisal determination on adalimumab, etanercept and infliximab for the treatment of ankylosing spondylitis. Final guidance will not be published until the appeals have been heard.

Funding for licensed treatments should not be withheld because guidance from NICE is unavailable. In December 2006, we issued refreshed good practice guidance which asks national health service bodies to

continue with local arrangements for the managed introduction of new technologies where guidance from NICE is not available at the time the treatment or technology first becomes available.

Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust: Finance

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential impact on the Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust of the removal of the specialist top-up funds paid to district general hospitals. [176646]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* We have carried out an assessment of the potential financial impact for Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch NHS Foundation Trust. Based on the latest data available to the Department, we expect that their income for specialist activity in 2008-09 will be broadly similar to that in 2007-08.

Campylobacter

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many campylobacter infections were recorded in England in each of the last five years. [162911]

Dawn Primarolo: The following laboratory reports of Campylobacter infections were received in each of the last five years in England:

Year	*Total*
2000	54,698
[illegible]01	51,850
[illegible]02	45,513
2003	43,954
2004	41,853
2005	44,222
2006	43,795
Total	325,885

Cancer Patients: Administrative Delays

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what targets there are for waiting times for cancer patients requiring diagnostic endoscopies; and what the average waiting time is for cancer patients awaiting diagnostic endoscopies in each hospital in the most recent period for which information is available. [174139]

Ann Keen: Patients referred with suspected cancer should wait no longer than two weeks to see a cancer specialist and no longer than 62 days, including all diagnostic tests, to commencing treatment.

A table showing the average waiting time for all patients waiting for endoscopies, has been placed in the Library. Data for cancer patients waiting for endoscopies is not collected centrally.

Cancer: Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the funding contribution of his Department as part of the consortium funding the infrastructure support for the five Public Health Research Centres of Excellence was as described in paragraph 2.59 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy; and what the other *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals contributing funds to the consortium were. [174886]

Dawn Primarolo: The United Kingdom Clinical Research Collaboration Public Health Research Centres of Excellence are funded by eight organisations that are together contributing a total of £21.15 million over a five-year period. The organisations concerned, and their individual financial contributions are:

	£ million
British Heart Foundation	2.5
Cancer Research UK	2.5
Department of Health	5
Economic and Social Research Council	2.5
Medical Research Council	3
Northern Ireland HSC	0.15
Wellcome Trust	5
Welsh Office of Research and Development	0.5

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the commissioning brief issued by the National Institute for Health Research Health Technology Assessment programme, referred to in paragraph 3.36 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy. [175133]

Dawn Primarolo: Copies of the commissioning brief have been placed in the Library.

Cancer: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what new equipment for genetic testing is coming on stream, as described in paragraph 2.41 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy, published on 3 December 2007; and how many tests for cancer genes have been carried out in each of the last four years. [174887]

Dawn Primarolo: The new equipment referred to in paragraph 2.54 of the Cancer Reform Strategy was funded through an investment of £18 million under the 2003 Genetics White Paper "Our Inheritance, our Future—realising the potential of genetics in the National Health Service". The funding has modernised and expanded genetics laboratory capacity through investment in automated and high volume technology. This includes automated DNA extraction systems, high throughput DNA sequencers and microarray readers. This increased funding has also allowed many of the processes in the laboratory such as, the amplification of DNA and liquid handling to be automated with the purchase of robotics. In addition, the improvements in both information technology hardware and software has lead to significant improvements in the time taken to analyse the data generated.

The Department does not collect data centrally on the numbers of genetic tests carried out for the purpose of identifying, or predicting the risk of developing, inherited forms of cancer.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health where the seven pilot sites were established to develop new services for assessing genetic risk, as described in paragraph 2.50 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy; and when he expects the evaluation of the pilot sites being undertaken by the University of Nottingham to be published. [174888]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department co-funded the seven pilot sites in collaboration with Macmillan Cancer Support. The sites were:

South West London Cancer Network and joint cancer centres;

Yorkshire Regional Genetics Service, North Kirklees PCT and Bradford Hospitals NHS Trust;

Cancer Care Alliance (South Durham, Teesside and North Yorkshire);

South East London Cancer Network, Lambeth and Southwark PCT, specialist cancer services at Guy's and St. Thomas' Hospital and Guy's Regional Genetics Centre;

Poole PCT;

Somerset Coast PCT; and

Oldham PCT

The University of Nottingham is undertaking an evaluation of the organisational issues associated with the introduction of new types of service into the national health service, such as these cancer genetics services and other service development pilots funded under the 2003 Genetics White Paper. Its report is due in autumn 2008.

The individual cancer genetics service pilot sites are evaluating the effectiveness of their services and this evidence will contribute to the development of the guidance for commissioners referred to in the Cancer Reform Strategy (paragraph 2.53).

Cannabis: Misuse

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished consultant episodes resulting from the misuse of cannabis there were for *(a)* patients aged under 18 years and *(b)* patients aged over 18 years in (i) England and (ii) each strategic health authority area in each year from 1997-98 to 2006-07. [175143]

Dawn Primarolo: Information as requested is not collected.

Data on the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) is only available from April 2004, with national data on under-18s available from April 2005.

The NDTMS does not monitor activity through 'finished consultant episodes'—the data relates to structured treatment activity for all those providing treatment for drug misuse and records those who attend specialist drug treatment services only.

The following data shows the number of individuals who received drug treatment for cannabis, and is broken down by SHA. There are separate figures for adults (over 18) and young people (under 18) in 2005-06 and 2006-07, and figures for over 18s only for 2004-05.

2006-07 data

England total

Total over 18s receiving treatment of cannabis was 16,685

Total under 18s receiving treatment of cannabis was 9,259

Data by strategic health authority (SHA)	*18 and over 18*	*Under 18*	*Total*
East Midlands SHA	1,185	747	1,932
East of England SHA	1,833	523	2,356
London SHA	4,000	2,007	6,007
North East SHA	822	605	1,427
North West SHA	2,631	1,949	4,580
South Central SHA	697	568	1,265
South East Coast SHA	958	617	1,575
South West SHA	1,688	722	2,410
West Midlands SHA	1,426	862	2,288
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	1,445	659	2,104
Total	16,685	9,259	25,944

Source:
NDTMS

2005-06 data

England total

Total over 18s receiving treatment of cannabis was 14,828

Total under 18s receiving treatment of cannabis was 8,014

Data by SHA	*18 and over 18*	*Under 18*	*Total*
Avon Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA	670	375	1,045
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA	524	95	619
Birmingham and The Black Country SHA	592	383	975
Cheshire and Merseyside SHA	761	491	1,252
County Durham and Tees Valley SHA	304	264	568
Cumbria and Lancashire SHA	349	126	475
Dorset and Somerset SHA	393	119	512
Essex SHA	800	126	926
Greater Manchester SHA	1,039	839	1,878
Hampshire and Isle Of Wight SHA	492	184	676
Kent and Medway SHA	394	149	543
Leicestershire Northamptonshire and Rutland SHA	209	180	389
Norfolk Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA	566	160	726
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire SHA	504	222	726
North Central London SHA	505	359	864
North East London SHA	606	226	832
North West London SHA	1,005	343	1,348
Northumberland Tyne and Wear SHA	447	432	879
Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA	202	177	379
South East London SHA	560	276	836
South West London SHA	678	368	1,046
South West Peninsula SHA	371	228	599
South Yorkshire SHA	345	151	496
Surrey and Sussex SHA	525	472	997
Thames Valley SHA	453	304	757
Trent SHA	669	525	1,194
West Midlands South SHA	285	121	406
West Yorkshire SHA	580	319	899
Total	14,828	8014	22,842

Source:
NDTMS

Data for 2004-05

England total

Total over 18s receiving treatment of cannabis was 11,057

Data by SHA	*18 and over 18s*
Avon Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA	449
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA	535
Birmingham and The Black Country SHA	357
Cheshire and Merseyside SHA	356
County Durham and Tees Valley SHA	215
Cumbria and Lancashire SHA	201
Dorset and Somerset SHA	320
Essex SHA	630
Greater Manchester SHA	611
Hampshire and Isle Of Wight SHA	473
Kent and Medway SHA	473
Leicestershire Northamptonshire and Rutland SHA	150
Norfolk Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA	513
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire SHA	417
North Central London SHA	397
North East London SHA	422
North West London SHA	649
Northumberland,Tyne and Wear SHA	452
Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA	155
South East London SHA	350
South West London SHA	565
South West Peninsula SHA	227
South Yorkshire SHA	208
Surrey and Sussex SHA	429
Thames Valley SHA	302
Trent SHA	550
West Midlands South SHA	256
West Yorkshire SHA	395
Total	11,057

Source:
NDTMS

Carers UK: Finance

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department will provide to Carers UK in 2007-08. [177163]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In 2007-08, Carers UK received core funding of £125,000 from the Department under section 64 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968. This is the second year of three year grant funding.

In addition, Carers UK received an additional £200,000 as one off grant funding to help build their capacity and enable them to respond to National Carers Strategy. In particular, the grant was awarded to allow them to engage with carers throughout the United Kingdom and ensure that their voice was heard in the process of developing the strategy.

Childbirth

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of the quality of the childbirth experience on *(a)* the incidence of intervention during labour, *(b)* the quality of the bond between parents and baby, *(c)* the success and duration of breast-feeding and *(d)* the incidence of post-natal depression; and if he will make a statement. [165444]

Dawn Primarolo: No such formal assessments have been made.

However, the Healthcare Commission published a report on 27 November of their survey of women's experiences of maternity care in England. The survey found that 89 per cent. of women rated the overall care received during labour and birth as 'excellent', 'very good' or 'good'.

All our policies are developed with the help and support of stakeholders and therefore clinical and user opinion is taken into account.

Chiropody: Waiting Lists

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the maximum waiting time target is for NHS chiropody services; and if he will make a statement. [174046]

Ann Keen: Chiropody treatment is included in the 18-week maximum waiting time target if a consultant-led service decides that chiropody is the best treatment to manage the patient's disease, condition or injury and avoid further interventions.

Detailed rules and definitions for the 18-week target are available at www.18weeks.nhs.uk

Other access to chiropody services is a matter for primary care trusts based on the assessed needs of their local population. Guidance is included in the national service frameworks for older people, diabetes, and long-term conditions, and the White Paper "Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services".

Chlamydia Infection

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many diagnoses of sexually transmitted Chlamydia infection there were in England in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* age, *(b)* strategic health authority area and *(c)* sex; and how many diagnoses were in (i) genito-urinary medicine clinics, (ii) other outpatient settings, (iii) inpatient settings and (iv) other healthcare settings in each year. [174053]

Dawn Primarolo: Currently data are only collected nationally on Chlamydia diagnoses in genito-urinary clinics (GUM) and in the National Chlamydia Screening Programme.

Information on the diagnoses of Chlamydia in GUM clinics by strategic health authority (SHA) level by age band and sex in each year since 1997 has been placed in the Library.

The total number of people who have been diagnosed with Chlamydia within the National Chlamydia Screening Programme by SHA since 2003-04 when the programme was launched, has been placed in the Library.

Chlamydia Infection: Screening

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1163-64W, on Chlamydia infection: screening, what proportion of 16 to 24 year olds screened for Chlamydia tested positive. [174052]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Clinical Trials

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received from *(a)* the NHS, *(b)* manufacturers of pharmaceuticals and *(c)* other interested parties on the suitability of the regulatory system in the UK for conducting Phase III clinical trials; what the content of those representations was; and if he will make a statement. [175089]

Ann Keen: No specific representations have been received from any stakeholders regarding the suitability of the regulatory system in the United Kingdom for the conduct of phase III clinical trials. However, a wide range of stakeholder views were gathered at the October conference on the operation of the Clinical Trial Directive 2001/20/EEC, arranged by the European Medicines Agency on behalf of the European Commission. An action plan is being developed and will be subject to public consultation in due course

Doctors: Housing

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 714W, on doctors: housing; whether he plans to issue new guidance on accommodation for doctors not covered by existing contractual provisions. [172012]

Ann Keen: We have no plans to issue new guidance because all doctors are covered by existing contractual arrangements.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 714W, on doctors: housing, whether *(a)* current Foundation Year 1 doctors, *(b)* Foundation Year 1 doctors for the year 2007-08 and *(c)* Foundation Year 1 doctors for the year 2008-09 will be covered by (i) existing contractual provisions and (ii) the guidance within the terms and conditions for employment for junior doctors on the application of charges for accommodation provided through hospital channels. [172627]

Ann Keen: Junior doctors are no longer statutorily required to be permanently resident for the better performance of their duties. Their terms and conditions for employment have remained the same. With regards to the contractual provisions this is a matter between the junior doctor and their employer.

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council meeting, what assessment he has made of the effect the establishment of an EU-wide organ donation policy will have on regulation in the UK organ donation sector; what effect an EU-wide organ donation policy will have on *(a)* numbers and *(b)* types of organs, (i) entering and (ii) leaving the UK; and what steps he is taking to ensure the best outcomes for the UK from an EU-wide organ donation policy. [174519]

Ann Keen: No specific assessment has yet been made in the United Kingdom of the European Union Commission communication on organ donation and transplantation published in May 2007, to increase the number of high quality and safe organs available for transplantation. The ongoing House of Lords EU Sub-Committee G Inquiry will help inform this. In the meantime we continue to work with other member states to examine the need for an EU framework on quality and safety and how we can best work across the European Union to share good practice. We need to ensure that any additional requirements would add value but not significant cost to enable appropriate investment in initiatives to enable the greater identification and procurement of donor organs.

EU Law

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in which of his Department's areas of responsibility there is *(a)* an EU competence and *(b)* a shared competence between the EU and member states; which Ministers take responsibility for those areas; and what meetings those Ministers have had with (i) European Union officials, (ii) Ministers from other EU member states and (iii) European Commissioners to discuss those issues in the last 12 months. [172298]

Dawn Primarolo: I am responsible for departmental activities in relation to the European Union (EU). Prior to July 2007, these responsibilities were held by the Minister of State for Health Services (Rosie Winterton). The EU has competence under Article 152 of the EC treaty in relation to public health, although its powers in this area are expressly limited. Other treaty articles, such as the free movement provisions, which apply to medical goods, e.g. pharmaceuticals, professionals and services, and provisions on health and safety, also apply in the Department's areas of responsibility. In the past 12 months, Ministers have met on a number of occasions with European Commission officials, European Commissioners and Health Ministers from other EU member states to discuss EU health issues.

Exercise: Elderly

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with his Ministerial colleagues on the promotion of physical activity to older people; and whether his Department is taking the lead on promotion of physical activity to older people. [175442]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has an important role in promoting the benefits of physical activity for all as set out in the Chief Medical Officers report "At least five a week: Evidence on the impact of physical activity and its relationship to health". We have worked closely with other Departments, including the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Department for Children, Families and Schools and the Department for Transport to deliver the existing strategy for physical activity set out in "Choosing Activity: a physical activity action plan".

The Local Exercise Action Pilots, which took place across the English regions between 2003 and 2005, demonstrated that community-based interventions can be effective in promoting physical activity in older people. More recently, the Hull Swim for Health and three of the Everyday Swim pilots are evaluating the promotion of swimming when targeted towards older age groups.

We have also made £60 million ring-fenced funding (£20 million in 2006-07 and £40 million in 2007-08) available to approximately 30 council-led partnerships across the country as part of Partnerships for Older People Projects to evaluate innovative approaches to help older people to live healthy, independent and fulfilling lives for as long as possible.

HM Treasury has asked my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to develop a new strategy for Sport England. Ministers have also agreed to work closely over the next few months to ensure that all relevant Departments are working together to deliver a physical activity strategy for all. Any changes in responsibilities for policy on physical activity, including the promotion of physical activity to older people, would emerge from this work.

Foetal Tissue: Research

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals for legislation to require individuals applying for a licence to undertake embryonic stem cell research to demonstrate that no alternatives exist; what recent representations he has received on the issue; and if he will make a statement. [174048]

Dawn Primarolo: The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 provides that the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) may only license embryo research where the use of embryos is necessary for the purpose of that project of research.

In making this assessment, the HFEA takes account of the scope for the research to be undertaken by other means, including by way of stem cells derived from somatic (adult) cells or umbilical cords. The HFEA also refers embryo research applications for peer review, which considers if there are feasible alternatives to the use of embryos.

Genetic Counsellors

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many specialist genetic counsellors there were in each primary care trust in each of the last three years. [175159]

Ann Keen: Genetic counsellors are not identified as a separate professional grouping in the Department's work force data and so we do not have information on the number of genetic counsellors in primary care trusts. The majority of genetic counsellors work within regional genetic services which are based in tertiary centres.

The Department is funding an additional 50 trainee genetic counsellor posts through the genetics White Paper "Our Inheritance, Our Future: realising the potential of genetics in the NHS" (June 2003).

Genito-Urinary Medicine

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of attenders at genito-urinary medicine clinics was recorded as not having been given an appointment within two weeks in each audit of genito-urinary medicine clinic waiting times undertaken by the Health Protection Agency since May 2004. [174054]

Dawn Primarolo: The genito-urinary clinic (GUM) waiting times audit collected data on waiting times for all GUM clinics in England for a period of one week every quarter. It ran from May 2004 to August 2007. All patients attending a GUM clinic with a new episode or registering for the first time were asked to complete the short questionnaire on waiting times. Data are presented on the proportion of attendees recorded as not having been offered an appointment within two weeks of each audit since May 2004.

Data on waiting times are now collected for all attendances of clinics through the Genito-urinary Medicine Access Monthly Monitoring (GUMAMM) data set. According to the equivalent data for October 2007 there were 4,470 attendees not offered an appointment within two weeks of contacting a clinic, 117,744 first attendances and 3.8 per cent. of attendees not offered an appointment within two weeks of contacting a clinic.

Number and proportion of attendees recorded as not having been given an appointment within two weeks of contacting the GUM clinic: results from one-week quarterly waiting times audit of GUM clinics in England

Date of one-week audit	*Number of attendees not offered an appointment within two weeks of contacting clinic*	*Number of attendees*	*Percentage of attendees not offered an appointment within two weeks of contacting clinic*
2004			
May	3,916	13,683	29
November	3,565	13,892	26
2005			
May	4,137	16,441	25
August	3,204	15,038	21
November	3,152	15,162	21
2006			
February	2,648	15,302	17
May	2,561	16,628	15
August	2,163	16,553	13
November	1,760	17,490	10
2007			
February	1,523	18,691	8
May	1,280	18,986	7
August	1,127	19,779	6

Haemophilus Influenzae

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the UK is affected by the decision by Merck to recall doses of haemophilus influenza type b (Hib) vaccine. [177039]

Dawn Primarolo: No. The recall of haemophilus influenzae type b vaccine produced by Merck does not affect the United Kingdom because the product recalled is not used in our UK national immunisation programme.

Health Education

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis is for the statement in paragraph 3.52 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy that adopting a health-related social marketing campaign is *(a)* improving people's health and *(b)* reducing inequalities. [175131]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department commissioned a review—"It's our health!"—of social marketing and its potential application in the health arena.

The review was undertaken jointly by the National Consumer Council and the National Social Marketing Centre and reported in June 2006.

The review found examples of initiatives whose impact was enhanced by the systematic application of social marketing core concepts and techniques. Social marketing also helped to achieve behavioural goals and directly supported service development and reduced health inequalities.

An example used was:

Food Dudes (Bangor Food Research Unit at the School of Psychology, University of Wales Bangor, 1992 to present).

The initiative was to promote healthy eating in children.

The initiative greatly increased and sustained the quantity and range of fruit and vegetables consumed by children, especially those who ate least at the outset. Two projects found:

Children in a school in Brixton more than doubled their lunchtime consumption of fruit; and

Children in a school in Salford tripled their lunchtime consumption of vegetables.

Health Services: EU Law

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in negotiations on the proposed EU Directive on Cross-Border Health Care; and if he will make a statement. [175240]

Dawn Primarolo: The proposals from the European Commission regarding the provision of cross-border health services, which are expected to codify existing case law from the European Court of Justice, have not yet been published. The proposals will be subject to scrutiny by the House of Lords European Union Select Committee and the House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee. In future discussions on the proposal, the Government will work to protect the United Kingdom's interests.

Health Services: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what evidence was taken into account in making the decision to implement leucodepletion in 1999 to prevent the risk of contracting vCJD through blood transfusions; and whether additional evidence will be required to inform decisions on implementing prion filtration. [174481]

Dawn Primarolo: Expert advice at the time suggested that prion infectivity could be associated with the white cells (leucocytes) in the blood. It was therefore considered prudent to minimise any risk by removing the majority of these cells (without detriment to the transfusion). Although introduced primarily as one way of reducing any risk of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease transmission, leucodepletion has a number of other benefits. For example, there is evidence that it reduces some of the risks of adverse reaction to transfusion.

In respect of prion filtration, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1298W, to the hon. Member for Kettering (Mr. Hollobone).

Health: Migration

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect on health inequalities of *(a)* migration and *(b)* poverty. [174314]

Dawn Primarolo: The impact of immigration on health is more directly reflected in the health status and the underpinning determinants of health of specific ethnic minority groups, than of immigration. In general, we know there is a strong link between ethnicity, deprivation and poor health, but it is also important to recognise that there is considerable diversity between different ethnic groups. No specific studies have been recently commissioned by the Department of the general impact of internal migration.

The impact of poverty including relative income, child poverty and fuel poverty on health status and so on health inequalities has long been recognised. Sir Donald Acheson's 'Inquiry into Inequalities in Health', which was commissioned by the Government, highlighted issues surrounding poverty and income, education, employment and environment. This approach reflected the scientific evidence that emphasised the interrelated nature of the causes of these inequalities. The Government's strategy 'Tackling Health Inequalities: A Programme for Action', set out the Government's response to these issues, including poverty.

Healthy Start Vouchers

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of those eligible have taken up Healthy Start vouchers in *(a)* the Leyton and Wanstead constituency, *(b)* Redbridge, *(c)* Waltham Forest, *(d)* London and *(e)* England. [177075]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of women and children eligible for Healthy Start at any given point in time varies. However, we estimate that take-up of the scheme in England is currently approximately 87 per cent. This is equivalent to around 342,000 beneficiary households.

Information on take-up at local level is not yet available, but we are planning to extract information from the Healthy Start database at strategic health authority or primary care trust level later in 2008. This will enable us to provide feedback to the national health service on the impact of Healthy Start at local level to support local delivery of public health policies.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of catheter-related bloodstream infections occurred in the NHS in each of the past five years, broken down by strategic health authority area. [174638]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not collect data on catheter-related bloodstream infections centrally.

Human Embryo Experiments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what files are held by his Department on the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill of Session 1989-90. [169605]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department holds approximately 30 file titles concerning the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill 1990.

Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccination

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the human papilloma virus *(a)* vaccination and *(b)* screening programme; and if he will make a statement. [174143]

Dawn Primarolo: Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccines have been shown to be extremely effective in protecting women against the HPV strains that cause 70 per cent. of cervical cancers. The vaccine needs to be given before girls become exposed to the virus in order to provide protection.

The National Health Service Cervical Screening Programme is likely to continue for many years after the introduction of the HPV vaccine. This is because the vaccines only offer protection against 70 per cent. of cancer-causing HPV types, and it will be 13 years before the first 12-year-olds vaccinated will be eligible for cervical screening. Screening will also still need to be offered to women up to the age of 64 who will not have been vaccinated.

As part of the Liquid Based Cytology (LBC) pilot, which evaluated the use of the LBC technique in cervical screening, HPV testing as triage for women with mild or borderline test results was also piloted.

Following receipt of the positive independent evaluation of the HPV arm of the pilot, the Advisory Committee on Cervical Screening set up a dedicated working group to advise on how best to introduce HPV testing into the cervical screening programme.

As a result of this, a number of sentinel sites began triaging women with mild and borderline screening results in late 2007. Results from these sites will be known by 2009, at which point further roll-out can be considered.

In Vitro Fertilisation

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many embryos from in vitro fertilisation programmes have been *(a)* donated to and *(b)* created for scientific research in each year since 1999. [177200]

Dawn Primarolo: The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) has informed me that its register indicates that only two embryos have been created specifically for research purposes and this occurred in 2001.

Virtually all the embryos used in research have been donated by patients who no longer wished to use them in their own treatment. The number of embryos donated for research purposes each year since 1999 is shown in the following table.

Embryos donated for research purposes since 1999

	Number of embryos donated for research
1999	5087
2000	5302
2001	4190
2002	4527
2003	3737
2004	3649
2005	4456
2006	3244

Source:
A long-term analysis of the HFEA register data 1991-2006, HFEA June 2007

Industrial Diseases

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many specialist consultants in the NHS there are who treat patients with *(a)* chronic bronchitis and *(b)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. [174678]

Ann Keen: The number of specialist consultants in the national health service who treat patients with chronic bronchitis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is not collated. However, such information is shown in the following table.

Hospital and community health services: medical staff within the cardiology and respiratory medicine specialties, England at 30 September 2006

		Number, headcount
	All staff	*Of which: consultant*
All specialties	93,320	32,874
Of which:		
Cardiology	2,056	752
Cardiothoracic surgery	717	240
Respiratory medicine	1,451	583

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he has identified triggers at which point the use of antivirals in the event of an influenza pandemic becomes so great that the introduction of clinical prioritisation will be necessary; [174695]

(2) whether the Government intend to consult on proposals for the clinical prioritisation of antivirals in the event of the stockpile of antivirals becoming depleted, as stated on page 38 of his Department's National Framework for responding to an influenza pandemic. [175093]

Dawn Primarolo: The current antiviral stockpile should be sufficient to treat all who fall ill in a pandemic of similar proportions to previous ones in the 20th century but we recognise that prioritisation may need to be triggered if the clinical attack rate is higher than anticipated and/or antivirals are in greater demand than anticipated.

There is less likelihood of the need for prioritisation of antivirals as the stockpile is increased to reflect the potential for a higher clinical attack rate.

The Government have already consulted on the ethical principles underlying issues such as prioritisation, but their implications will need to be reviewed and updated in the light of emerging scientific and other information at the time of a pandemic. Further testing of the public's reactions to many issues in pandemic planning and decision-making will start with an engagement programme to facilitate this process, with the active participation of the public, beginning in the new year.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what means he has established to allow for the *(a)* assessment of the clinical attack rate of the first wave of a pandemic, *(b)* monitoring of the pandemic virus for genetic mutations which may affect the degree of protection and *(c)* monitoring of the pandemic virus for antiviral susceptibility, in between waves of a pandemic, as recommended on page 71 of his Department's National Framework for responding to an influenza pandemic, published on 22 November; and if he will make a statement. [174696]

Dawn Primarolo: For all three surveillance elements mentioned, international information exchange, led by the World Health Organisation (WHO), will play an important role. The United Kingdom is actively engaged in international surveillance work and planning via both the WHO and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

It is envisaged that some information allowing estimation of the possible UK clinical attack rate of the first wave of a pandemic will be obtained via the WHO from the country of origin of the pandemic. Once it is in the UK; it is planned that more detailed data on the first few hundred UK cases will be obtained via the pandemic influenza management system that is currently being developed. It is an extension of the Health Protection Agency's avian influenza database. This will allow more accurate estimates of the UK clinical attack rate. Analysis of calls to the Flu Line, combined with real time modelling, will continuously improve the accuracy of the estimate of the clinical attack rate as the pandemic progresses. Adaptation of existing surveillance systems and development of new systems is under consideration to further improve upon the clinical impact data available in the course of a pandemic.

Genetic analyses of the pandemic virus will be performed by the National Respiratory Virus Reference Unit in Colindale, which includes the WHO National Influenza laboratory. Analyses will be performed throughout the pandemic. The sampling schedule will change in the course of the pandemic. International information exchange, led by the WHO, will also provide valuable genetic monitoring information in the global course of the pandemic.

The UK is an active participant in the Neuraminidase Inhibitor Susceptibility Network which monitors susceptibility of neuraminidase inhibitors to influenza viruses found in the community. Influenza neuraminidase inhibitor antiviral susceptibility testing in the UK is provided at the National Influenza Centre in Colindale. Surveillance systems currently under consideration for use during a pandemic, are also being evaluated as to their potential to provide data on the proportion of antiviral treatment failures, both to inform on the potential development of a resistant virus and to improve on treatment regimes.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what stockpiles of medicines have been available in each of the last three years for use in an influenza epidemic; [174724]

(2) when he intends to place orders for additional *(a)* antivirals and *(b)* antibiotics; and when he expects to have procured the intended numbers of each; [174748]

(3) for what reasons the Government plan to stockpile 14.7 million treatment courses of antibiotics; [174760]

(4) what role he proposes for NHS walk-in centres in the event of an influenza pandemic; [175025]

(5) which *(a)* organisation and *(b)* individuals his Department is consulting to (i) develop a suitable algorithm and (ii) produce model protocols/guidelines to allow the supply of oseltamivir during an influenza pandemic, as stated on page 102 of his Department's National Framework for responding to an influenza pandemic; when he intends the (A) algorithm and (B) model protocols/guidelines to have been finalised; and if he will make a statement; [175026]

(6) whether he intends the National Flu Line service, as described in his Department's National Framework for responding to an influenza pandemic, to be delivered through NHS Direct. [175027]

Dawn Primarolo: Antivirals are a key part of the Government response to an influenza pandemic, as stated in the National framework for responding to an influenza pandemic. We have stockpiled 14.6 million doses of Tamiflu, sufficient to treat 25 per cent. of the United Kingdom population. Owing to the logistical issues involved in building up such a large stockpile, supplies were delivered over a period between August 2005 and September 2006.

We plan to increase our stockpile of antivirals and antibiotics, but a precise timeline can not be given. This is because the procurement of the additional

countermeasures will be subject to normal commercial procurement procedures to ensure that we purchase these products at the best price and achieve value for money.

The Government are increasing their stock of antibiotics to treat the complications arising from an influenza pandemic. It will enable us to provide antibiotics for vulnerable symptomatic flu patients before secondary complications develop.

NHS Direct has been asked to lead on the development of the National Flu Line Service. The project team is working towards the delivery of the initial phase of the system by towards the end of 2008.

During a pandemic, national health service walk-in centres will be critical in continuing to provide fast access to health advice and treatment. They will continue to work alongside existing services in providing access to health advice, information and treatment of minor illnesses. Symptomatic patients will be encouraged to remain at home to limit spread of the influenza virus, and to contact the National Flu Line service as a first port of call.

The national clinical algorithm that will be used in the Flu Line Service to assess patients and determine their eligibility to antiviral treatment during a pandemic has been developed with the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders. These include expert clinicians and professionals from across the UK, representatives of specific health and social care services including the ambulance service, and representatives from the appropriate royal colleges. The algorithm is in the final stages of development and will be published shortly.

The protocol and guidelines that will allow the issuing of antiviral medicines have also been developed with input from a wide range of professionals, and are currently subject to public consultation as described in the 'Possible amendments to medicines and associated legislation during an influenza pandemic' consultation document. The protocol and guidelines will be finalised after the consultation period ends on 22 February 2008.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 22 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 1350, on pandemic influenza, for what reasons the stockpiles of *(a)* antibiotics, *(b)* pre-pandemic vaccines and *(c)* antivirals announced in his statement differ to the sizes of stockpiles recommended by his Department's Pandemic Influenza Scientific Advisory Group in its subgroup on modelling: modelling summary published in November 2007. [174761]

Dawn Primarolo: The Scientific Advisory Group modelling sub-group summary does not recommend any specific stockpile levels. It summarises the outcomes of calculated simulations of several different situations taking a variety of counter-measures options, clinical attack rates and case fatality rates as scenarios.

The scenarios discussed in the modelling summary paper include stockpiles of antibiotics of 0.4 per cent. and 14 per cent., pre-pandemic vaccines of 2 per cent., 40 per cent. and 100 per cent., and antivirals of 25 per cent., 75 per cent. and 100 per cent. population coverage. The outcomes of simulations of these scenarios are taken into account, as well as a variety of important but non-scientific considerations, when deciding on the stockpile levels to be purchased.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis is for his statement that pandemic influenza plans are in place in most key sectors, as stated in paragraph 4.11.2 of his Department's National Framework for responding to an influenza pandemic. [175034]

Dawn Primarolo: All Government Departments are directly or indirectly involved in preparing for an influenza pandemic and play an active role in informing and supporting contingency planning in their areas of responsibility, including public and private sector organisations. Departments work closely with these sectors to promote business continuity management and facilitate robust and resilient planning to deal with a wide range of emergencies, including an influenza pandemic. To facilitate sectoral planning central Government Departments have issued guidance specific to pandemic planning, and regularly meet stakeholders to update them on the emerging situation and to provide advice.

The evidence that supports the statement that pandemic influenza plans are in place in most key sectors, as stated in paragraph 4.11.2, includes the following:

The National Capabilities Survey (NCS). The confidential survey goes out to organisations providing essential services; as well as local emergency responders, regional government offices and central Government Departments. This includes the private sector. The results of the last NCS survey in 2006, showed that, in the main, the essential services had well established business continuity plans, which were designed to prepare for, respond to, and recover from, a whole range of risks including an influenza pandemic. The NCS 2008 will give us a more detailed picture, by evaluating recent progress and exploring these issues in greater depth;

Exercise Winter Willow. Over 5,000 people from government, industry and the voluntary sector participated in Exercise Winter Willow, with a common aim to review and validate our preparations and plans for the major challenges that an influenza pandemic would bring. This was supported by a number of sector specific exercises; and

Stakeholder engagement. The Cabinet Office and other Government Departments meet regularly with representatives from public and private sector bodies (through the business forum and other ad hoc meetings) to review the development of plans and to disseminate good practice.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis is for his statement on page 32 of his Department's National Framework for responding to an influenza pandemic, that fuel supplies are expected to be maintained in the event of an influenza pandemic. [175035]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (DBERR) continues to work closely with all its stakeholders in the fuel, energy, telecommunications and postal services sectors to ensure that they recognise the impact a pandemic would have on the United Kingdom and factor this into their business continuity plans so that any disruption to consumers is minimised.

We have continued to keep them up to date with Government policy and planning as set out in the National Framework. Should it become necessary, DBERR and industry, in consultation with other stakeholders, would introduce a range of measures to ensure that

essential supplies and services will be maintained. Planning by fuel suppliers is aimed at maintaining near-normal levels.

The results from the last National Capabilities Survey (NCS – a confidential survey which goes out to organisations providing essential services, including the private sector, as well as local emergency responders, regional Government offices and central Government Departments) in 2006, also showed that, in the main, the essential services had well-established business continuity plans, which were designed to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a whole range of risks including an influenza pandemic.

The NCS 2008 will give us a more detailed picture, by evaluating recent progress and exploring these issues in greater depth.

Critical national infrastructure industries also took part in the winter willow exercise in 2007.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis is for the statement that a high efficacy vaccine given to 75 per cent. of the population will eliminate further pandemic waves, as stated in paragraph 7.41 of the Cabinet Office's document "Overarching Government strategy to respond to pandemic influenza: analysis of the scientific evidence base." [175095]

Dawn Primarolo: The statement follows from epidemiological theory for a disease in which one infected person generally infects fewer than two or so others. This is understood to be likely for a future pandemic influenza based on previous pandemics and seasonal influenza, although the exact properties of such a virus cannot be known in advance.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans the Government have to procure a central stockpile of *(a)* aprons and *(b)* gloves for use by health and social care staff in the event of an influenza pandemic. [175271]

Dawn Primarolo: Used correctly, disposable gloves and aprons will increase protection and support good hygiene practice in primary and secondary health care. The quantities and type of products needed and the options for procuring them are currently under consideration.

Influenza Vaccines: Finance

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the cost to the public purse has been of the provision of influenza vaccines in 2007-08; [174184]

(2) what representations he has received from the voluntary sector on the possible use of influenza vaccines returned by GPs or hospitals; [174185]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of unused influenza vaccines that will be returned by GPs in the next 12 months; [174186]

(4) how many unused influenza vaccines were returned by *(a)* hospitals, *(b)* GPs and *(c)* other establishments in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [174187]

Ann Keen: We estimate that the influenza vaccination programme costs about £150 million.

The Government do not purchase flu vaccine on behalf of individual general practitioners (GPs) or hospitals. GPs order their own supplies of flu vaccine from the supplier(s) of their choice based on the number of eligible patients on their register.

No representations have been received from the voluntary sector on the possible use of influenza vaccines returned by GPs or hospitals.

Information of the numbers of vaccines returned to manufacturers is commercially confidential.

Information on the number of unused influenza vaccines returned by hospitals, GPs and other establishments in each of the last three years is not held centrally.

Influenza: Disease Control

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the purchase of disposable respirators and face masks for a possible flu pandemic will be sourced in the UK. [176150]

Dawn Primarolo: The purchase of disposable face masks and respirators will be done in accordance with European Union procurement legislation and will also take full account of the ability of manufacturers to supply the numbers of products needed, wherever they are located.

Influenza: Vaccination

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research has been commissioned by his Department since 1997 on the effectiveness of the seasonal influenza immunisation programme; and if he will place copies of this research in the Library. [166388]

Dawn Primarolo: Two research projects[1] have been commissioned by the Department to study the effectiveness of the influenza immunisation programme for health care workers. The first studied the effectiveness of vaccinating care staff in preventing illness among residents of care homes. The second study looked at how well the health care worker vaccination policy was being implemented and the attitudes of health care workers to flu vaccination. The papers have been published in the scientific literature, and a copy has been placed in the Library.

[1] Hayward A.C., Harling R., Wetten S., Johnson A.M., Munro S., Smedley J., Murad S., Watson J.M.

'Effectiveness of an influenza vaccine programme for care home staff to prevent death, morbidity, and health service use among residents: cluster randomised controlled trial'.

BMJ. 2006 Dec 16;333(7581):1241. Epub 2006 Dec 1.

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/?Db=pubmed&Cmd=ShowDetailView&TermToSearch=17142257&ordinalpos=3&itool=EntrezSystem2.PEntrez.Pubmed.Pubmed_ResultsPanel.Pubmed_RVDocSum

Smedley J., Poole J., Waclawski E., Stevens A., Harrison J., Watson J., Hayward A., Coggon D.

'Influenza immunisation: attitudes and beliefs of UK healthcare workers'.

Occup Environ Med. 2007 Apr;64(4):223-7. Epub 2006 Dec 20

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/?Db=pubmed&Cmd=ShowDetailView&TermToSearch=17182640&ordinalpos=1&itool=EntrezSystem2.PEntrez.Pubmed.Pubmed_ResultsPanel.Pubmed_RVDocSum

Information Centre for Health and Social Care

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what dates since January 2007 the Information Centre for Health and Social Care has had discussions with the Prescription Pricing Division of the NHS Business Services Authority; and what the content was of such discussions. [174835]

Dawn Primarolo: This is a matter for the chief executive of the Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

Lyme Disease

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people likely to have undiagnosed active Lyme disease; and what steps his Department will take to *(a)* identify these people and *(b)* raise awareness of Lyme disease and its symptoms among GPs. [176270]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of people with undiagnosed active Lyme disease has not been estimated in the United Kingdom.

The Department is not proposing to take steps to identify people with undiagnosed active Lyme disease. Those in whom infection is asymptomatic or has caused only mild or self-limiting symptoms and who do not consult a general practitioner (GP) are not identifiable. Those with active disease whose symptoms require them to seek a GP consultation will be diagnosed.

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) has published guidance for GPs and other clinicians on the diagnosis and treatment of Lyme Disease on its website and has also run various campaigns to promote awareness of Lyme disease among clinicians and the public.

The HPA's Lyme Disease Reference Laboratory provides an expert and freely available diagnostic service to GPs and other clinicians and has nationwide links to experts in infectious diseases, neurology, rheumatology and other specialties that have a particular interest in Lyme disease.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the adequacy of blood tests as a tool for diagnosis of late-stage Lyme disease; and what other tools for diagnosis he is considering. [176271]

Dawn Primarolo: Blood testing to confirm late stage Lyme disease is undertaken for the national health service by the Health Protection Agency's (HPA) Lyme disease Reference Laboratory. This laboratory is fully accredited and the tests conform to the internationally agreed testing criteria for "Borrelia burgdorferi", the causative agent of Lyme disease, based upon stringent interpretation of serological test results. The testing is a two stage process: testing for the presence of antibodies to "B. burgdorferi" followed by specific immunoblot (Western blot) tests on all specimens that react in preliminary tests. The significance of the results are then carefully assessed in the light of the patient's clinical signs and exposure history to ticks. This two stage testing procedure is carried out by world-renowned experts at the HPA's Lyme disease reference unit and supports the clinical assessment to provide the most accurate diagnosis. These tests are freely available to clinicians in the NHS. A small group led by the Inspector of Microbiology reviewed the testing methodology in 2006 and we are satisfied that the tests available to the NHS are adequate for the diagnosis of late-stage Lyme disease.

Molecular diagnostic tests have been developed for detection of "B. burgdorferi" and can be a useful in particular circumstances such as a diagnostic test on joint fluids in patients with suspected chronic Lyme arthritis. Such tests are not yet considered useful as a routine diagnostic tool. Direct detection by culture of "B. burgdorferi" is not useful for the diagnosis of late-stage Lyme disease.

The Chief Medical Officer's Inspector of Microbiology undertook a thorough investigation in 2006 of unorthodox and unvalidated blood tests offered by some non-NHS practitioners to make a diagnosis of Lyme disease in patients with medically unexplained symptoms similar to those of late stage Lyme disease. He found such unvalidated tests wholly unsuitable for the diagnosis of late-stage Lyme disease. His report is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_4138917.pdf

Medicine: Overseas Students

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether medical students from non-European Economic Area countries undertaking postgraduate training will be able to complete their entire training in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [174337]

Ann Keen: Medical students from non-European Economic Area countries undertaking post graduate training will be able to complete their training subject to satisfactory progress and meeting all competition and eligibility requirements.

Mental Health and Employment

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1318W, on mental health and employment: meeting the challenge, what the average cost is of treating an individual for depression and anxiety disorders. [177241]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Depression and anxiety disorders are treated in two main ways: by medication and through evidence-based psychological therapies such as cognitive behavioural therapies (CBT). No estimate has been made of the average cost per head of anti-depressants or other medication.

The London School of Economies' Centre for Economic Performance calculates that the average cost per head to deliver a course of CBT for depression or an anxiety disorder is £750. Additionally, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has calculated that the average cost of delivering a course of CBT to patients with post-traumatic stress disorder at 12 weeks after the traumatic event (the most cost-effective option) is £825.

The cost calculation for delivering CBT and other evidence-based psychological therapies used in implementing the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme is lower than the above figures because the IAPT model of care includes a wider range of evidence-based therapeutic approaches and delivery methods.

Mental Health Services: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the rate of occupancy of psychiatric beds was in each London mental health trust in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [176032]

(2) how many psychiatric beds there were in each London mental health trust in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [176033]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested can be found in the following tables.

Not everybody who needs care for a mental health related problem needs a psychiatric bed—even in an emergency. We have developed a range of alternatives to in-patient acute beds. These include new models of practice, robust care pathways and supported accommodation or respite care in ordinary settings.

In-patient psychiatric activity has fallen over time as we have established more than 700 new mental health teams providing community based care as an alternative to acute in-patient care.

Average daily available beds, occupied beds and occupancy rate (occupied/available x 100 per cent.) for mental illness, learning disabilities, and total (mental illness + learning disabilities) in London area between 2002-03 and 2006-07

		2002-03								
		Mental illness			Learning disabilities			Total (Mental and Learning)		
Org code	Organisation name	Available beds	Occupied beds	Occupancy rate (%)	Available beds	Occupied beds	Occupancy rate (%)	Available beds	Occupied beds	Occupancy rate (%)
RRP	Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	701	670	95.5				701	670	95.5
5K5	Brent PCT				20	11	55.6	20	11	55.6
TAP	Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust	451	388	86.0				451	388	86.0
RV3	Central and North West London Mental Health NHS Trust	847	718	84.8				847	718	84.8
5C7	Chingford, Wanstead and Woodford PCT				13	10	77.2	13	10	77.2
RWK	East London and The City Mental Health NHS Trust	637	593	93.1				637	593	93.1
5C1	Enfield PCT				18	18	100.0	18	18	100.0
RP4	Great Ormond Street Hospital For Children NHS Trust	7	6	79.1				7	6	79.1
5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT				10	9	87.8	10	9	87.8
SAT	Hillingdon PCT									
5K8	Islington PCT	7	7	95.3				7	7	95.3
RAT	North East London Mental Health NHS Trust	649	593	91.4	74	69	93.2	723	662	91.6
RPG	Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust	483	471	97.5				483	471	97.5

Average daily available beds, occupied beds and occupancy rate (occupied/available x 100 per cent.) for mental illness, learning disabilities, and total (mental illness + learning disabilities), in London area between 2002-03 and 2006-07

2002-03

		Mental illness			Learning disabilities			Total (Mental and Learning)		
Org code	*Organisation name*	*Available beds*	*Occupied beds*	*Occupancy rate (%)*	*Available beds*	*Occupied beds*	*Occupancy rate (%)*	*Available beds*	*Occupied beds*	*Occupancy rate (%)*
RV5	South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust	902	885	98.1	23	23	98.0	925	908	98.1
RQV	South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust	846	716	84.6				846	716	84.6
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT			0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
RAS	The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	123	116	94.6				123	116	94.6
RRV	University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	14	7	51.7				14	7	51.7
RKL	West London Mental Health NHS Trust	654	623	95.2				654	623	95.2
5LC	Westminster PCT			0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	London total	6,321	5,792	91.6	158	139	88.3	6,479	5,931	91.6

2003-04

		Mental illness			Learning disabilities			Total (Mental and Learning)		
Org code	*Organisation name*	*Available beds*	*Occupied beds*	*Occupancy rate (%)*	*Available beds*	*Occupied beds*	*Occupancy rate (%)*	*Available beds*	*Occupied beds*	*Occupancy rate (%)*
RRP	Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	751	677	90.2				751	677	90.2
5K5	Brent PCT	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
TAP	Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust	424	385	90.9				424	385	90.9
RV3	Central and North West London Mental Health NHS Trust	747	642	85.9				747	642	85.9
5C7	Chingford, Wanstead and Woodford PCT	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
RWK	East London and The City Mental Health NHS Trust	628	586	93.3				628	586	93.3
5C1	Enfield PCT				24	23	94.1	24	23	94.1

2003-04

Org code	Organisation name	Mental illness			Learning disabilities			Total (Mental and Learning)		
		Available beds	Occupied beds	Occupancy rate (%)	Available beds	Occupied beds	Occupancy rate (%)	Available beds	Occupied beds	Occupancy rate (%)
RP4	Great Ormond Street Hospital For Children NHS Trust	7	5	77.6				7	5	77.6
SC9	Haringey Teaching PCT				10	8	82.2	10	8	82.2
SAT	Hillingdon PCT	121	110	91.2				121	110	91.2
SK9	Islington PCT	6	5	76.4				6	5	76.4
RAT	North East London Mental Health NHS Trust	635	574	90.3	57	56	97.9	692	630	91.0
RPG	Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust	442	423	95.7				442	423	95.7
RV5	South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust	1013	957	94.5	41	39	95.8	1054	996	94.5
RQY	South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust	843	732	86.9	12	8	66.6	854	740	86.6
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT				252	209	82.9	252	209	82.9
RAS	The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust									
RRV	University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	14	10	69.5				14	10	69.5
RKL	West London Mental Health NHS Trust	673	625	92.8				673	625	92.8
5LC	Westminster PCT				8	7	84.4	8	7	84.4
	London total	6,304	5,731	90.9	404	349	86.5	6,708	6,080	90.6

2004-05

Org code	Organisation name	Mental illness			Learning disabilities			Total (Mental and Learning)		
		Available beds	Occupied beds	Occupancy rate (%)	Available beds	Occupied beds	Occupancy rate (%)	Available beds	Occupied beds	Occupancy rate (%)
RRP	Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	787	755	95.9				787	755	95.9
5K5	Brent PCT	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
TAP	Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust	452	427	94.4	2	2	100.0	454	429	94.4

2004-05

Org code	Organisation name	Mental illness			Learning disabilities			Total (Mental and Learning)		
		Available beds	Occupied beds	Occupancy rate (%)	Available beds	Occupied beds	Occupancy rate (%)	Available beds	Occupied beds	Occupancy rate (%)
RV3	Central and North West London Mental Health NHS Trust	720	613	85.2				720	613	85.2
5C7	Chingford, Wanstead and Woodford PCT	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
RWK	East London and The City Mental Health NHS Trust	635	597	94.0				635	597	94.0
5C1	Enfield PCT				22	15	70.3	22	15	70.3
RP4	Great Ormond Street Hospital For Children NHS Trust	7	6	88.1				7	6	88.1
5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT				10	8	81.2	10	8	81.2
5A1	Hillingdon PCT	118	114	95.9				118	114	95.9
5K8	Islington PCT	4	3	85.1				4	3	85.1
RAT	North East London Mental Health NHS Trust	564	553	98.0	26	23	89.3	590	576	97.6
RPG	Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust	439	435	99.0				439	435	99.0
RV5	South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust	1021	962	94.2	41	39	93.7	1062	1000	94.2
RQY	South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust	809	685	84.7	21	18	86.5	830	703	84.7
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT				204	196	96.0	204	196	96.0
RA5	The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust									
RRV	University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	14	10	69.4				14	10	69.4
RKL	West London Mental Health NHS Trust	663	606	91.5				663	606	91.5
5LC	Westminster PCT				3	3	100.0	3	3	100.0
	London total	6,233	5,766	92.5	328	304	92.5	6,562	6,069	92.5

2005-06

Org code	Organisation name	Mental illness			Learning disabilities			Total (Mental and Learning)		
		Available beds	Occupied beds	Occupancy rate (%)	Available beds	Occupied beds	Occupancy rate (%)	Available beds	Occupied beds	Occupancy rate (%)
RRP	Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	773	693	89.7				773	693	89.7
5K5	Brent PCT	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
TAP	Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust	416	389	93.5	4	2	49.2	420	391	93.1
RV3	Central and North West London Mental Health NHS Trust	708	595	84.0				708	595	84.0
5C7	Chingford, Wanstead and Woodford PCT	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
RWK	East London and The City Mental Health NHS Trust	654	606	92.6				654	606	92.6
5C1	Enfield PCT				19	18	92.6	19	18	92.6
RP4	Great Ormond Street Hospital For Children NHS Trust	7	7	95.7				7	7	95.7
5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT				10	10	100.0	10	10	100.0
SAT	Hillingdon PCT	105	99	94.5				105	99	94.5
5K8	Islington PCT	7	6	82.5				7	6	82.5
RAT	North East London Mental Health NHS Trust	435	405	93.1	9	9	96.0	444	413	93.2
RPG	Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust	442	436	98.8				442	436	98.8
RV5	South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust	907	739	81.5	39	31	78.3	946	770	81.3
RQY	South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust	694	561	80.9	21	13	61.7	715	574	80.3
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT				187	186	99.7	187	186	99.7
RAS	The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust									
RRV	University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	14	10	69.4				14	10	69.4

2005-06

Org code	Organisation name	Mental illness			Learning disabilities			Total (Mental and Learning)		
		Available beds	Occupied beds	Occupancy rate (%)	Available beds	Occupied beds	Occupancy rate (%)	Available beds	Occupied beds	Occupancy rate (%)
RKL	West London Mental Health NHS Trust	614	557	90.7	—	—	—	614	557	90.7
5LC	Westminster PCT	—	—	—	5	3	63.2	5	3	63.2
	London total	5,775	5,102	88.3	294	271	92.2	6,069	5,373	88.5

2006-07

Org code	Organisation name	Mental illness			Learning disabilities			Total (Mental and Learning)		
		Available beds	Occupied beds	Occupancy rate (%)	Available beds	Occupied beds	Occupancy rate (%)	Available beds	Occupied beds	Occupancy rate (%)
RRP	Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	693	676	97.7	—	—	—	693	676	97.7
5K5	Brent PCT	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
TAP	Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust	388	367	94.7	4	4	92.5	392	371	94.7
RV3	Central and North West London Mental Health NHS Trust	783	674	86.0	—	—	—	783	674	86.0
5C7	Chingford, Wanstead and Woodford PCT	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
RWK	East London and The City Mental Health NHS Trust	676	631	93.3	—	—	—	676	631	93.3
5C1	Enfield PCT	—	—	—	20	20	100.0	20	20	100.0
RP4	Great Ormond Street Hospital For Children NHS Trust	9	6	68.3	—	—	—	9	6	68.3
5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT	—	—	—	10	10	100.0	10	10	100.0
SAT	Hillingdon PCT	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5K8	Islington PCT	10	8	79.6	—	—	—	10	8	79.6
RAT	North East London Mental Health NHS Trust	433	402	92.9	9	9	96.0	442	411	93.0
RPG	Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust	459	453	98.8	—	—	—	459	453	98.8
RV5	South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust	908	843	92.8	22	16	73.5	930	859	92.3

2006-07

Org code	Organisation name	Mental illness			Learning disabilities			Total (Mental and Learning)		
		Available beds	Occupied beds	Occupancy rate (%)	Available beds	Occupied beds	Occupancy rate (%)	Available beds	Occupied beds	Occupancy rate (%)
RQY	South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust	751	649	86.5	16	12	72.7	767	661	86.2
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	4	4	95.7	187	171	91.5	191	175	91.6
RAS	The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
RRV	University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	10	6	63.0	—	—	—	10	6	63.0
RKL	West London Mental Health NHS Trust	589	561	95.1	—	—	—	589	561	95.1
5LC	Westminster PCT	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	London total	5,713	5,281	92.4	268	241	90.0	5,981	5,522	92.3

Notes:
1. '0' denotes that the PCT did not exist.
2. Percentages calculated on unrounded figures.
3. Data provided for each London organisation that provided either mental illness beds, learning disabilities beds, or both, between 2002-03 and 2006-07.

Source:
Department of Health form KH03

National Child Health Immunisation Board

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the 15 October 2007 meeting of the National Child Health Immunisation Board. [176947]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 634W.

National Identity Register

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to make use of data on the National Identity Register when it is established; and what the estimated annual cost to his Department of that use is. [174034]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department will be working with the Home Office prior to the introduction of the National Identity Scheme to establish how identity information held on the proposed National Identity Register might be used to provide access to public services. It is too early in the process to establish the detailed costs and benefits.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1320W, on NHS: finance, (1) what the statutory minimum of public dividend capital is that a financially challenged trust is expected to repay annually; and what procedures are in place to report to Parliament the liability contingent upon a write-off of any part of the *(a)* principal and *(b)* interest on (i) public dividend capital and (ii) loans; [175346]

(2) what the statutory minimum repayment of cash support advanced to NHS trusts in the financially challenged trusts regime is; what his policy is on requiring such repayments; and if he will make a statement. [175347]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 18 December 2007]*: There is no statutory minimum payment for either public dividend capital dividends or capital. However, national health service trusts in receipt of public dividend capital are expected to make a dividend repayment currently set at 3.5 per cent. of the forecast average value of net relevant assets.

NHS trusts in receipt of working loans are expected to meet repayments in line with the agreed repayment schedule.

The period of the loan is agreed with each trust. NHS trusts make equal six monthly payments of principal over the period of the loan. Interest is payable six monthly on the outstanding balance. The interest rate is the relevant national loan fund rate for the day of the loan, and varies with the term of the loan.

NHS trust debt held by the Department may be written off by the Secretary of State. Such a write-off would constitute a loss to the Exchequer and would as

a consequence be reported in the Department's Resource Accounts. Any write-off exceeding £20 million requires HM Treasury approval. In such cases, in advance of the remission of debt, HM Treasury presents a minute to the House of Commons to give the particulars of the remission and to explain the circumstances.

The financing arrangements for financially challenged trusts are being considered as part of the review process for these trusts.

Nicotine Patches

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis is for the statement on page 37 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy, that some primary care trusts have enabled pharmacists to supply nicotine replacement therapy through *(a)* voucher schemes and *(b)* patient group directions; and if he will list the primary care trusts which have done so. [174767]

Dawn Primarolo: In 2005-06, 2,522 community pharmacies in England were locally commissioned by the primary care trusts (PCTs) in the following table to provide national health service stop smoking services. We are aware that, as part of these services, some PCTs have enabled pharmacists to supply nicotine replacement therapy to patients and the public through voucher schemes and patient group directions but information on which PCTs have done so is not collected centrally.

PCTs contracting with community pharmacies to provide stop smoking services at 31 March 2007

Ashton, Leigh and Wigan
Barnsley
Bath and North East Somerset
Bedfordshire
Berkshire East Teaching
Berkshire West
Bexley Care Trust
Birmingham East and North
Blackburn with Darwen Teaching
Blackpool
Bournemouth and Poole Teaching
Brighton and Hove City Teaching
Bristol Teaching
Bromley
Bury
Camden
Central Lancashire
City and Hackney Teaching
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly
Croydon
Derby City
Derbyshire County
Devon
Doncaster
Dorset
Dudley
Ealing
East and North Hertfordshire
East Sussex Downs and Weald
Eastern and Coastal Kent Teaching
Enfield
Great Yarmouth and Waveney Teaching
Halton and St. Helens
Hammersmith and Fulham
Hampshire
Haringey Teaching
Harrow
Hastings and Rother
Heart of Birmingham Teaching
Herefordshire
Hillingdon
Hounslow
Hull Teaching
Isle of Wight Healthcare
Islington
Kensington and Chelsea
Kingston
Knowsley
Lambeth
Leeds
Leicester City Teaching
Lewisham
Lincolnshire Teaching
Liverpool
Luton Teaching
Manchester
Medway Teaching
Mid Essex
Middlesbrough
Milton Keynes
Newcastle
Newham
North Somerset
North Staffordshire
North Tyneside
North Yorkshire and York
Northamptonshire Teaching
Northumberland Care Trust
Nottingham City
Nottinghamshire County Teaching
Oldham
Redcar and Cleveland
Richmond and Twickenham
Rochdale, Heywood and Middleton
Rotherham
Salford Teaching
Sandwell
Sefton
Sheffield
Shropshire County
South Birmingham
South East Essex
South Staffordshire
South West Essex Teaching
Southwark
Stockport
Stoke on Trent Teaching
Suffolk

Sunderland Teaching
Surrey
Sutton and Merton
Swindon
Tameside and Glossop
Telford and Wrekin
Tower Hamlets
Trafford
Walsall Teaching
Wandsworth
Warrington
Warwickshire
West Essex
West Hertfordshire
West Kent
West Sussex Teaching
Westminster
Wiltshire
Wirral
Wolverhampton City.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care

Nurseries: Infectious Diseases

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider issuing guidance on the notification of infectious diseases in nursery establishments. [176931]

Dawn Primarolo: The Health Protection Agency (HPA) has issued "Guidance on infection control in schools and other child care settings", which also includes nurseries. This guidance draws attention to the statutory duty of registered medical practitioners to report notifiable infectious diseases to the proper officer of the local authority under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 and the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1988. It is available on HPA's website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/schools/default.htm

A copy has been placed in the Library.

Nurses

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued on the provision of cancer clinical nurse specialists. [174253]

Ann Keen: The Department has not issued any specific guidance on the provision of cancer clinical nurse specialists.

However, the Cancer Reform Strategy addresses the issue of clinical nurse specialists. The strategy, published on 3 December 2007, sets out the important role clinical nurse specialists have to play in improving the experience of people with cancer. It also noted that commissioners and providers should give particular consideration to the role of these nurses.

In addition, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has also identified clinical nurse specialists as core members of multidisciplinary teams in their Improving Outcomes series of cancer service guidance.

The Cancer Reform Strategy reiterated the need to fully implement this guidance across the national health service.

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* professional and *(b)* patient representatives on the use of cancer clinical nurse specialists. [174255]

Ann Keen: The Department has had no discussions with professional and patient representatives specifically on the use of cancer clinical nurse specialists.

However, the issue of cancer clinical nurse specialists was discussed by a number of advisory groups during the development of the Cancer Reform Strategy. These groups included both professional and patient representatives. The strategy was published on 3 December 2007. It set out the important role the clinical nurse specialist has to play in improving the experience of people with cancer. It also noted that commissioners and providers should give particular consideration to the role of these nurses.

In addition, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has also identified clinical nurse specialists as core members of multidisciplinary teams in their Improving Outcomes series of cancer service guidance.

The Cancer Reform Strategy reiterated the need to fully implement this guidance across the national health service.

Obesity

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished consultant episodes relating to obesity there were for *(a)* patients aged under 18 years and *(b)* patients aged over 18 years in (i) England and (ii) each strategic health authority area in each year from 1997-98 to 2006-07. [175038]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Pregnancy

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost per live birth of *(a)* antenatal care, *(b)* childbirth and *(c)* post-natal care for the first year. [173591]

Ann Keen: The antenatal and post-natal costs requested are not collected centrally.

The following table shows the national average unit costs of different childbirth events, as calculated from costs reported by national health service trusts, NHS foundation trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) through the 2005-06 Reference Costs collection exercise. Costs are in 2005-06 prices.

	£
Normal Delivery with complications	1,700
Normal Delivery without complications	1,000
Assisted Delivery with complications	2,100
Assisted Delivery without complications	1,400

	£
Caesarian Section with complications	3,200
Caesarian Section without complications	2,300

Notes:
1. Costs in the table have been rounded to the nearest £100.
2. The 2005-06 reference costs are the latest data available. Reference Costs collect data at finished consultation episode level by health care resource group (HRG).
3. HRGs are clinically meaningful groups of diagnoses and treatments that consume similar levels of NHS resources.
4. These data are for NHS trusts, NHS foundation trusts and PCTs combined, excluding excess bed days.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received a penalty charge for fraudulently claiming free prescriptions in the most recent year for which figures are available; and what the average charge imposed was. [174797]

Ann Keen: In the year 2006-07, 25,029 people received a penalty charge in accordance with the Health Act 1999, section 122B.

Since 1 April 2005, the prescription charge penalty function has been a responsibility of primary care trusts. Detailed information on each penalty charge is not held centrally. The average penalty charge figure is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment his Department has made of trends in the rate of infection from respiratory syncytial virus in infants under the age of two in England in the last five years; and what steps he is taking to reduce the rate of infection among such infants; [174531]

(2) how many incidents of respiratory syncytial virus infection were recorded in *(a)* October 2007, *(b)* November 2007, *(c)* October 2006 and *(d)* November 2006. [174532]

Dawn Primarolo: Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) activity, like flu, is seasonal and its severity varies from year to year. In the last five years the number of laboratory confirmed infections in children under two years of age has remained approximately constant, and has been lower than seen in previous years. 2006 was a particularly low year for the number of laboratory confirmed reports of RSV.

The reports received so far for 2007 are higher than for the same period last year but are not exceptional in terms of activity observed in some earlier years.

	Number of laboratory confirmed RSV specimens (all ages)[1]
October 2007	565
November 2007	[2]1,824
October 2006	150
November 2006	869

[1] Source: LabBase, Health Protection Agency. Data extracted by date of specimen
[2] Data for November provisional

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of compliance with the Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisation guidance on respiratory syncytial virus at *(a)* national and *(b)* strategic health authority level. [174557]

Dawn Primarolo: These data are not held centrally. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation estimated that their recommendation would mean that around 2,000 babies would receive palivizumab treatment.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the level of adherence within the NHS to guidance from the Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisation on prophylaxis against respiratory syncytial virus for babies and infants; and whether guidance on immunotherapy for respiratory syncytial virus is included in the Green Book on immunisation. [174558]

Dawn Primarolo: No assessment has been made on the level of adherence within the national health service to guidance from the Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisation (JCVI) on prophylaxis against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) for babies and infants. Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for the management of services and for specifying the level and quality of services provided. PCTs will in turn be held to account for their performance by the strategic health authority. Guidance on immunotherapy for RSV is not included in the Green Book on immunisation. The Green Book currently only provides advice on the national immunisation programme and vaccine-preventable diseases.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Disease Control

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to launch the £50 million advertising campaign to tackle sexually transmitted infections announced on 26 November 2004. [174057]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department launched its "Condom Essential Wear" awareness campaign to prevent sexually transmitted infections in November 2006. Plans for the continuation of the campaign in 2008-09 and beyond are currently being drawn up.

Skin Cancer: Health Education

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when his Department initiated the SunSmart campaign; how much funding his Department has committed to the SunSmart campaign in each year since its launch; what anticipated expenditure on the SunSmart campaign is in each year until 2010-11; and if he will make a statement; [174682]

(2) what the evidential basis is for the statement in Box 6 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy, that the SunSmart campaign has *(a)* increased knowledge of the causes of skin cancer, *(b)* increased awareness of actions that can be taken to prevent skin cancer and *(c)* positively influenced behaviour change among defined target groups; and what the defined target groups are. [174694]

Dawn Primarolo: The SunSmart campaign was launched in March 2003. Cancer Research UK applied to the Department for funding under the provisions of S64 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968 for the campaign and received around £20,000 in 2003-04 and subsequently has received under the S64 provisions £72,000 for 2004-05, £145,000 for 2005-06, £150,000 for 2006-07 and £104,000 for 2007-08. Also provisionally and subject to the availability of funds approved by Parliament, Cancer Research UK will receive for the SunSmart campaign £110,000 for 2008-09, and £115,000 for 2009-10. The recently published Cancer Reform Strategy refers to a Government commitment to increased funding for skin cancer awareness programmes.

Evidence from the Office for National Statistics Omnibus survey has been used by the SunSmart campaign to gauge trends in sun protection knowledge, attitudes and behaviour. There is evidence of significant improvement in people's knowledge about specific risky behaviours. The campaign has targeted different high risk audience groups each year (for example teenagers and young adults in 2005).

Smoking: Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to extend the four-week follow-up period used to assess the effectiveness of NHS Stop Smoking services. [174770]

Dawn Primarolo: There are no current plans to extend the four-week follow-up period used to assess the effectiveness of national health service Stop Smoking services. Clinical research has shown that longer-term follow-up can be highly resource-intensive as it becomes more difficult and time-consuming to contact people as time passes and we do not wish to place an unnecessary burden on the services.

Specialist Nurses

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what support his Department gives to specialist nurses for *(a)* multiple sclerosis, *(b)* epilepsy and *(c)* Parkinson's disease; and if he will make a statement; [174241]

(2) when he will issue best practice guidelines on the role of specialist nurses; and if he will make a statement. [174242]

Ann Keen: National health service organisations are responsible for the skill mix of their work force. They are best placed to assess the health needs of their local health community and must have the freedom to deploy staff in ways appropriate for local conditions.

Nurses caring for patients with neurological conditions such as multiple sclerosis, epilepsy and Parkinson's disease are vital to vulnerable groups of patients. The Department is working closely with the charities associated with these conditions to develop guidance for the NHS to ensure they can commission effectively and make best use of the skills of specialist nurses. The guidance will be published in spring 2008.

Spinal Muscular Atrophy

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Government are spending on research into *(a)* neuromuscular diseases and *(b)* spinal muscular atrophy in 2007-08. [175292]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available.

Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by national health service organisations.

Details of individual NHS supported research projects including a number concerned with spinal muscular atrophy are available on the national research register at:

www.nrr.nhs.uk.

Implementation of the Department's research strategy "Best Research for Best Health" is resulting in an expansion of our research programmes and in significant new funding opportunities for health research. Four of the new Biomedical Research Centres formed this year will for example undertake research on neuromuscular disease; and the Research for Patient Benefit programme has funded two projects in this area.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government supports biomedical research. The MRC, an independent body funded by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, funds a wide portfolio of research on neuromuscular disease including two projects specifically concerned with spinal muscular atrophy.

Sunbeds

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department will begin gathering information on the *(a)* number and distribution of sunbeds and *(b)* the scale of sunbed use by minors, as described in paragraph 2.43 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy; what options his Department is considering for the regulation of the sunbed industry; and if he will make a statement. [174889]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department, working with stakeholders, will consider the best way to gather information about the number and distribution of sunbeds, and the scale of use by minors. The Department and stakeholders have considered a range of options for possible regulation of the sunbed industry. The Health and Safety Executive and the Department are continuing to assess how Leaflet INDG 209 might best contain information covering the use of automated tanning salons.

Vaccination

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will publish copies of *(a)* correspondence with members of the Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisation (JCVI) on Connecting for Health and *(b)* minutes of JCVI meetings at which Connecting for Health was discussed in the last 18 months; [171822]

(2) what concerns about the electronic care record system have been *(a)* communicated to him and *(b)* raised by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation. [171824]

Dawn Primarolo: A copy of the correspondence between Professor Andrew Hall and the former Minister of State my right hon. Friend the Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint), has been placed in the Library.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) discussed issues relating to NHS Connecting for Health at its meetings on: 15 February 2006, 21 June 2006, 18 October 2006, 14 February 2007 and 20 June 2007. These minutes are available on the JCVI website, and a copy of each set of minutes has been placed in the Library.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to revise the Green Book on immunisation. [174559]

Dawn Primarolo: No decision has been taken on when to revise the Green Book published in 2006. The latest version is available on the Department of Health website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_079917

Vaccination: Children

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) who is responsible for ensuring that children in *(a)* England, *(b)* London and *(c)* primary care trusts using the Child Health Interim Application system receive vaccinations; [171812]

(2) what statutory responsibilities *(a)* the NHS and *(b)* Government bodies have for vaccination programmes for children in England. [171816]

Dawn Primarolo: Responsibility for vaccination services lies with the primary care trust in England. The responsibility comes from the NHS Act 2006.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many children in London are covered by primary care trusts using the Child Health Interim Application system; and how many of those have *(a)* received on time, *(b)* received late and *(c)* not received the vaccinations they are due; [171821]

(2) pursuant to the comments of the clinical director for NHS Connecting for Health on 27 February 2006, whether all children in the primary care trusts affected by problems with the Child Health Interim Application were offered vaccinations at the appropriate time within two months of 27 February 2006; and whether that process has continued. [172305]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of children in London primary care trusts (PCTs) covered by the Child Health Interim Applications systems is shown in the following table.

PCT	*Children aged five and under*
Barking and Dagenham PCT	15,831
Camden PCT	15,584
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	21,306
Haringey Teaching PCT	19,773
Havering PCT	14,744
Islington PCT	12,968
Newham PCT	25,842
Redbridge PCT	20,436
Tower Hamlets PCT	19,824
Waltham Forest PCT	19,984
Total	186,292

Source:
Population Statistics Database

Vaccination coverage for Barking and Dagenham PCT and Havering PCT together, for 2006-07 was 82 per cent. and for Newham PCT was 72 per cent. This information is available in the national health service immunisation statistics England 2006-07 and is available in the Library.

Information on vaccination coverage from the other seven London PCTs is not available centrally.

Mental Health: Employment

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 27 November 2007, on mental health and employment: meeting the challenge, what funding beyond that in existing plans will be provided for support for people with mental health conditions to find and stay in work. [169957]

Mrs. McGuire: I have been asked to reply.

On 27 November we announced our intention to develop a national strategy for mental health and employment. The strategy will ensure that there is a coordinated response across government to the challenges faced by people of working age with mental health conditions, improving their employment chances.

We intend to appoint a stakeholder steering group, to be chaired by Dame Carol Black, the National Director for Health and Work, to oversee the development of the strategy. This steering group will be appointed in the new year and will then lead work on the development of the strategy which forms part of wider work on the health and employment agenda.

The expansion of the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme at a cost of £170 million over three years, together with the £13 million now made available by DWP for additional support for GPs and employers represents a considerable Government commitment to supporting those with mental health conditions. This is in addition to the funding already committed to the roll-out of Pathways to Work, including the Condition Management Programmes.

TREASURY

Child Benefit: Personal Records

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* assessment he has made of the utility and *(b)* estimate he has made of the cost to

the public purse of providing protective registration under the credit industry fraud avoidance system at no cost to those individuals whose data was contained on the discs lost between HM Revenue and Customs and the National Audit Office. [169208]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* As My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer said in his statement to the House of Commons on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 612-14, the police have no reason to believe that the data have fallen into the wrong hands.

The acting chairman of HMRC has written to all customers affected confirming that banks and building societies have appropriate safeguards in place and advising customers on precautionary steps they may wish to take to further protect themselves, including regularly checking bank statements, and changing passwords if they contain personal data such as a child's name or date of birth.

The Government have also had discussions with a range of organisations, and is continuing to keep the matter of protection under review.

Council Tax: Scotland

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what settlements were reached on council tax between the Treasury and the last Scottish Executive administration. [176448]

Angela Eagle: The level of council tax in Scotland is set by Scottish local authorities.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies confidential data have been downloaded on to compact discs (i) without and (ii) with encryption in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; how many of those discs have been posted without using recorded or registered delivery; what procedures his Department has in place for the (A) transport, (B) exchange and (C) delivery of confidential or sensitive data; what records are kept of information held by his Department being sent outside the Department; what changes have been made to his Department's rules and procedures on data protection in the last two years; on how many occasions his Department's procedures and rules on data protection have been breached in the last five years; what those breaches were; what procedures his Department has in place on downloading confidential data on to computer discs before its transfer; what technical protections there are in his Department's computer systems to prevent access to information held on those systems which is not in accordance with departmental procedures; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each of his Department's rules and procedures on the protection of confidential data on individuals, businesses and other organisations. [168263]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the statement given in the House by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1101-04.

On 20 November, the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The review will cover the steps that should be taken to ensure any further measures are adhered to consistently by all staff. The interim report was published on 7 December 2007 and is available in the Library of the House.

I also refer the hon. Member to the remarks I made on 28 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 344, setting out the three key steps all staff in HMRC must now follow for bulk data transfers.

Further, as announced by the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179, the review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which Minister in his Department reviewed the formal document submitted by the Departmental Security/IT Officer following the risk assessment and risk management process for information security. [169755]

Jane Kennedy: Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs is operationally independent of Ministers. It is established by statute and run by a board of Commissioners who are responsible for operational matters.

The risk assessment and risk management processes for information security are kept under constant review by HM Revenue and Customs.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what occasions he has met the Departmental Security Officer who last carried out a periodic security review of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs in accordance with the manual of protective security. [169759]

Jane Kennedy: Treasury Ministers discuss a wide range of issues, including security, with officials in the Departments for which they are responsible.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when HM Revenue and Customs first carried out a risk assessment in accordance with section 0 (12) of the manual of protective security after its establishment; and when it last carried one out; [169760]

(2) when his Department carried out risk assessments in accordance with section 0 (12) of the manual of protective security over the last five years; [169761]

(3) when the last periodic review of security risks in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs took place in accordance with section 0 of the manual of protective security; [169762]

(4) when the last reassessment of risk was carried out by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs in accordance with section 0 (24) of the manual of protective security. [169763]

Jane Kennedy: Both HM Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs keep their security policies and procedures under constant review. They use the Cabinet Office Manual of Protective Security as the basis for ensuring that adequate and proportionate security measures are applied to protecting information, in all its forms, in their care. From that publication, they derive their own security policies and standards. Assurance activities test compliance with each Department's security policies and standards.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what internal reports on data security have been submitted to Ministers in his Department in the last five years; and on what date each was submitted; [173370]

(2) what *(a)* reports on and *(b)* reviews of data security in HM Revenue and Customs have been ordered by Ministers in the last five years; and on what date each was (i) ordered and (ii) received. [173371]

Jane Kennedy: Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs is operationally independent of Ministers. It is established by statute and run by a board of Commissioners who are responsible for its operations but answerable to Parliament through the Chancellor. Treasury Ministers discuss a range of issues and tasks relating to the administration of the Department with officials in the Departments for which they are responsible.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether personal data for which his Department is responsible is *(a)* stored and *(b)* processed overseas; and if he will make a statement. [176012]

Angela Eagle: No personal data for which this Department is responsible is stored or processed overseas.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what obligations his Department and its agencies place on contractors in relation to the audit of personal data and IT equipment. [176470]

Angela Eagle: Contractors working for HM Treasury (HMT) and its agencies are required to agree to comply with Acceptable Use Policies prior to using any IT equipment or receiving access to network systems and the Government Secured Intranet. There are a number of contracts currently in use within HMT and its agencies. It is not possible to comment on each one individually, however HMT's General Terms and Conditions of Contract and the Model Contract Terms (produced by Office of Government Commerce) contain Data Protection Clauses, which require all contractors to be registered under the relevant parts of the Data Protection Act 1998 and to ensure that the applicable provisions of the Data Protection Act are complied with.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what audits his Department and its agencies have carried out in relation to personal data and IT equipment in each of the last 10 years. [176487]

Angela Eagle: HMT and its agencies undertake either a formal programme of audits each year or carry out internal reviews which incorporate audits of personal data (of the general public and employees) and IT equipment. The extent and focus of these audits is dependent on the specific terms of reference for each review and a large number of audits have been carried out each year in the last 10 years that relate to these areas.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many branded plastic bags *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs, *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency and *(c)* his Department purchased in the last 24 months for which figures are available; and at what cost in that period. [176414]

Angela Eagle: There have been no purchases of branded plastic bags during the last 24 months within HM Treasury and the Valuation Office Agency, and while there have also been no purchases made by the central procurement directorate of HM Revenue and Customs, there is a possibility that a small insignificant number may have been purchased by local offices within HM Revenue and Customs.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recycling scheme is in operation in each building operated by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency and *(c)* HM Revenue and Customs. [176408]

Angela Eagle: The information is as follows:

HM Treasury

As part of the waste management strategy for Treasury buildings, the majority of desk bins have been replaced by alternative receptacles placed throughout the buildings to encourage recycling. In addition, desk top recycler bins have also been provided to encourage better segregation and disposal of waste.

Paper, cardboard, glass, plastic, aluminium cans, redundant IT equipment and mobile telephones are recycled at all three sites. In addition, batteries are recycled at the Norwich office and organic matter is disposed of into compost bins and the compost then used on the gardens.

Waste is removed from sites by specialist waste contractors who recover any recyclable material from the general waste stream, with the balance sent to landfill.

Valuation Office Agency

VOA offices recycle confidential waste paper. Mapeley are the service provider for the majority of VOA offices, and on these sites, lamps will also be recycled. Mapeley are piloting several recycling schemes across HMRC sites and VOA offices will be included in this scheme where Mapeley are the service provider. In addition, local offices have set up their own recycling initiatives. It is expected that a more comprehensive recycling scheme will be rolled out across the VO estate in the next financial year.

HM Revenue and Customs

Mapeley and HMRC's service partners have a number of schemes in operation across the STEPs estate:

HMRC has a range of contracts in place nationally for confidential and restricted waste paper recycling.

Together with HMRC's service partner Mapeley, a recycling scheme is being implemented across 24 sites. Paper, cans and plastic are recycled in this scheme. This is a rolling programme which will be expanded to deliver a consistent service across the estate.

Mapeley also provided accommodation to HMRC through third party landlords, who provide various recycling schemes. Most of the schemes are not controlled by Mapeley. However, in partnership with British Land, Mapeley has implemented a wet and dry waste recycling scheme at Euston Tower, London and Southgate House, Gloucester.

Offices in and around London are serviced by a scheme run by Capital Waste.

HMRC also have a number of local initiatives started by local staff e.g. charity toner cartridge recycling schemes.

HMRC also have several other PFI providers who have various recycling initiatives in place.

Departmental Security Officer

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what occasions he and his predecessor met the Departmental Security Officer of (*a*) his Department, (*b*) the Inland Revenue, (*c*) HM Customs and Excise and (*d*) HM Revenue and Customs in the last three years. [169734]

Jane Kennedy: Treasury Ministers discuss a wide range of issues, including security, with officials in the departments for which they are responsible.

EU Grants and Loans

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people employed in his Department work on administering EU structural funds; and what the cost of such staff was in 2006-07. [176045]

Angela Eagle: EU structural funds in the UK are not administered by the Treasury but by the appropriate managing authority.

Government Departments: Assets

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total value of the fixed assets of all Government Departments is. [177065]

Andy Burnham: The National Asset Register, published in January 2007, provides details of the value of fixed assets held by Government Departments.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was realised from the sale of fixed assets by the Government in each of the last five years; and what the estimated total of such disposals for 2007-08 is. [177066]

Andy Burnham: Details of proceeds raised from the disposal of fixed assets is published at PBR (Ch. B), Budget (Ch. C) and in Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (Ch. 5).

Government Departments: Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which public authorities on the Electronic Property Information Mapping Service have vacant space; and what the area or size of the vacant space is in each case. [176397]

Angela Eagle: A breakdown of actual vacant space area by Department, and this figure as a percentage of total space, has been outlined in the following table, as recorded on e-PIMS on 8 January 2008.

Parent Department	*Area of vacant space (m2)*	*Percentage of total space*
Cabinet Office	2524	1.59
Charity Commission	501	4.31
Communities and Local Government	4772	1.55
Crown Prosecution Service	983	0.66
Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform	49549	5.50
Department for Children, Schools and Families	7766	4.41
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	4446	0.53
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	25837	4.27
Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills	35265	2.93
Department for Transport	16495	2.14
Department for Work and Pensions	112473	5.44
Department of Health	14066	2.77
Forestry Commission	203	0.50
HM Revenue and Customs	91	0.01
Home Office	2610	0.38
Ministry of Defence	2346	0.31
Ministry of Justice	13624	0.78
National Probation Directorate	4756	1.69
Ordnance Survey	2053	3.91
Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman	210	5.01
The Scottish Government	310	0.05
Treasury	14682	6.92

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Electronic Property Information Mapping Service holds historic property data over time. [176437]

Angela Eagle: The Electronic Property Information Mapping Service holds data for each financial year from 2004-05.

HM Revenue and Customs: Delivery Services

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many items placed with mail carriers for delivery by HM Revenue and Customs in the last 12 months did not reach their intended destination. [169863]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available.

HM Revenue and Customs: Security

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 995W, on HM Revenue and Customs: security, if he will disaggregate the 2,111 reported breaches of security recorded between HM Revenue and Customs' various offices. [169776]

Jane Kennedy: It would be inappropriate to disaggregate the information to the level of individual named offices. To do so could potentially impact on security at the individual offices.

International Monetary Fund: Gold and Foreign Exchange Reserves

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what discussions the Government have had on the sale of gold by the International Monetary Fund; [176928]

(2) what representations the Government have received on the sale of gold by the International Monetary Fund. [176929]

Angela Eagle: Following the publication of the report of the Committee to Study Long Term Financing of the IMF in January 2007, which made a number of recommendations on the IMF's income model, including on gold sales, we expect the new IMF managing director, Dominique Straus-Kahn, to make a comprehensive proposal on IMF income and expenditure to the executive board ahead of the IMF spring meeting in April. Any proposed gold sales would require a 85 per cent. vote in favour by the members of the IMF. The UK Government believe that any sales of gold should take place in an orderly way, phased overtime, and within the bounds set by official sellers of gold in recent years so as to avoid disruption to the gold market.

Lyons Inquiry

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department will produce a formal response to the Lyons Inquiry on local government. [176386]

Angela Eagle: Treasury will not be issuing a formal response to the Lyons inquiry. Sir Michael Lyons report set out a wide-ranging analysis of local government and local government finance and many of his recommendations have, and will continue to, inform the ongoing development of Government policy.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland on his Department's consideration of preferential rates of fuel duty in rural and remote areas. [177117]

Angela Eagle: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Minimum Wage

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many London-based staff are employed by his Department on the national minimum wage. [175969]

Angela Eagle: All Treasury staff based in London are paid above the national minimum wage.

Mortgages: Interest Rates

Mr. Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the housing finance review will consider taxation barriers to the development of products that give interest rate protection; [175957]

(2) whether the Government plans to act on the recommendation of the Miles Report on the treatment of stand alone interest rate insurance as insurance for tax purposes; [175958]

(3) if the Government will take steps to consult industry on taxation barriers to the development of products that give interest rate protection, as stated in the Housing Green Paper. [175963]

Angela Eagle: A response to the Miles recommendation on the treatment of stand-alone interest rate insurance was given in Budget 2005 stating the Government stood ready to engage with firms considering entering the market. This is still the position and we welcome discussions with such firms.

The Housing Finance Review is also considering any remaining barriers to the efficient supply of mortgage finance. This includes investigating innovative financial products which help borrowers manage their housing-related risks. The review team remain engaged with the industry and will take into account their comments when making recommendations. The review will report its findings at Budget 2008.

Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median change in business rates per empty property in the first full year of operation of the reduced levels of business rate tax relief for empty properties. [176392]

Jane Kennedy: No estimates are available.

Non-domestic Rates: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place the Valuation Office Agency's Ratings Cost Guide in the Library. [176393]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1145W.

Northern Ireland: Fuel Laundering

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many fuel laundering plants have been closed by HM Revenue and Customs and the police in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months; and how many arrests have been made in respect of these actions. [175929]

Jane Kennedy: In Northern Ireland, in the period January 2007 to date, a total of eight laundering plants have been dismantled by HM Revenue and Customs and five arrests were made in relation to these operations. HM Revenue and Customs are solely responsible for dealing with fuel laundering plants, and any that are initially detected by the Police Service Northern Ireland are immediately referred to HMRC for action.

Office of Government Commerce

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance note produced by the Office of Government Commerce on social issues in purchasing. [176447]

Angela Eagle: A copy of the information requested has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what procurement guidance the Office of Government Commerce has produced for local authorities, on the purchase of receptacles for the collection of household rubbish. [176449]

Angela Eagle: The Office of Government Commerce has not produced specific guidance for local authorities on the purchase of receptacles for the collection of household rubbish.

Offshore Industry: North Sea

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research his Department has carried out into the long-term economic impact on the UK of the reduction of oil and gas supplies from the North Sea. [173877]

Angela Eagle: The UK still has significant oil and gas resources. While some 37 billion barrels of oil equivalent (boe) have been produced to date, estimates of the hydrocarbons remaining to be produced from the UK Continental Shelf (UKCS) range from 16 to 25 billion boe[1]. As set out most recently in "Securing a sustainable future: a consultation on the North Sea Fiscal Regime", the Government are committed to maximising the economic recovery of hydrocarbons from the UK Continental Shelf.

[1] Source: May 2007 Energy White Paper, page 109.

Planning Gain Supplement

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency and *(c)* HM Revenue and Customs has spent on research, consultancy and preparation costs for the Planning Gain Supplement. [176433]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury, HM Revenue and Customs, and Communities and Local Government have undertaken preliminary work to develop and explore the feasibility of a Planning-gain Supplement since 2004. This has included the publication of one consultation document alongside the 2005 pre-Budget report and three consultation documents alongside the 2006 pre-Budget report. The costs incurred have been borne by the respective Departments as part of the normal policy development process.

Private Finance Initiative: Expenditure

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much public expenditure he estimates there will be as a result of private finance initiative programmes *(a)* in place and *(b)* planned in each year from 2008 to 2060. [176994]

Angela Eagle: The future profile of estimated unitary charge payments for signed PFI projects is published alongside each Budget and pre-Budget report. At PBR/CSR 2007 this projection was printed at Table 19 of PBR/CSR 2007: the economy and public finances – supplementary charts and tables. This document is available from the Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/2/B/pbr_csr07_economy907.pdf

This covers projects up to 2032-33; it is not possible to predict the payments for future projects, which have not yet been signed, as the value of the unitary charge payments is subject to negotiation during the procurement process.

Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer of how many UK citizens participating in witness protection programmes the data was on the two discs lost by HM Revenue and Customs. [172833]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 11 December 2007]:* It is not normal practice to comment on security matters relating to UK citizens participating in witness protection programmes.

Valuation Office

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings the Valuation Office Agency has had with *(a)* the Valuation and Lands Agency (including its new successor agency), *(b)* the Scottish Assessor's Association and *(c)* the Irish Republic's Valuation Office, in the last 12 months; and on what dates. [176412]

Jane Kennedy: Representatives of the Valuation Office Agency and of the organisations listed meet regularly to discuss valuation issues and practices common to the public sector, inter alia in the light of evolving case law.

Valuation Office: Data Protection

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the Valuation Office Agency's and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs' internal staff handbook or guidance on data security. [176401]

Jane Kennedy: It is not appropriate to put documents detailing the precise internal security arrangements of specific Government Departments or Agencies into the public domain.

Valuation Office: Pay

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value was of bonuses paid to staff by the Valuation Office Agency in each of the last five years; and how many payments were made in each year. [176387]

Jane Kennedy: The number of staff awarded bonuses by the Valuation Office Agency and the aggregate value of the payments made in each of the last five years is listed as follows.

	Number of staff receiving bonus payments	*Total value of payments (£)*
2003	253	287,289
2004	282	321,486
2005	0	0
2006	0	0
2007	472	225,564

For 2005 and 2006 it introduced a recognition payments voucher scheme to recognise any instance of special effort or performance—over and above the normal day-to-day expectations for a person's role: such payments could be made at any time and were not linked to the pay system.

Valuation Office: Secondment

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff have been seconded to the Valuation Office Agency in the last 12 months; from which outside bodies; and what the length is of each secondment. [176434]

Jane Kennedy: Two staff have been seconded to the VOA in the last 12 months:

one from the Australian Valuation Office for six months

one from the Hong Kong Rating and Valuation Department for six months

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff have been seconded to the Valuation Office Agency from outside central Government in the last 36 months; from which outside bodies; and for what period of time. [176444]

Jane Kennedy: Five staff have been seconded to the Valuation Office Agency from outside central Government in the last 36 months.

Three staff from the Australian Valuation Office (two for six months each and one for five months).

Two staff from the Hong Kong Rating and Valuation Department for six months each.

Valuation Office: Training

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's *(a)* eLearning dwelling house coding module and *(b)* Quick Guide to DWH Coding. [176403]

Jane Kennedy: A copy of *(a)* the e-learning dwelling house coding module will be placed in the Library of the House. The *(b)* Quick Guide to dwelling house coding is available on the Valuation Office Agency website at:

www.voa.gov.uk

Waste Disposal: Domestic Wastes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the proposed new charge for the collection of household rubbish will be classed as a tax, for statistical purposes by *(a)* HM Treasury and *(b)* the Office for National Statistics. [177151]

Angela Eagle: The income collected under the waste reduction and recycling schemes proposed in the Climate Change Bill will be classified as taxation, in accordance with national accounts guidelines. Local authorities will, however, retain the income and will be required to use it to fund rebates to local residents.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental Data Protection

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many confirmed security breaches of databases controlled by his Department occurred in each of the last five years; whether the breach resulted from internal or external sources in each case; how many records were compromised on each occasion; and what estimate was made of the total number of records accessible to the individuals concerned. [174565]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 17 December 2007]*: Except in exceptional cases, when it is in the public interest, it has been the policy of successive governments not to comment on breaches of security.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much has been spent by his Depaftment *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by his Department for this purpose. [173838]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created in June 2007 and takes promoting equality and diversity extremely seriously. There are legal duties to promote disability, ethnicity, and gender equality which cover all civil servants. This means that all members of the Department have a responsibility for promoting equality, and contribute to this through their daily work. The Department believes that reducing inequality is the key to raising attainment and improving life chances for all learners. The staff and other budgets for the former DfES can be viewed through the Department's annual reports for the last three years.

In the former DfES, and now at DCSF, there is also a small unit of thirteen people dedicated to work on anti-discrimination law, and on Human Resources and

equality, and to mainstreaming equality. That unit also supports the work of DIUS. Resources allocated to that unit for staffing, and for other costs of promoting equalities, are as follows:

£

	Salary costs	Other related costs	Total
2007-08	514,067	167,463	681,530
2006-07	563,959	161,257	725,216
2005-06	580,421	94,690	675,111

We are considering the future organisation of and support for equality and diversity work with DCSF colleagues so that we can establish the future staffing requirements for DIUS. All employees are expected to consider how they can promote equality and diversity in their individual capacities and roles.

Departmental Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many staff work in his Department's parliamentary branch; and what proportion of their time is spent on dealing with (*a*) parliamentary questions and (*b*) correspondence from hon. Members and Peers. [174966]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

We have six members of staff who deal with the parliamentary business for my Department and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. We do not keep a record of the proportion of staff time spent dealing with parliamentary questions.

Correspondence from hon. Members and Peers is not dealt with by the parliamentary team.

National Identity Register

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans his Department has to make use of data on the National Identity Register when it is established; and what the estimated cost to his Department of that use is. [174033]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills will be working with the Home Office prior to the introduction of the National Identity scheme to establish how identity information held on the proposed National Identity Register might be used to provide easier access to Department's services for our customers. It is too early in the process to establish the detailed costs and benefits.

Near Earth Object Information Centre

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much the Government have spent on the UK Near Earth Object Information Centre since January 1999; and if he will make a statement. [174282]

Ian Pearson: Funding for the Near Earth Object Information Centre based at the National Space Centre in Leicester began in 2001 with a budget of £300,000 over three years. During this period the Near Earth Object Information Centre provided guidance on NEO close approaches and undertook a promotional and outreach programme under the guidance of the British National Space Centre, (BNSC). In 2004-05 funding from BNSC was £25,000 a year—the level at which it currently stands.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the performance of the UK Near Earth Object Information Centre against its objectives since it was established; and if he will make a statement. [174283]

Ian Pearson: The Near Earth Object Information Centre is based at the National Space Centre in Leicester. Its principle role on behalf of Government has been to provide reporting on NEO close approaches, where appropriate working with the academic community and undertaking outreach activity including information services to schools, the public and the media.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many regional Near Earth Object Information Centres have been set up since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [174284]

Ian Pearson: I understand that the Near Earth Object Information Centre at the National Space Centre in Leicester has a formal working relationship with three centres—in London, Edinburgh and Belfast.

Near Earth Objects: International Cooperation

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make it his policy to plan joint working with the US Administration to address the risk posed by Near Earth Objects; and if he will make a statement. [174286]

Ian Pearson: There are regular meetings between the US Administration, including the State Department and NASA, and UK authorities. There are no current plans to work jointly on Near Earth Objects but the planned exploration initiative between the Science Technology Facilities Council and NASA may provide an opportunity to do so in due course.

Vocational Education: Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what initiatives his Department has launched to use the 2012 London Olympics as a vehicle for promoting upskilling and vocational learning; and who he has appointed to lead them. [170293]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 3 December 2007]*: We are using the games to drive forward the broader skills agenda to bring about systemic change and ensure a legacy that is felt long term not just in London but nationwide. In the main, this will be achieved using existing initiatives such as Train to Gain, as we help

employers in meeting their skill needs to design, build and deliver the games, and encourage individuals to develop their skills so that they can compete for opportunities and progress within the labour market beyond 2012.

On the employer side, two cluster groups of Sector Skills Councils are leading two areas: one to look specifically at the issues relating to the built environment and environmental improvements for the games; and the other is looking at the staging and legacy aspects of the games. Other specific employer-led initiatives include work by Go Skills with Transport for London to build and diversify their workforce; a programme of media training placements being developed by Skillset; the National Skills Strategy for hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism in England developed by People 1st; and the National Skills Academy for Construction centre on the Olympic site which the Prime Minister announced on 29 November. Individual's initiatives include new advanced apprenticeships in sporting excellence; customer service and hospitality apprenticeships; and the LDA-led personal best programme which is currently being piloted in London but will be offered nationally and is targeted at individuals furthest away from the labour market to improve skills and promote employability.

Vocational Training: Lincolnshire

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many Train to Gain places have been made available in *(a)* North East Lincolnshire and *(b)* North Lincolnshire. [176868]

Mr. Lammy: Train to Gain is a major aspect of the drive to create a demand-led service and does not generate places in the traditional sense. Through Train to Gain, employers can access the advice and support they need to help them identify and then meet the skills their businesses need to succeed. In the first year of its operation, there were a total of 498 learners funded through Train to Gain in the North East Lincolnshire Area and 708 in the North Lincolnshire Area.

Vocational Training: Standards

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of people who started training under Train to Gain failed to complete their course in the last period for which figures are available. [174367]

Mr. Lammy: According to latest figures from the Learning and Skills Council, based on individual learner records between April 2006 and July 2007 229,470 people started learning through Train to Gain. During this same period 12,024 people left their course with no achievement, this equates to 5.2 per cent. of all starts. However, ILR information is still being updated so this figure may change. In addition there will always be learners who are still on programme but are past their planned learning end date. These learners may well complete their programme of learning.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

A-level: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the evidential basis is for his statement in the answer of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 389-90W, on A-level: standards, that improvements in success rates at A-level are a result of additional public expenditure on *(a)* teachers, *(b)* support staff and *(c)* school buildings; and if he will make a statement. [163102]

Jim Knight: It is the remit of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority to regulate the public examination system. Their reports on standards over time have shown that standards in A levels have been maintained. It therefore follows that improved successes must be down to improvements in schools and young people's hard work.

Ofsted report that standards of teaching are continuing to improve. This would not have been possible without the investment that has seen the numbers of regular full-time equivalent (FTE) teachers in the maintained sector in England rise from 400,300 in 1997 to 439,300 in 2007. In addition the number of support staff employed in our schools has more than doubled, with the latest figures showing that 308,200 FTE school support staff were employed in all maintained schools in England in January 2007. This represents a rise of 174,300 since 1997.

Furthermore, there is research to show that capital investment can lead to improved pupil performance and that investment is a strong leaver on pupil and teacher motivation. Details have been placed in the Library. The Government remains committed to improving educational achievement, and to providing capital funding to improve schools and raise standards, with support for capital investment in school buildings of £21.9 billion in total over the three years 2008-09 to 2010-11, including PFI credits.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children identified as gifted and talented have achieved three A grades at A-level in each of the last three years. [175712]

Jim Knight: The proportion of students aged 16 to 18 identified as gifted and talented in maintained schools who achieved three A grades at A level in 2006 was 29.6 per cent. The corresponding figure for 2007 was 29.1 per cent. These figures do not include young people attending post-16 institutions. National data on gifted and talented pupils have only been collected since 2006.

Assessments: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 717W, on assessments: standards, whether it is his policy that all Key Stage national tests should be marked at addresses within the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement. [176733]

Jim Knight: The recruitment, training and management of external markers for national curriculum tests at key stages 2 and 3 is a matter for the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. Markers of all national curriculum tests must have an address in the United Kingdom for delivery of scripts.

CfBT Education Services

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 952W, on CfBT, what services are provided to his Department by CfBT Education Trust. [169004]

Jim Knight: CfBT Education Trust provide the following services to the Department:

Managing the delivery of a range of services for gifted and talented learners aged four-19 and their educators; Providing subject specific support to schools for the foundation subjects to support teaching of the new secondary curriculum from September 2008;

Delivering the 'Out and About Package' of 'How to' guidance, resources and continuous professional development modules for teachers/the wider workforce and others.

Children in Care

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children in the care of local authority social services are *(a)* from the EU and *(b)* from outside the EU; [176124]

(2) how many children *(a)* were in the care of local authority social services, *(b)* came into care as unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and *(c)* have gone missing from care in each of the last three years. [176125]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 7 January 2008]*: Information on the number of children looked after by local authorities who *(a)* come from the EU and *(b)* from outside the EU, is not collected centrally by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

The number of children looked after who:

(a) were in the care of local authority social services at 31 March 2005 to 2007 was as follows:

	Number
2005	61,000
2006	60,300
2007	60,000

These figures account for all children looked after at 31 March, excluding children looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements.

(b) came into care as unaccompanied asylum-seeking children i.e. started to be looked after during each of the years ending 31 March 2005 to 2007 was as follows:

	Number
2005	1,800
2006	2,300
2007	2,100

(c) have gone missing from care during each of the years ending 31 March 2005 to 2007 was as follows:

	Number
2005	860
2006	890
2007	950

These figures account for all children looked after, excluding children looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements, and where a child was reported missing from his or her agreed placement on more than one occasion during the same year, he or she has been counted only once.

Communications Directorate: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the aims are of his Department's Communications Directorate; what targets have been set for it; and if he will make a statement. [176820]

Kevin Brennan: The aim of the DCSF Communications Directorate is to provide high quality, innovative communication activities to help deliver the Department's objectives. The Communications Directorate works with departmental colleagues, partners and stakeholders to ensure a clear understanding of children, schools and families policy among all audiences.

The Communications Directorate supports the Department's strategic objectives to:

1. Secure the wellbeing and health of children and young people.
2. Safeguard the young and vulnerable.
3. Achieve world class standards in education.
4. Close the gap in educational achievement for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.
5. Ensure young people are participating and achieving their potential to 18 and beyond.
6. Keep children and young people on the path to success.

Dance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will increase the priority given to dance in the Learning Outside the Classroom manifesto. [176817]

Jim Knight: The Manifesto vision is for every young person to experience the world beyond the classroom as an essential part of learning and personal development, whatever their age, ability or circumstances. More than 750 organisations, covering a range of activities from adventure and field studies to heritage and the arts, have signed up to this vision. Signatories include the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and individual sports colleges.

We recognise the importance of young people having opportunities to perform and to see live dance. That is why one of our eight Manifesto sector partnerships is dedicated to Creativity and Arts, represented on the national advisory group by Arts Council England.

The Department is developing an Out and About package, which will include guidance, resources and continuing professional development. The Association of Physical Education has been invited to contribute. The review of access and provision to dance both within and beyond the curriculum, led by Tony Hall, the chief executive of the Royal Opera House, will also feed into the process.

Delivery Unit

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which aspects of his Department's work programme he requested the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit to look at during his September meeting with the unit; and if he will make a statement. [166686]

Jim Knight: The Secretary of State has requested that the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit look at the academies programme, in addition to departmental public sector agreements.

Departmental Data Protection

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many confirmed security breaches of databases controlled by his Department occurred in each of the last five years; whether the breach resulted from internal or external sources in each case; how many records were compromised on each occasion; and what estimate was made of the total number of records accessible to the individuals concerned. [174566]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 17 December 2007]*: Except in exceptional cases, when it is in the public interest, it has been the policy of successive Governments not to comment on breaches of security.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent by his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by his Department for this purpose. [173845]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children Schools and Families is committed to an agenda to narrow inequality. Under the relevant legal duties all members of the Department have a responsibility for promoting disability, ethnicity, arid gender equality. Tackling inequality is central to raising attainment and improving life chances. Details of the Department's total resources are published in our annual reports. As a Department we also aim to be an exemplary employer, ensuring that all staff have an equal opportunity to meet their aspirations and realise their potential

In the former DFES, and now at DCSF, 13 people are dedicated to work on anti-discrimination law, mainstreaming a focus on equality into all policy making, and on achieving equality as an employer. The budget for this in 2007-08 is £681,530; broken down as: salaries £514,067; other related costs £167,463.

The budget for 2006-07 was £725,216 salaries £563,959; other related costs £161,257.

The budget for 2005-06 was £675,111 salaries £580,421; other related costs £94,690.

Departmental Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff work in his Department's parliamentary branch; and what proportion of their time is spent on dealing with *(a)* Parliamentary Questions and *(b)* correspondence from hon. Members and Peers. [174953]

Kevin Brennan: We have six members of staff who deal with the parliamentary business for my Department and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. We do not keep a record of the proportion of staff time spent dealing with parliamentary questions. Correspondence from hon. Members and Peers is not dealt with by the parliamentary team.

Education: Appeals

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many appeals were made to the Independent Schools Adjudicator against decisions taken by local education authorities in each year since 2000; and how many of these appeals have been successful; [176338]

(2) how many appeals against decisions taken by the Essex Local Education Authority have been directed toward the independent schools adjudicator since 2000; [176681]

(3) how many appeals made to the independent schools adjudicator against decisions taken by the Essex Local Education Authority since 2000 have been successful. [176682]

Jim Knight: Under local decision-making arrangements in force from September 1999 to May 2007, local authorities decided statutory proposals for changes to school provision in their areas where there were no objections. There was no right of appeal against local authority decisions. Other proposals were normally decided by the local School Organisation Committee (SOC) unless the SOC failed to reach a unanimous decision. In these cases, the proposal passed to the adjudicator to decide. There was no right of appeal against SOC decisions until May 2003. From May 2003, it was possible for the proposers of a new school (other than the local Church of England or Roman Catholic diocesan bodies) and the governing body of a school (other than a grammar school) proposed for expansion to appeal to the schools adjudicator against decisions made by the local SOC.

Under the new local decision-making arrangements introduced from 25 May 2007, local SOCs have been abolished and decisions are taken by the local authority in most cases. The following may appeal to the schools adjudicator against local authority decisions: the local Church of England and Roman Catholic diocesan bodies; the proposers for a new school (other than in a school competition); the governors and trustees of a foundation or voluntary schools; the Learning and Skills Council where proposals relate to a school

providing education for pupils aged 14 or over; and the governing body of a community school (other than a grammar school) that is proposed for expansion.

There was one appeal to the schools adjudicator, against a decision made by a local SOC, between May 2003 and May 2007 and this was rejected. There has been one appeal against a decision by a local authority since 25 May 2007 and this was approved. Neither of these was to a decision made by Essex local authority.

Education: Assessments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what response his Department has made to the recommendation from the General Teaching Council in 2006 that the Government should introduce a sample test of pupils in English schools on an annual basis across the whole curriculum; and if he will make a statement. [163455]

Jim Knight: We have no record of the Department being formally approached in 2006 by the GTC for a response to their recommendations about sample testing.

Tests have, and will continue to have, an important place in this Government's strategy for further raising standards. Tests provide an objective means of assessing all pupils on a consistent basis providing information on standards nationally, improving accountability and helping inform parents and teachers how individual pupils are progressing. This could not be achieved with sample testing.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many complaints his Department has received from *(a)* primary school head teachers, *(b)* secondary school head teachers and *(c)* further education colleges on the marking standard of external exam papers in the last 12 months. [163554]

Jim Knight: The Department has received two complaints from primary school head teachers, three complaints from secondary school head teachers and one complaint from a further education college on the marking standard of external exam papers in the last 12 months.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average time taken was for A-level papers to be re-marked after the original marks had been appealed in each year since 2001, broken down by *(a)* subject and *(b)* examination board. [163557]

Jim Knight: This information is not held centrally. However, all awarding bodies must abide by common deadlines for handling appeals. These deadlines are sent out to schools and colleges in the Enquiries About Results (EAR) booklet which is published every year by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ).

Data on remarking of exam papers back to 2003 can be found in the EAR report for the summer GCSE and A level exams series. These reports are published on the QCA's website at http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_5778.aspx.

Education: Copeland

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many 16 to 18-year-olds were in full-time education within Copeland in each year between 1997 and 2007; [175946]

(2) how many 16 to 18-year-olds were not in full-time education within Copeland in each year between 1997 and 2007. [175947]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not available. The Department's estimates of local participation in education and training cannot be broken down to parliamentary constituency level, and only cover people of academic age 16 and 17[1]. However, we can provide estimates for the numbers and proportions of young people of academic age 16 and 17 who were in full-time education in Cumbria between 1997 and 2005. These are provided in the following tables:

[1]Academic age is defined as the age at the beginning of the academic year, 31 August

Number of 16 and 17-year-olds in full-time education in Cumbria

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
16-year-olds									
In full-time education	4,123	4,137	4,351	4,168	4,454	4,231	4,342	4,540	4,540
Not in full-time education	1,910	1,703	1,668	1,946	1,769	1,941	1,869	1,953	2,035
17-year-olds									
In full-time education	3,540	3,439	3,479	3,360	3,383	3,488	3,477	3,388	3,749
Not in full-time education	2,417	2,442	2,152	2,451	2,601	2,687	2,654	2,823	2,748
16 and 17-year-olds									
In full-time education	7,663	7,576	7,830	7,528	7,837	7,719	7,819	7,928	8,289
Not in full-time education	4,327	4,145	3,820	4,397	4,370	4,628	4,523	4,776	4,783

Proportion of 16 and 17-year-olds in full-time education in Cumbria

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
16-year-olds									
In full-time education	68	71	72	68	72	69	70	70	69
Not in full-time education	32	29	28	32	28	31	30	30	31

Proportion of 16 and 17-year-olds in full-time education in Cumbria

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
17-year-olds									
In full-time education	59	58	62	58	57	56	57	55	58
Not in full-time education	41	42	38	42	43	44	43	45	42
16 and 17-year-olds									
In full-time education	64	65	67	63	64	63	63	62	63
Not in full-time education	36	35	33	37	36	37	37	38	37

Participation of 16 and 17-year-olds in education and training is published in the Statistical First Release: Participation in Education, Training and Employment by 16 to 18-year-olds in England: 2005 and 2006 and Participation in Education and Training by 16 and 17-year-olds in each local area in England: 2004 and 2005, please see the following link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000734/index.shtml

Free School Meals: Cleethorpes

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of children were in receipt of free school meals in each school in Cleethorpes constituency in the last period for which figures are available. [176889]

Jim Knight: The available information relates to the percentage of children who are known to be eligible (and are claiming) a free school meal, and is provided in the table.

Maintained primary and secondary schools: free school meal arrangements: January 2007: Cleethorpes parliamentary constituency

School name	LA number	Estab number	Number of pupils[1]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[1]	Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals
Alterton Primary School	812	2,000	226	45	19.9
Barton St. Peter's CofE Primary School	813	3,057	269	41	15.2
Baysgarth School	813	4,491	912	144	15.8
Bowmandale Primary School	813	2,568	285	20	7.0
Bursar Primary School	812	2,943	189	28	14.8
Castledyke Primary School	813	2,940	275	72	26.2
Coomb Briggs Primary School	812	2,577	168	11	6.5
East Halton Primary School	813	2,116	42	3	7.1
East Ravendale CofE Primary School	812	3,060	107	9	8.4
Eastfield Infants' School	812	2,179	100	10	10.0
Eastfield Junior School	812	2,178	160	39	24.4
Elliston Infants' School	812	2,112	167	53	31.7
Elliston Junior School	812	2,184	217	72	33.2
Enfield (New Waltham) Primary School	812	2,145	130	*	*
Goxhill Primary School	813	2,118	229	17	7.4
Healing Primary School	812	2,154	306	8	2.6
Healing School, A Specialist Science College	812	4,084	789	27	3.4
Humberston Cloverfields Primary School	812	2,939	272	*	*
Humberston Comprehensive School	812	4,092	707	37	5.2
John Harrison CofE Primary School	813	3,056	151	9	6.0
Killingholme Primary School	813	2,125	98	15	15.3
Kirmington CofE Primary School	813	3,067	25	3	12.0
Mathew Humberstone Church of England School	812	4,503	1,170	224	19.1
Middlethorpe Primary School	812	2,182	221	12	5.4
New Holland Church of England and Methodist Primary School	813	3,078	47	11	23.4
New Waltham Primary School	812	2,124	279	6	2.2
Queen Mary Avenue Infant School	812	2,113	205	67	32.7
Reynolds Infants' School	812	2,183	137	8	5.8
Reynolds Junior School	812	2,114	205	27	13.2
Signhills Infants' School	812	2,175	248	11	4.4
Signhills Junior School	812	2,176	354	16	4.5
St Joseph's RC Primary School	812	3,514	163	32	19.6
St Peter's CofE Primary School	812	3,059	130	50	38.5
Stallingborough CofE Primary School	812	3,072	82	6	7.3
Stanford Junior and Infant School	812	3,068	242	12	5.0
The Canon Peter Hall CofE Primary School	812	3,516	194	70	36.1
The Humberston CofE Primary School	812	3,065	285	7	2.5

Maintained primary and secondary schools: free school meal arrangements, January 2007: Cleethorpes parliamentary constituency

School name	LA number	Estab number	Number on pupils	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals
The Immingham School	812	4073	718	125	17.4
The Leas Infants' School	812	2181	158	6	3.8
The Leas Junior School	812	2151	273	10	3.7
The Lindsey School and Community Arts College	812	4086	1128	186	16.5
Humberston Infants' School	812	2142	95	12	12.6
Humberston Junior School	812	2153	153	27	17.6
Lilibar Business and Enterprise College	812	4078	1840	78	4.1
Cleeby St Nicholas Church of England Primary School	813	3079	159	13	8.2
William Barcroft Junior School	812	2109	269	76	28.3
Wootton St Andrew's CofE Primary School	813	3322	36	*	*

Includes pupils with sole and dual registration who are full time and aged 0 to 15 (inclusive) and those who are part time and aged 5 to 15 (inclusive).
* less than 3 or a rate based on less than 3.
Source:
School Census

Further Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of young people remained in full-time education in the year after they ended compulsory schooling in each year since 1997; [176975]

(2) what proportion of young people remained in full-time education two years after they ended compulsory schooling in each year since 1997. [176976]

Jim Knight: Estimates for the proportion of young people of academic age 16 and 17 participating in full-time education in each year since 1997 are shown in the following table. Academic age is defined as age at the start of the academic year, 31 August, so young people of academic age 16 are in their first year after compulsory education, and those of academic age 17 are in their second year. The estimates are based on a snapshot at the end of the calendar year.

Percentage of young people in full-time education by academic age and year

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Aged 16	70.2	70.2	71.8	71.0	70.8	72.0	72.1	73.8	75.8	76.1
Aged 17	58.7	58.5	59.7	60.0	58.5	59.0	59.9	60.5	62.7	65.0

GCSE: Tower Hamlets

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the most recent GCSE performance measures are for each secondary school in Tower Hamlets; and if he will make a statement. [163308]

Jim Knight: The information is in the Library and available on the DCSF website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/cgi-bin/performancetables/group_06.pl?Mode=Z&No=211&Base=b&Type=LA&Phase=1&Year=06

The data will be updated on 10 January with results from the 2006/07 exams.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the reasons were for the decision not to proceed with the GCSE pilots for embedding functional skills assessment within GCSE English and ICT; [164421]

(2) how much his Department spent on preparing for the GCSE pilots for embedding functional skills assessment within GCSE English and ICT. [164420]

Jim Knight: We think it is important that young people have specific recognition of their functional skills as part of their 14 to 19 study and achievement. The development work done by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority ahead of the pilot which started in September was intended to look at the feasibility of different approaches.

The work done on the embedded assessment models following the initial trials highlighted the technical difficulties of getting both a discrete assessment of functional skills attainment and a GCSE assessment out of the same exam without losing some of the essential information that is important to awarding a consistent GCSE grade. On that basis it was agreed that it would not be useful to use further resource to pursue these models as part of the pilot.

It is not possible to disaggregate the specific cost of the work done on the embedded models as part of this work.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many (*a*) GCSEs, (*b*) GNVQs and (*c*) vocational GCSE examinations have been sat by school pupils in each of the last 10 years. [172811]

Jim Knight: The information required is in the following table:

	GCSEs	GNVQs	Vocational GCSEs
1997/98	4,626,700	6,989	
1998/99	4,718,300	11,364	
1999/2000	4,718,100	14,266	
2000/01	4,944,000	20,850	
2001/02	4,957,600	67,055	
2002/03	5,030,700	91,965	
2003/04	5,137,600	48,444	106,170
2004/05	5,053,600	67,559	141,114
2005/06	5,060,500	80,197	158,350
2006/07	4,633,000	64,808	146,993

Figures include GNVQ passes only.
Vocational GCSEs began in 2003/04.
Figures for 2006/07 are provisional. Schools get the opportunity to amend their results before the revised data is published in January 2008.
Note:
The figures for 2003/04 onwards relate to all pupils at the end of key stage 4. Figures before this relate to pupils who are 15-years-old at the start of each academic year, i.e. on 31 August.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent target is for the proportion of pupils achieving five A* to C GCSEs by 2020; and if he will make a statement. [176695]

Jim Knight: The Children's Plan, launched on 11 December, sets out a series of world class ambitions for what we can and should achieve for children by 2020. These include a goal that every young person should have the skills for adult life and further study, with at least 90 per cent. achieving the equivalent of five higher level GCSEs by age 19.

In drawing up the plan we listened to parents, teachers and professionals, as well as to children and young people themselves. They told us what they thought was working, and what more they thought needed to be done. Over the next year, we will be consulting widely on whether the goals in the plan represent the right national ambitions.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will estimate how many and what proportion of 15-year-olds, whose parents were claiming tax credits, attained five GCSE passes at A*-C, including English and mathematics in 2007. [177155]

Jim Knight: We do not hold the information required to answer this question. However, the Statistical First Release on pupil characteristics has information on free school meal eligibility. The link below provides this:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000759/index.shtml

Literacy: Lincolnshire

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of children met the Government's literacy and numeracy targets in (*a*) North East Lincolnshire and (*b*) North Lincolnshire in each of the last five years. [176888]

Jim Knight: The Government have set ambitious public service agreement (PSA) targets for the proportion of pupils nationally that should achieve the expected levels for their age in English and mathematics at the end of Key Stages 2 and 3.

The expected level of achievement at age 11 (the end of Key Stage 2) is Level 4. The Government's PSA target is for 85 per cent. of pupils to achieve level 4 or above in English and mathematics by 2006 with this level of performance sustained to 2008.

The following table gives the percentage of pupils achieving level 4 or more in Key Stage 2 English tests in North East Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and all English maintained schools.

	North East Lincolnshire	North Lincolnshire	England maintained only
2002/03	69	73	72
2003/04	77	76	77
2004/05	79	79	79
2005/06	75	78	79
2006/07	77	80	80

The following table gives the percentage of pupils achieving level 4 or more in Key Stage 2 Mathematics tests in North East Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and all English maintained schools.

	North East Lincolnshire	North Lincolnshire	England maintained only
2002/03	72	70	72
2003/04	72	72	74
2004/05	75	75	75
2005/06	75	74	76
2006/07	75	76	77

The expected level of achievement at age 14 (the end of Key Stage 3) is Level 5. The Government's PSA target is for 85 per cent. of pupils to achieve level 5 or above in English and in mathematics by 2007 with this level of performance sustained to 2008.

The following table gives the percentage of pupils achieving level 5 or more in Key Stage 3 English tests in North East Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and all English maintained schools.

	North East Lincolnshire	North Lincolnshire	England maintained only
2002/03	61	69	69
2003/04	62	71	74
2004/05	69	71	74
2005/06	62	70	73
2006/07	67	72	74

The following table gives the percentage of pupils achieving level 5 or more in Key Stage 3 Mathematics tests in North East Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and all English maintained schools:

	North East Lincolnshire	North Lincolnshire	England maintained only
2002/03	62	72	71
2003/04	67	72	73
2004/05	69	75	74
2005/06	72	77	77
2006/07	69	76	76

Marriage Guidance: Expenditure

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent on (*a*) marriage support services, (*b*) research into causes of marital breakdown and (*c*) research into ways of preventing marital breakdown as a result of section 22 of the Family Law Act 1996 in each year since it became law, and what use he plans to make of this legislation in the future. [175671]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* The recently published Children's Plan commits to the development of better proposals to support parents and children during and after family breakdown, but we have no current plans to use section 22 of the Family Law Act 1996. Funding for family support services including marriage and relationship support and parenting is currently provided through the Children, Young People and Families Grant programme, using section 70 of the Charities Act 2006.

Since 2006, the family policy element of the CYPF Grant programme funds 31 organisations, of which, 23 are strategic and eight are specific projects. The total grant given in this area since the policy responsibility passed by predecessors to this Department in 2003, is as follows:

	Total family policy grant funding £ million
2002-03	10.8
2003-04	10.8
2004-05	11.3
2005-06	11.3
2006-07	10.7
2007-08	9.69

[1] Machinery of government changes funding rationalisation

The remainder of the information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many letters his Department and its predecessors received from hon. Members and Peers in each session of Parliament since 1997. [174927]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/peers correspondence. Information relating to 2007 will be published as soon as it has been collated. The report for 2006 was published on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 101-04WS. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

Minimum Wage

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many London-based staff are employed by his Department on the national minimum wage. [175676]

Kevin Brennan: All London-based staff in the Department are employed above the national minimum wage level.

Primary Education: Class Sizes

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children there were on average in infant classes in Hendon in (*a*) 1997 and (*b*) 2007, and if he will make a statement. [175449]

Jim Knight: The requested information is shown in the table.

Maintained primary schools in Hendon parliamentary constituency: Classes taught by one teacher: Position at January 1997 and 2007

	1997	2007
Number of pupils	3,662	3,860
Number of classes[1]	128	128
Average class size	28.6	27.2

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
Classes as taught during the one selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.
[2] Includes reception classes.
Source:
School Census.

Primary Education: Play

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the average time spent by children in Key Stage (*a*) 1 and (*b*) 2 on free play during the school day. [177220]

Kevin Brennan: I have made no estimate of the average time spent by children in Key Stages 1 and 2 on free play during the school day. This is a matter for individual schools to decide and data about their choices are not collected by this Department.

There is no prescription over how much time is spent teaching the primary national curriculum, provided that all the statutory content is covered during each Key Stage. Head teachers are free to design their own timetables and, once they are satisfied that they are meeting the statutory requirements of the national curriculum, they have the freedom to introduce other experiences and subjects such as free play to meet the needs and aspirations of their pupils.

Primary Education: Public Participation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in what circumstances local education authorities may be exempt from new

legislation requiring that a competition consultation phase be held for all new primary schools. [176336]

Jim Knight: Under section 7 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, competitions are required for all new primary schools, including a statutory period of consultation, unless the Secretary of State has given his consent under section 10 of the Act for proposals to be published outside a competition.

Applications for consent are considered on their individual merits, taking into account the particular circumstances in each case. Guidance issued by the Department confirms that consent may be given to applications to establish a new primary school to replace closing infant and junior schools, and also to applications to establish a new school with a religious character to replace closing schools with the same character. The guidance also sets out the principal factors that will be considered for each application as follows: the contribution the school would make to local diversity, local standards, the prospect of other proposer interest, the urgency for the school to be in place, and any views expressed by interested parties.

Private Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when he will publish the findings of his consultation on the transfer of responsibility for the regulation and registration of independent schools and non-maintained special schools; [175640]

(2) in respect of which independent schools his Department has concerns on governance and management; [175645]

(3) how many officials work in his Department's independent schools team. [175646]

Jim Knight: The analysis of responses to the consultation on the transfer of responsibility for the regulation and registration of independent and non-maintained special schools will be published within the next few weeks.

There is currently no regulatory standard relating to governance and management in independent schools and we do not therefore have details available in the format requested. However, failures to meet many of the regulatory standards often stem from systemic failures in management and leadership.

There are currently 18.2 full-time equivalent (FTE) posts in the Department's independent education and boarding team.

Pupils: Diabetes

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department has considered issuing guidance to local education authorities on best practice by schools in the management of diabetes among pupils. [176983]

Jim Knight: This Department has already issued guidance entitled "Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Setting".

This guidance, published in 2005 jointly with the Department of Health, specifically addresses what schools can do to help children with diabetes and other medical conditions. We also produced sister guidance in the same year, entitled "Including me: managing complex health needs in schools and early years settings".

Pupils: Discipline

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to improve discipline in the classroom. [177492]

Kevin Brennan: The proportion of schools judged by Ofsted to have inadequate standards of behaviour is at a historic low. But pupils' behaviour can be challenging, so we are implementing a major national programme to strengthen schools' capacity in this crucial area. This includes:

- giving schools access to high-quality behaviour management training materials and consultancy, curriculum materials to help develop pupils' social and emotional skills and practical guidance on dealing with bullying;
- providing extra funding for schools facing the greatest behaviour challenges;
- reinforcing the legal basis of school discipline by giving school staff a clear statutory power to discipline pupils;
- helping schools form partnerships with other schools to strengthen behaviour management;
- reinforcing parental responsibility by enabling schools and local authorities to make parenting contracts and seek court-imposed parenting orders relating to children's behaviour; and
- giving school staff a statutory power to search pupils for weapons and encouraging schools to become involved in Safer Schools Partnerships, which place police officers on school premises.

In addition, Ofsted have issued new guidance to inspectors providing rigorous descriptors of outstanding, good, satisfactory and inadequate standards of behaviour. Inspectors will mark down any school where a significant proportion of lessons is affected by low-level disruption.

Pupils: Exercise

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils in each London borough took part in two hours or more physical exercise during the school day in each week in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [175561]

Kevin Brennan: The annual national school sport survey has been running for the past four years, but the survey has only collected data by local authority since 2004-05.

The following table sets out the percentage of pupils in each local authority taking part in at least two hours of high quality PE and school sport in a typical week for the last three years. Direct comparisons between local authorities are not appropriate as the number of schools in school sport partnerships, and the length of time they have been within partnerships, differs. Since September 2006, all maintained schools in England are within a school sport partnership.

Percentage of pupils taking part in two hours high quality PE and sport by London boroughs

	Two hour take up		
London borough	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Barking and Dagenham	55	58	80
Barnet	80	84	82
Bexley	70	75	86
Brent	64	81	83
Bromley	76	82	88
Camden	69	72	82
Croydon	61	70	82
Ealing	66	88	89
Enfield	72	77	87
Greenwich	71	71	78
Hackney	49	67	84
Hammersmith and Fulham	51	62	88
Haringey	54	80	89
Harrow	72	72	84
Havering	71	74	81
Hillingdon	61	74	82
Hounslow	76	78	82
Islington	58	75	88
Kensington and Chelsea	50	74	93
Kingston upon Thames	76	69	82
Lambeth	83	89	82
Lewisham	66	71	89
Merton	60	84	87
Newham	70	86	91
Redbridge	76	76	80
Richmond upon Thames	80	86	91
Southwark	67	72	87
Sutton	59	75	88
Tower Hamlets	60	62	81
Waltham Forest	69	63	87
Wandsworth	72	88	89
Westminster	55	72	87

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils took part in at least two hours of high quality physical education and school sport each week in each year from 1995-96 to 2004-05; and if he will make a statement. [176818]

Kevin Brennan: The annual PE and School Sport Survey was introduced in 2003/04 and collects data relating to participation in PE and school sport. The percentage of pupils who took part in at least two hours of high quality PE and school sport each week is as follows:

	Percentage
2003/04	62
2004/05	69

Since 2004/05, the figures have increased further, so that the 2006/07 survey found that 86 per cent. of pupils take part in at least two hours of high quality PE and school sport a week. Prior to 2003/04, no data was collected relating to the amount of time spent on PE and school sport.

School Leaving

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will commission research on the likely effect of his policy of extending compulsory education to 18 years on the demand for capacity in (*a*) secondary schools, (*b*) stand alone vocational training establishments and (*c*) further education colleges. [175780]

Jim Knight: We were already planning on the basis of our existing aspiration for 90 per cent. participation among 17-year-olds by 2015. With compulsory participation, our modelling suggests that, nationally, this does not require a big expansion of places. We estimate that there will be around 15,000 more 16 and 17-year-olds in schools in 2015 than there are this year and all of this growth is accounted for by the already planned growth in academies, most of which will have sixth forms. In FE, we estimate that in 2013 13,000 additional places will be needed compared to this year, and in 2015 another 31,000 will be needed. We are not planning to commission any further research at this stage. Demographic changes will vary between local areas and local authorities will need to use their own projections to plan accordingly.

School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects to determine whether his Department has met its March 2008 target for take-up of school lunches; and if he will make a statement. [176696]

Kevin Brennan: In 2008, the SFT will undertake its third annual survey of school lunch take-up, and this will show if the target has been achieved.

Increasing the take-up of school lunches remains a priority for this Department and for the School Food Trust (SFT).

Schools: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government are taking to support schools in reaching targets of zero carbon emissions. [175931]

Kevin Brennan: The Children's Plan, published in December 2007, set an ambition for all new school buildings to be zero carbon by 2016. A task force will be appointed to advise on how to achieve this ambition.

We are taking action now to reduce carbon emissions in new school buildings while we work towards zero carbon. About 200 projects in buildings schools for the future and the academies programme will benefit from an additional investment of £110 million over the next three years, with the intention of reducing carbon emissions by around 60 per cent. We have published guidance on the energy efficiency and renewable energy measures that can be applied to meet the target reduction.

These initiatives support our wider aim for all schools to be sustainable schools by 2020.

Schools: Closures

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether local education authorities are obliged to consult interested parties before deciding to close schools. [176339]

Jim Knight: Yes. Local authorities (LAs) are required by section 16 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to consult such persons as appear to them to be appropriate, having regard to guidance given by the Secretary of State. Guidance states that the Secretary of State considers that the interested parties who should be consulted include: the governing body; pupils; families of pupils; teachers and other staff and the trade unions who represent them at the school and at other schools who may be affected; MPs whose constituencies include the school or other schools that may be affected; the local parish or district council; other LAs who may be affected such as neighbouring authorities where there is cross-border movement of pupils; the local diocesan authority if the school has a religious character; any trust or foundation that provides the school; and any other interested party.

Where a rural primary school is proposed for closure section 16(1) places a statutory duty on the LA to consult parents of registered pupils, the district and parish councils and for any rural special schools, any LA that maintains an SEN statement for a pupil at the school and any other persons that appear to be appropriate.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many school closures occurred in the Essex Local Education Authority in each of the last five years. [176680]

Jim Knight: The numbers of schools closed in Essex local authority in each of the last five years are given in the following table.

	Number of schools closed
2002	5
2003	7
2004	3
2005	1
2006	2
2007	6
Total	24

Schools can be closed for a number of reasons including: to meet demographic changes (population decline); as part of an amalgamation; to allow a Fresh Start school to replace a school in special measures; to allow a school with a religious character to replace a school without a religious character; or as part of another type of local reorganisation.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the average percentage change to the devolved formula capital grant awarded to modernised schools was in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [177215]

(2) what the expected percentage change to the devolved formula capital grant awarded to modernised schools will be in each of the next 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [177216]

Jim Knight: The Devolved Formula Capital grant (DFC) has been paid to schools each year since 2000-01. The distinction between modernised schools and schools not yet modernised comes into effect from 2008-09.

The following table sets out the absolute and percentage changes in DFC allocations from 2001-02 to 2007-08.

	£ million	*Percentage change*	*Percentage change cumulative*
2001-02	294	[1](17)	[1](17)
2002-03	438	49	37
2003-04	681	56	93
2004-05	777	14	107
2005-06	782	1	108
2006-07	957	22	129
2007-08	998	4	133

[1] reduction

While the overall trend is sharply up, there are significant differences in the percentage change year-on-year. These are caused by a number of factors which cannot be easily separated out. These are *(a)* changes in total pupil population *(b)* changes in the size of individual schools *(c)* changes in the total number of schools *(d)* increases in the formulaic allocation rates per school *(d)* abatement of DFC for schools in the Building Schools for the Future programme.

The rate of DFC per modernised school for the years 2008-09 to 2010-11 remains the same as for 2007-08. Future years from 2011-12 have not yet been allocated funding. DFC can be combined with other local authority funding, in accordance with local authority asset management plans. Excluding DFC, other local authority formulaic allocations made so far for the next spending review period are £1,659 million in 2008-09, £2,311 million in 2009-10, and £2,932 million in 2010-11.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he expects schools and local authorities to take when their devolved formula capital grant allocation does not meet the estimated costs repair and maintenance; and if he will make a statement. [177217]

Jim Knight: Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) allocations are allocated direct to schools for capital improvement, determined at school level. It cannot be used for a revenue purpose. Normal repair and maintenance is a revenue expense, to be paid out of revenue allocations.

When planning to spend DFC, schools should discuss with local authorities what local authorities plan to spend on schools from their formulaic capital allocations. Where necessary, DFC can be combined with these other allocations, also any other funds raised locally, to ensure that total capital expenditure meets schools' needs.

Schools: Mergers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many school mergers occurred within the Essex local education authority in each of the last five years. [176679]

Jim Knight: Since January 2003, there have been nine school mergers within the Essex local authority, all of which comprise an infant and junior closing with a replacement primary school opening in their place. These are set out, by year, in the following table:

	Number
2003	3
2004	1
2005	1
2006	1
2007	3
Total	9

Schools: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the funding required to provide the additional school places, whether through new school provision or extension of existing schools, identified as necessary by Milton Keynes council to meet the current and future needs of the local population. [176846]

Jim Knight: No estimate has been made by the Department of the capital funding required to provide the additional new places identified by Milton Keynes local authority to meet the current and future needs of the local population, because the detailed information required to make such calculations is held locally. It is for each local authority to prioritise total capital allocations from the Department, and other capital resources available locally, between new pupil places and existing schools. In addition to the capital allocations already made, the Basic Need Safety Valve is designed to help those few authorities where there is exceptional pupil growth for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11, and its allocation takes account of the cost of new pupil places.

So far as revenue funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is concerned, additional pupils in schools in Milton Keynes, as elsewhere, are counted in the January preceding the start of the financial year for which the allocation is made. Any revenue start up costs for new schools are met from each local authority's allocation of DSG.

Where an authority experiences an increase in pupil numbers between January and September in any year of more than 2.5 per cent. they will be eligible for exceptional circumstances grant, full details of which are available of the Department website at http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=11544 document 9, Paragraph 40.

Schools: Public Participation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which interested parties are eligible to make proposals during the newly introduced competition consultation phase for all new schools. [176337]

Jim Knight: Any person or body is free to bring forward proposals for a new school in response to a local authority's invitation to bid in a competition. We would particularly welcome proposals from local parents' groups, other successful schools and universities, the charitable arms of businesses and other voluntary groups, or combinations of these drawing on the strengths of each. We would also welcome proposals from faith groups where there is demand from parents for a faith based education.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools have been categorised as *(a)* requiring significant improvement and *(b)* being in special measures in each term since May 1997; and which schools in each local authority were in each category at the latest date for which figures are available. [172085]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HMCI Christine Gilbert will write to the hon. Member and place a copy in the Library of both Houses.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 17 December 2007:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Table A below shows the number of schools that have been placed in special measures during each term from autumn 1997 to the end of summer term 2007. Table B lists the schools which are considered to require significant improvement (see explanation below). The numbers shown are for schools going into the categories each term, rather than a running total of those in the categories at any given time. The data provided runs from the autumn term rather than May 1997, because data that is collated by Ofsted is in full terms and complete academic years.

Please note that in September 2005, the inspection cycle was changed to three years and a new category of 'Notice to improve' was introduced, covering all schools considered to require significant improvement. These are schools which are performing significantly less well than they might reasonably be expected to given their circumstances. A school which is currently failing to provide an acceptable standard of education, but has the capacity to improve, will also be in this category.

Prior to September 2005 there were three categories of schools requiring significant improvement: 'Serious Weaknesses', 'Underachieving' and 'Inadequate Sixth Forms'. These categories are similar, although not identical, to the 'Notice to Improve' category insofar as they encompass all aspects of inadequacy not covered by 'Special Measures'. All schools in these categories have since been re-inspected under the revised Section 5 inspections framework.

Statistics showing schools in each local authority that are now in each category (up to 31 August 2007) can be found on the Ofsted website at www.ofsted.gov.uk, in the "Publications and Research—Statistics" section. These are very large documents, and best viewed online.

The school lists on these pages are produced each term. The data changes daily and some of the schools that have been placed in categories this term are still going through the moderation process and so their categorisation has not yet been published. The schools lists and data for the autumn term 2007 will be published on the Ofsted website at the end of January 2008.

A copy of this letter has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Table A: Schools placed in special measures in each term from autumn 1997 to summer 2007

	Primary	Secondary	Special	PRUs	Nursery	Total
Autumn 1997	81	13	9	2	0	105
Spring 1998	48	17	4	2	0	71

Table A: Schools placed in special measures in each term from autumn 1997 to summer 2007

	Primary	Secondary	Special	PRUs	Nursery	Total
Summer 1998	81	13	20	1	0	115
Autumn 1998	60	14	7	1	0	82
Spring 1999	43	4	4	1	1	53
Summer 1999	38	11	6	4	0	59
Autumn 1999	60	13	5	1	0	79
Spring 2000	70	15	6	4	0	95
Summer 2000	38	10	5	3	0	56
Autumn 2000	35	8	1	3	0	47
Spring 2001	27	11	6	1	0	45
Summer 2001	38	4	2	1	0	45
Autumn 2001	36	4	6	1	0	47
Spring 2002	30	14	2	3	0	49
Summer 2002	26	1	3	2	1	33
Autumn 2002	36	12	5	1	0	54
Spring 2003	38	16	4	5	0	63
Summer 2003	25	7	9	2	0	43
Autumn 2003	56	30	2	2	0	90
Spring 2004	46	21	8	3	0	78
Summer 2004	28	10	3	4	0	45
Autumn 2004	20	17	4	1	0	42
Spring 2005	11	11	1	0	0	23
Summer 2005	24	9	4	1	0	38
Autumn 2005	57	16	0	1	0	74
Spring 2006	36	11	2	10	0	59
Summer 2006	24	5	0	2	0	31
Autumn 2006	62	10	6	4	0	82
Spring 2007	30	13	3	2	0	48
Summer 2007	45	7	2	1	0	55

Table B: Schools requiring significant improvement in each term from autumn 2005 to summer 2007

	Primary	Secondary	Special	PRU	Total
Autumn 2005	73	43	1	3	120
Spring 2006	77	42	0	6	125
Summer 2006	57	11	2	3	73
Autumn 2006	78	30	1	3	112
Spring 2007	49	34	2	2	87
Summer 2007	48	12	2	4	66

Secondary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of qualifications awarded at Key Stage 3 in each of the last three years has been *(a)* academic and *(b)* vocational; and if he will make a statement. [172810]

Jim Knight: The information required is in the following table.

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07[1]
Percentage of qualifications awarded that were academic[2]	95.8	94.9	94.4
Percentage of qualifications awarded that were vocational[3]	4.2	5.1	5.6
Total number of qualifications awarded	5,656,255	5,800,244	5,469,728

[1] Figures for 2006/07 are provisional. Schools get the opportunity to amend their results before the revised data is published in January 2008.
[2] Academic qualifications include: GCSEs, GCSE short courses, entry level qualifications, key skills, basic skills and AS levels.
[3] Vocational qualifications include: vocational GCSEs, GNVQs, VRQs, NVQs, NVQ language units and vocational AS levels.
Note:
These figures relate to all pupils at the end of key stage 4.

Secondary Education: Closures

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make it his policy to impose a moratorium on secondary school closures until he has assessed the likely increased demand on secondary school places resulting from the extension of full-time education to 18 years; and if he will make a statement. [175779]

Jim Knight: School place planning is the statutory responsibility of local authorities (LAs) and the Secretary of State has no role. It is for each LA to determine whether to propose the closure of a secondary school and the final decision will be taken by the LA in most cases. An appeal to the schools adjudicator can be made in specific cases. Our modelling suggests that introducing compulsory participation for 16-year-olds in 2013 and 17-year-olds in 2015, does not require a big expansion

of places. We estimate that there will be around 15,000 more 16 and 17-year-olds in schools in 2015 than there are this year and all of this growth is accounted for by the already planned growth in academies, most of which will have sixth forms. In FE, we estimate that in 2013 13,000 additional places will be needed compared to this year, and in 2015 another 31,000 will be needed. Demographic changes will vary between local areas and local authorities will need to use their own projections to plan accordingly.

Specialised Diplomas: Assessments

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment and examination arrangements will be used to assess student attainment in *(a)* the foundation diploma and *(b)* the higher diploma; and if he will make a statement. [176974]

Jim Knight: The diploma is a composite qualification made up of new and existing qualifications and therefore a variety of approaches will be used to assess student achievement at all levels. Assessment and examinations arrangements will be appropriate to the nature of the learning being undertaken, rigorous, reliable and fair.

Given the applied nature of the diploma, there will be a strong emphasis on controlled internal assessment, as well as external testing. The National Assessment Agency are currently working closely with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority to develop a standardised approach to controlled internal assessment, to ensure the professional expertise of local assessors and set standards for high quality, rigorous assessment practice.

The diploma is graded at all levels. To achieve the overall diploma qualification, students will need to pass all components within the diploma, including the functions skills and additional and specialist learning, much of which is exam-based and externally assessed. Awarding Bodies have set out requirements for assessment and examination arrangements both for the new components of the diploma qualification (i.e. principal learning and project) and for existing qualifications that make-up the diploma.

Sure Start Programme: Finance

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent discussions he has had with Kent county council (KCC) on its ring-fenced funding for Sure Start; whether his Department and KCC have agreed that funding; and what mechanisms are in place to ensure that KCC spends that funding in accordance with criteria set down by his Department. [177243]

Beverley Hughes: My officials wrote to local authorities in August this year giving details of the ringfenced Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant (formerly the General Sure Start Grant) for the next three financial years. The letter explained that the grant contained ringfenced funding that must be used for

> "services in Sure Start Local Programmes (SSLPs), and centres based on SSLPs, and cannot be used for new children's centres".

I had previously discussed funding levels for SSLPs with Kent county council (KCC) and the hon. Member for Sittingbourne and Sheppey in July in advance of these allocations being made. In December there was a conversation between a senior official in my Department and KCC in which it was confirmed that funding remains ringfenced to be used for SSLPs and children's centres based on SSLPs. The Grant has not yet been formally offered or accepted. A Memorandum of Grant will be issued to KCC for signature before the start of the next financial year that will set out the conditions attached to the Grant including details of the financial information that KCC are required to send to my Department. In addition the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant is audited annually by auditors appointed by the Audit Commission and audit returns are passed to my Department.

Teachers: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school teachers were employed in the London Borough of Enfield in each of the last 10 years. [177028]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of regular teachers employed in Enfield local authority maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools in each January between 1998 and 2007, the latest information available.

Full-time equivalent regular teachers in local authority maintained schools in Enfield local authority, January of each year

	Nursery and primary	Secondary
1998	1,140	1,310
1999	1,130	1,350
2000	1,270	1,300
2001	1,180	1,310
2002	1,300	1,250
2003	1,270	1,430
2004	1,300	1,460
2005	1,310	1,520
2006	1,350	1,560
2007	1,370	1,550

Source:
Annual survey of teachers in service and teacher vacancies, form 618g.

Teachers: Pay

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had with CEA and the District Auditor on Islington teachers' salaries for the year 2003-04, notably their pension liabilities and related fiscal risks to the Government; and if he will make a statement. [176856]

Jim Knight: The Secretary of State has not held any discussions with CEA or the District Auditor about Islington teachers' salaries or pension liabilities and related fiscal risks to the Government for the year 2003-04. For the year in question, the District Auditor provided an unqualified certification in respect of the pension contributions payable to the Teachers' Pension Scheme relating to teachers in Islington.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Departmental Travel: Brussels

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department and its predecessor spent on Eurostar tickets to Brussels in each of the last 11 years. [175435]

Mr. Thomas: Details of the amount spent by BERR, and previously by DTI, are only available for the period from June 2002 to date.

	£
June - December 2002	289,185
January - December 2003	529,566
January - December 2004	493,277
January - December 2005	624,281
January - December 2006	452,617
January 2007 to date	389,186

Christmas

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether it is his Department's policy to use *(a)* incandescent light bulbs and *(b)* LED lights for festive decorations on departmental premises. [173507]

Mr. Thomas: My Department uses incandescent lights for its festive decorations at the moment.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his Department's policy is on the selection of *(a)* real and *(b)* artificial Christmas trees for his Department's festive decorations; and how real trees are disposed of. [173534]

Mr. Thomas: My Department has four Christmas Trees on its Estate. Two of these trees are real and are recycled by our foliage company. One of the artificial trees is reused each year. The other artificial tree is hired from our foliage company and returned to them at the end of the hire period.

Defence Export Services Organisation: Manpower

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff were employed by the Defence Export Services Organisation; how many of those have been transferred to UK Trade and Investment; and if he will make a statement. [175370]

Mr. Thomas: At the end of November 2007 the Defence Exports Services Organisation had 445 staff. When transferred to UK Trade and Investment on 1 April 2008, it will initially comprise approximately 240 posts.

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much has been spent by his Department on international flights since it was established. [174354]

Mr. Thomas: Since 1999 the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 24 July 2007. Details for the current financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. From next year, the list will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Information in respect of flights taken by officials could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Correspondence

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Minister for Postal Affairs will reply to the letter sent by Councillor Charles Kennedy of East Dunbartonshire Council on Kirkintilloch Post Office. [175605]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* We believe that the last letter Councillor Kennedy wrote to this Department on Kirkintilloch Post Office was dated 20 April. We replied on 3 May.

Departmental Manpower

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [168133]

Mr. Thomas: The information is not easily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff work in his Department's parliamentary branch; and what proportion of their time is spent on dealing with *(a)* parliamentary questions and *(b)* correspondence from hon. Members and Peers. [174962]

Mr. Thomas: Three members of staff in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform parliamentary unit work full-time dealing with parliamentary questions and it is estimated that the head and deputy head of the unit spend a combined 20 per cent. of their time on parliamentary questions when the House sits. Other staff within the Department handle correspondence work from hon. Members and Peers.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the Winter Supplementary Estimates (HC 29), if he will break down his Department's *(a)* main estimate and *(b)* winter supplementary estimate provision by subhead in (i) near cash and (ii) non-cash terms. [174990]

Mr. Thomas: The total non cash included in the main estimate for the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform was £225,378k and in the winter supplementary estimate, £293,636k. The breakdown between the near and non cash figures is included in the Part II Resource to cash reconciliation.

All expenditure on the main estimate for RfR2 was near cash; the breakdown of the RfR1 resource expenditure subheads between near cash and non cash is shown in the following table:

Sub head	Main estimate near cash (i) £ (000)	Main estimate non cash (ii) £ (000)	Winter supplementary estimate near cash (i) £ (000)	Winter supplementary estimate non cash (ii) £ (000)
A1	498	7,401		
A2	266,157	32,455		
A3	23,189	4,977	11,206	
B2	118,502		126,280	
B3	32,791	555	40,553	555
C2	5,438		5,438	
C3	1,109		1,109	
D2	20,135		11,719	
D3	69,800		69,800	
E2	35,492	36,955	35,737	36,955
E3	15,950	54,502	20,246	34,502
F2	950		950	
F3	33,000		28,233	
G1	33,546	382	33,546	382
H2	55,992	1,760	53,135	1,760
H3	80		80	
I1	10,582		22,011	
I2	96,504		165,056	14,600
I3		1,631		1,631
J1	4,933		4,933	
J2	401,790	10,054	467,441	10,054
J3	2,365	17,143	2,365	22,543
K2	191		191	
K3	51,200		55,200	
L1	251,247	14,312	258,058	21,713
L2	6,657	305	6,657	28,595
L3	5,211		5,211	
M3	4,191			
N3	391,184		391,184	
O3	35,000		35,000	
P2	68,000	48,421		125,821
P3		14,633		14,633
Q3	2,263		2,567	
R3	38,311		38,311	
S3	10,700		10,700	
T3	6,500			
U3	1,841,472		1,799,482	
V3	392		2,010	
W3	1,875,171		3,091,032	
X3	3,000		3,000	
Total	5,824,493	225,378	6,798,441	293,636

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recycling schemes are in operation in each building operated by his Department. [176366]

Mr. Thomas: My Department currently recycles paper, card, plastic, cans, and toners at the following buildings on our HQ Estate; 1 Victoria Street, Kingsgate House, Westfield House, St. Mary's House and Atholl House.

Additionally batteries are recycled at 1 Victoria Street, Kingsgate House and Atholl House.

Glass recycling has recently been added to 1 Victoria Street.

Departmental Redundancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost was of redundancies in his Department in the 12 months preceding *(a)* 30 June 2004, *(b)* 30 June 2005 and *(c)* 30 June 2006. [175340]

Mr. Thomas: Details of the costs of redundancies (including voluntary early retirements and severance) of staff leaving the former DTI (now the Department

for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform) are not readily available in the format requested for the 12 month periods preceding (*a*) 30 June 2004 and (*b*) 30 June 2005 and the cost of preparing the answer would be disproportionate.

However the cost of voluntary departures for the period from April 2005 to June 2005 was £1.37 million and for the period July 2005 to June 2006 was £3.25 million.

Energy

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent on legal costs associated with the judicial review of the energy review process. [175679]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government's legal fees incurred with respect to the Greenpeace judicial review were around £81,000. However, this does not include the costs of Greenpeace, which remain the subject of discussion, or of Government consideration of the amount of those costs.

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of whether his Department will reach the target of 15 per cent. improvement in energy efficiency by 2010. [175961]

Mr. Thomas: Since 1999 my Department has made progress in energy efficiency by reducing the size of the property estate space by 46 per cent. with a decrease of 11.2 per cent. in energy consumption.

BERR will make further energy efficiency improvements by 2010.

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what improvements his Department made in (*a*) 2005-06 and (*b*) 2006-07 towards the 15 per cent. improvement in energy efficiency by 2010. [175962]

Mr. Thomas: BERR are working toward achieving the energy efficiency targets expressed in the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) framework. The targets set are to improve the energy efficiency of the buildings on the estate by 15 per cent in terms of KWH usage and that used per square metre by 2010-11.

The main strategy to improve energy efficiency is to reduce the physical size of the estate and the number of buildings. As a result the BERR estate has been reduced by 46 per cent with a decrease of 11.2 per cent in energy consumption since 1999 to 2000. This included the introduction of flexible desking throughout our main buildings on the basis of eight work stations for every 10 staff.

The Department has also implemented a number of energy efficiency initiatives since the target was published. In 1 Victoria Street this included a number of energy efficiency projects to improve lighting and environmental controls as well as occupant awareness. The Department has also undertaken a study into the use of localised micro-generation of energy on the estate. Energy efficiency is taken into account in any estate project undertaken and has included the introduction of energy minimising technology within the recent IT systems refresh.

Engineering: Research

Mr. Olner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much the Government are proposing to spend on engineering research in (*a*) 2008, (*b*) 2009 and (*c*) 2010. [166266]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), funded by the Government through the Science budget, invests in high-quality basic, strategic and applied research and related postgraduate training to maintain and develop a strong research base in engineering and the physical sciences; and to promote future economic development and an improved quality of life in the UK.

EPSRC has provided £257 million to support engineering research in 2007-08. This is expected to rise to £271 million in 2008-09, £277 million in 2009-10 and £284 million in 2010-11, depending on the quality of proposals received by EPSRC.

EU Grants and Loans

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much and what proportion of the structural funds allocated to the UK under the 2000 to 2006 EC financial perspective have been paid out to date. [176047]

Mr. Timms: To the end of December 2007, approximately £9.5 billion of the United Kingdom's structural funds allocations under the 2000-06 financial perspective has been spent (paid to projects). This is some 83 per cent. of the overall allocation of approximately £11 billion. Expenditure by these structural funds programmes continues until 31 December 2008.

Exports: Renewable Energy

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the future export potential of each sector of the UK renewables industry. [175686]

Malcolm Wicks: My Department has not made any such estimate. However, the Government published 'UK Energy Excellence: an International Marketing Strategy for the UK's Energy Business' for the UK's energy sector (which includes renewables) on 17 December 2007. This is available from BERR's website at:

https://www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk/ukti/fileDownload/UKEnergyExcellenceBrochure.pdf?cid=412811.

Inward Investment

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much inward investment was made to the UK for each £1 spent on attracting inward investment by UK Trade and Investment in the most recent period for which figures are available. [172138]

Mr. Thomas: We welcome the capital invested in the UK by foreign-owned companies. However, we do not collect comprehensive data about it. This is because we are seeking to attract companies in knowledge-driven sectors that bring in new technologies or management methods, so as to improve the UK's competitiveness and productivity over the long term. Injections of capital, though important, are less sustainable.

Minimum Wage

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State, for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many London-based staff are employed by his Department on the national minimum wage. [175977]

Mr. Thomas: Across the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, there are no London-based staff who are employed on the national minimum wage.

Mining: Sports

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what meetings he has had with ministerial colleagues on the effect of the development of miners' welfares for participation in sports. [174651]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* I have had no such meetings.

New Businesses

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of new *(a)* small and *(b)* medium-sized businesses started up in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) England in each year since 1997. [177062]

Mr. Timms: VAT registration data provide the only accurate indicator of the level of business start-up activity.

The number of new VAT registrations in Jarrow, South Tyneside, the North East and England are shown in the table for 1997 to 2006, alongside the total number of VAT registered businesses at the start of each year. Data for registrations and de-registrations in 2007 will be available autumn 2008.

Although only data for businesses of all sizes registered for VAT is published by BERR, it is estimated that the majority (97.9 per cent.) of these will be small (with fewer than 50 employees) and 1.7 per cent. will be medium-sized (with 50-249 employees).

New VAT registrations and start of year stock of VAT registered businesses

	New registrations				*Start of year stock*			
	England	*North East*	*South Tyneside*	*Jarrow*	*England*	*North East*	*South Tyneside*	*Jarrow*
1997	159,935	4,060	190	105	1,379,260	42,455	1,690	935
1998	160,360	4,105	185	95	1,414,080	42,720	1,715	945
1999	155,630	4,185	195	100	1,449,995	43,170	1,765	975
2000	157,815	4,275	175	100	1,476,330	43,680	1,815	980
2001	149,460	4,180	185	100	1,503,765	44,335	1,810	980
2002	155,770	4,390	205	115	1,521,285	44,520	1,830	990
2003	168,250	4,900	235	115	1,541,155	45,100	1,845	1,000
2004	160,565	4,460	195	100	1,574,270	46,240	1,900	1,020
2005	158,995	4,665	195	110	1,602,230	47,085	1,945	1,050
2006	159,315	4,630	210	125	1,635,845	48,280	1,990	1,080
2007					1,670,500	49,435	2,050	1,130

Source:
Business start-ups and closures: VAT registrations and de-registrations in 2006 available at: http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/vat/index.htm

Although the number of new registrations has fluctuated over the period, the total number of VAT registered businesses in Jarrow, South Tyneside, the North East and England has increased.

In Jarrow, the total number of VAT registered businesses has increased from 935 at the start of 1997 to 1,130 at the start of 2007, an increase of 195 (21 per cent.).

The total number of VAT registered businesses in South Tyneside has increased from 1,690 at the start of 1997 to 2,050 at the start of 2007, an increase of 360 (21 per cent.).

Post Offices

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post offices there are in each parliamentary constituency in the United Kingdom. [176333]

Mr. McFadden: Post Office Ltd. annually places in the Libraries of the House a list of all post offices in the network by parliamentary constituency. The list gives post office name, post town and post code.

Post Offices: Closures

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what the length of the Government's outstanding lease on the Post Office building on Kerr Street, Kirkintilloch is; [175604]

(2) what procedures there are to deal with outstanding leases remaining on Government properties that have been vacated following closures of post office branches. [175603]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answers 7 January 2008]:* This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd.

(POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what instructions his Department gave to Royal Mail on announcing details of Post Office closures in the month during the run up to the 2008 local elections in England and Wales. [176364]

Mr. McFadden: The normal purdah arrangements, set out in Cabinet Office guidance which has been observed by successive administrations of both parties for many years, take effect every year during local elections. The guidance clearly states that consultations should not be launched, and decisions relating to them announced, in an election period. This will apply to post office closure proposals and decisions from 7 April to 2 May in respect of the local elections to be held in England and Wales on 1 May 2008.

Postal Services

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the proportion of stamps which remained unfranked by the Royal Mail's mail management systems in 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [176647]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 7 January 2008]*: This is an operational matter for which Royal Mail has direct responsibility. I have therefore asked the Chief Executive of Royal Mail, Adam Crozier, to provide a direct reply to the hon. Member. A copy of the response will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Regional Development Agencies: Trade Unions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what grants were given by each regional development agency to trades unions in the last 24 months. [176361]

Mr. Timms: The following funding has been provided by RDAs to trade unions in the last 24 months:

RDAs	*Grants (£000)*	*Trade union*	*Project*
Advantage West Midlands	425	Unity Trade Union	Work force development project, ensuring individuals subject to redundancy were aware of skills in demand in their local area.
South East England Development Agency	3	National Farmers Union	Sponsorship support for the International Association of Horticultural Producers Conference 2007

The following funding has also been provided by RDAs in the last 24 months to the Trade Union Congress:

RDAs	*Grants (£000)*	*Project*
Advantage West Midlands	63	Improving workplace skills project
London Development Agency	115	Diversity works project
London Development Agency	216	Adult Learners Week fund
One North East	150	Working together project, to help local companies raise their profile
South West Regional Development Agency	591	Learning Works for All project. To increase regional cohesion of union led workforce development. To complement and enhance Learn Direct in Swindon and implementation of a union academy 2006-2009.
South West Regional Development Agency	28	Equality South West project, to support equal opportunities in the region
South West Regional Development Agency	3	Work force development project
South West Regional Development Agency	3	Support for Food and Drink Conference 2007.
Yorkshire Forward	67	Support to Yorkshire and Humber TUC to assist in the delivery of the regional economic strategy.

Regulatory Impact Assessments: Public Sector

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether impact assessments are required for legislation or regulation that imposes costs on public authorities, but not the private sector. [176334]

Mr. McFadden: Any proposal affecting costs in the public sector requires an impact assessment unless the

costs fall beneath a pre-agreed threshold (generally £5 million) and the proposal is not likely to attract high levels of political or media interest. In cases where costs are small and there is limited interest, only a developmental/option stage impact assessment is necessary.

The official guidance on impact assessments, which was revised in the spring of 2007, is available at http://bre.berr.gov.uk/regulation/documents/ia/pdf/iag.pdf

Renewable Energy

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate his Department has made of the contribution of plant development under the renewables obligation in providing despatchable capacity for the United Kingdom's electricity grid. [175688]

Malcolm Wicks: According to the latest available figures, up to end 2006 plant development under the RO had contributed 2046 MW of despatchable capacity (comprising generation from large and small hydro, co-firing, landfill gas, municipal solid waste combustion, sewage sludge digestion and other biofuels and waste, but excluding wind and solar).

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate has been made of the likely system costs arising from the part-loading and increased maintenance of plant operating outside the balancing mechanism but affected by fluctuating power flows resulting from the renewables required to meet (*a*) current renewable electricity targets and (*b*) those likely to be required under the EU 20 per cent. renewables target for total primary energy. [175703]

Malcolm Wicks: This is an issue that is best directed at the generator companies themselves who may be able to provide specific information on costs. However, it seems likely that any additional maintenance costs incurred by conventional plant that is required to part-load or regulate its output will be reflected in the prices charged for reserve/balancing services. From work done by the UK Energy Research Council and others it is estimated that the balancing/reserve costs likely to be incurred in meeting the Government's current renewables target for 2010 would lie in the range of £0.2 to £2.9/MWh, which would equate to an increase in electricity prices of up to 0.06p/kWh.

It is too early to estimate what proportion of the UK contribution to the EU 20 per cent. target will come from any particular source of renewable energy and the impact that might have in terms of increased part-loading or maintenance costs incurred by conventional plant. Agreement has not yet been reached on the contribution that each member state will make towards the 20 per cent. target, but we will consult in 2008 on policy options to meet the UK'S contribution and publish our full UK renewable energy strategy the following spring once the EU directive has been agreed.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate has been made of the likely change in overall system costs due to network expansion to support renewables required to meet (*a*) current renewable electricity targets and (*b*) those targets likely to be required under the EU 20 per cent. renewables target for total primary energy; and how much of the likely costs are attributable to the (i) transmission and (ii) distribution system. [175704]

Malcolm Wicks: In terms of investment in the transmission system, Ofgem have agreed £560 million specifically to connect new renewable generation in Scotland and the North of England, which will contribute to the delivery of the Government's 2010 renewable targets. In addition, the current Transmission Price Control, which covers the five year period up to March 2012, allowed a further £3.8 billion of investment to cover network refurbishment and the costs of accommodating new generators of all types. The Transmission Price Control Review (TPCR) also provides flexible funding for the connection of additional generation in excess of that assumed in its base allowances. This flexible mechanism will provide funding for additional renewable generation, as it comes forward.

Similarly, in terms of the distribution networks, Ofgem has sanctioned funding of some £5.7 billion over the five year period from 2005 to 2010 via the Electricity Distribution Price Control Review (EDPCR) to cover network refurbishment and development, including that associated with the connection of generation. The EDPCR also provides explicit schemes to help Government achieve their 2010 targets for renewable energy and for the connection of combined heat and power (CHP), including direct incentives for the connection of distributed generation and development of innovative connection schemes.

Looking beyond the timescale of the current transmission price control, it is too early to estimate what proportion of the UK contribution to the EU 20 per cent. target will come from any particular source of renewable energy and what the implications might be for the transmission and distribution systems. Agreement has not yet been reached on the contribution that each member state will make towards the 20 per cent. target, but we will consult in 2008 on policy options to meet the UK's contribution and publish our full UK renewable energy strategy the following spring once the EU directive has been agreed.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate has been made of the change in system balancing costs of adding the non-despatchable generators to the UK portfolio required to reach (*a*) current renewable electricity targets and (*b*) those targets likely to be required under the EU 20 per cent. renewables target. [175705]

Malcolm Wicks: It is estimated that the additional annual balancing costs that are likely to be incurred in meeting the Government's current renewables target for 2010 would lie in the range of £0.2 to £2.9/MWh, which would equate to an increase in electricity prices of up to 0.06p/kWh.

It is too early to estimate what proportion of the UK contribution to the EU 20 per cent. target will come from any particular source of renewable energy and the impact that will have on overall balancing costs. Agreement has not yet been reached on the contribution that each member state will make towards the 20 per cent. target, but we will consult in 2008 on

policy options to meet the UK'S contribution and publish our full UK renewable energy strategy the following spring once the EU directive has been agreed.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether an estimate has been made of the likely effect of renewable generation supported by the renewables obligation on the thermal efficiency of gas-fired electricity generation. [175706]

Malcolm Wicks: No such estimate has been made.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what meetings *a* he and *b* his Ministers have held with representatives of manufacturers of components for the renewables industry in the last 12 months. [175707]

Malcolm Wicks: There have not been any meetings between *a* the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform or *b* other BERR Ministers and representatives of manufacturers of components for the renewables industry in the last 12 months.

However, BERR Ministers have had a number of meetings with representatives from the microgeneration industry, including trade associations and companies in the last 12 months.

Renewables Obligation

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps are being taken to reduce deadweight subsidy under the renewables obligation. [175690]

Malcolm Wicks: The document 'Reform of the Renewables Obligation'[1] sets out proposals to band the RO so more expensive renewable energy generation technologies, especially those at an earlier point in their development of technology and business model, are awarded more than projects in more economic technologies.

It is estimated that these proposals should lead to a deadweight cost reduced by £3.4 billion compared to the current model.

[1] http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file39497.pdf

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the deadweight subsidy provided by the renewables obligation since 2002; and how much he expects such deadweight subsidy to total in the period up to 2027 assuming the obligation is not revised. [175691]

Malcolm Wicks: There has been no estimate of the deadweight subsidy provided by the renewables obligation since 2002.

If there are no changes to the current model the lifetime deadweight subsidy (defined as cost to the consumer less the resource cost) is estimated to be £9.1 billion. The assumptions on which this figure is based are set out in the report 'Reform of the renewables obligation: what is the likely impact of changes'[1] which was published alongside the recent consultation.

The changes proposed in the May 2007 consultation on 'Reform of the Renewables Obligation' are estimated to lead to a reduced deadweight cost of £3.4 billion compared to the current model.

[1] http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file39039.pdf

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his most recent estimate is of the cost to consumers of the renewables obligation in each year since 2002; and how much he expects it to be in each year until 2027. [175692]

Malcolm Wicks: We have not broken down the cost to consumers on an annual basis but the report 'Reform of the renewables obligation: what is the likely impact of changes'[1], which was published alongside the May 2007 consultation on reform of the renewables obligation (RO), gives a lifetime cost to consumers of £23.7 billion under the current model and £25.1 billion under a banded RO.

[1] http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file39039.pdf

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the internal rates of return accrued by developers of renewable energy electricity generation projects under the renewables obligation in the technology sectors. [175693]

Malcolm Wicks: No such estimate has been made. However, the report by Ernst and Young 'Impact of banding the Renewables Obligation: cost of electricity production'[1] published alongside the May 2007 consultation on reform of the RO estimated the cost of capital likely to be required for projects using different technologies.

[1] http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file39038.pdf

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps are being taken to limit the renewables obligation's cost to the consumer in circumstances where renewable technologies or developments cease to require support as a result of rising wholesale electricity prices or falling project capital expenditure. [175697]

Malcolm Wicks: Proposals to review bands were set out in the document 'Reform of the Renewables Obligation'[1].

The criteria to be taken into account in reviewing bands set out in that document include consideration of the full project costs (including the costs of scoping, planning, construction, grid connection, transmission charges etc.) and incomes (for example, due to the wholesale price of electricity, the avoided cost of schemes such as the EU ETS, landfill tax and the climate change levy etc.).

[1] http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file39497.pdf

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps are being taken to limit the renewables obligation's cost to consumers once targets are met. [175698]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government have a target that 10 per cent. of UK electricity should come from renewable sources by 2010, subject to costs to the consumer being acceptable, with an aspiration to double this by 2020. This target will be revised pending the outcome of discussions with the Commission and other member states over achievement of the EU target to supply 20 per cent. of Europe's energy from renewable sources by 2020.

The UK is committed to implementing our share of this target in the most cost-effective way and will be consulting on policy measures to meet the target in 2008. The UK Renewable Energy Strategy will be published in spring 2009.

The renewables obligation is set at 10.4 per cent. of electricity supply for 2010, and we have announced our intention to let the obligation increase to a level equivalent to 20 per cent. on a headroom basis. The level of the obligation is not the same as a target, the obligation is set at a level of electricity supply from renewable sources just above that which we expect the market to deliver. The cost to consumers is given by the size of the obligation multiplied by the buy-out price. In the event that supply from renewable sources exceeded the obligation in a given year, for instance because of weather conditions, this would not add to costs for consumers.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will estimate the effect on the balance of payments of imports of renewables development under the renewables obligation to date. [175772]

Malcolm Wicks: The value of imports related to renewables development since the introduction of the RO has not been recorded.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will estimate the likely effect on the balance of payments of imports arising in relation to renewables development under the renewables obligation in the period up to 2027. [175773]

Malcolm Wicks: We do not have the data necessary to make such predictions.

Renewables Obligation: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the expected cost per tonne of carbon dioxide emissions avoided under the renewables obligation in (*a*) 2010 and (*b*) 2020. [175701]

Malcolm Wicks: No estimates have been made for the cost per tonne of carbon dioxide emissions avoided for specific years. This is because the carbon saved in a given year cannot be solely attributed to resource spent in that year.

The report 'Reform of the renewables obligation what is the likely impact of changes'[1] which was published alongside the recent consultation on reform of the renewables obligation (RO) includes a figure for the cost effectiveness over the lifetime of the renewables obligation of £188/tC. In practice this represents an upper limit as investments under the RO may lead to continued emissions reductions beyond the RO's lifetime.

[1] http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file39039.pdf

Renewables Obligation: Natural Gas

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the quantity of natural gas use avoided annually as a result of renewable developments under the renewables obligation (*a*) to date and (*b*) expected to be achieved by 2027. [175700]

Malcolm Wicks: No such estimates have been made.

For illustrative purposes the Government have published comparisons of the amount of generation from renewables expressed in terms of the natural gas required to generate that amount.

In 2006, renewables generation under the Renewables Obligation (RO) was approximately 14.5 TWh. The amount of gas used in generating this amount of electricity would be approximately 2.8 million tonnes of oil equivalent. This amount of gas is approximately 3.1 per cent. of total natural gas used in 2006.

The recent Energy White Paper projected around 52 TWh electricity supply from renewables in 2020, including that brought about as a result of the RO. Based on projected typical gas-fired plant efficiency in 2020, the amount of gas used in generating this amount of electricity would be approximately 9 million tonnes of oil equivalent. This amount of gas is approximately 9.7 per cent. of the total projected natural gas use in 2020.

Small Businesses: North East Region

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government are undertaking to promote small business start-up schemes among young people in the North East. [175221]

Mr. Timms: The Government's aim is to get a generation of young people to start thinking about the benefits of running their own business, and to recognise the positive impact that enterprising attitudes can have in every area of their lives.

We are doing this by:

- Funding Enterprise Insight's Make Your Mark campaign which promotes enterprise to young people aged 14 to 30;
- Supporting the UK's annual Enterprise Week;
- Promoting enterprise education for Key Stage 4 (14 to 16 years) pupils in schools;
- Supporting the National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship to promote business start-up as a viable alternative to working for somebody else.

In the North East of England, funding to help make young people aware of business start-up opportunities is provided by One NorthEast. This includes the Future Entrepreneurs programme, providing approximately £3 million from 2005/06 to 2007/08, which aims to deliver enterprise education to young people aged five to 30, together with those individuals who influence young people such as teachers and careers advisers.

One NorthEast has also funded the Prince's Trust for both their 'Business Skills for Young People' and 'Beyond the Label' activities. Since 2005 investment in Prince's Trust activity from One NorthEast has been approximately £950,000.

Work is also under way to increase the capacity of universities in the region to support graduates with enterprise education and business start-up. Funding is available from One NorthEast to individual institutions, but is conditional on those institutions matching expenditure through their own Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF) submissions. The total funding allocated to this programme is: £1,700,000 (2006/07), £2,500,000 (2007/08), and £2,500,000 (2008/09).

As part of a larger Northern Way Project 117 secondary schools in the North East (both mainstream and special schools) have been directly funded. This has supported over 9,000 youngsters to date with more to come this school year. £1.3 million of Northern Way support has been awarded, with schools getting around £10,500 each to integrate enterprise into the curriculum.

Technology: Internet

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what steps the Government have taken to encourage web-based technology development in the UK since 1997; [175590]

(2) how much the Government have spent on promoting the web-based technology industry since 1997. [175591]

Mr. Timms *[holding answers 7 January 2008]:* In view of the wide range of past and present Government activities involving an element of promoting web-based technology, it is not possible to provide precise expenditure figures without incurring disproportionate cost. However, my Department works closely with key stakeholders such as the Information Age Partnership (IAP) to help the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector address key issues impacting on its competitiveness, and the Government have provided significant funding for the development of technology in this area via European Framework programmes and more recently the Technology Strategy Board.

Since 1997, the Government have made considerable efforts to encourage the take up and use of ICT, including web-based technologies, by UK business. This was primarily through two major initiatives, the Information Society Initiative and UK online for business. The Government continues to look at how ICT can impact on productivity and social inclusion - most recently through the joint report with the IAP, 'Raising UK Productivity: unlocking the potential of Information and Communication Technology' published in June 2007.

We have also done much to promote the development of the broadband infrastructure, working in collaboration with the regions and Devolved Administrations and with industry. The UK has one of the fastest growing broadband markets in Europe, and continues to have the most extensive availability, with 99.9 per cent of households reported to be connected to broadband enabled exchanges.

UK Trade and Investment: Technology

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what support was given by (*a*) UK Trade and Investment and (*b*) the Renewables Trade Promotion Service to each technology sector in attending or holding trade events domestically and overseas in the last period for which figures are available. [175687]

Malcolm Wicks: Over the period April 2007 to March 2008, BERR, via UKTI and the RETPS will have supported 13 overseas trade missions and one inward mission. Of the 14 events, eight events covered all renewable technologies, three events were specific to wind energy, two events were specific to bioenergy, and one was specific to marine energy.

Unfair Commercial Practices Directive

Mr. Greenway: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what timetable he plans for the (*a*) publication, (*b*) consultation on and (*c*) implementation of the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive regulations. [175503]

Mr. Thomas: The Department of Trade and Industry consulted on draft Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations (CPRs) implementing the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive (UCPD) in May 2007. The draft CPRs reflect the outcome of two earlier consultations about implementing the UCPD. The first consultation paper was published in December 2005 and sought views in three areas: interpretation; enforcement; and simplification of existing legislation. The second consultation in December 2006 sought views on how to frame the criminal offences in the regulations implementing the directive.

I propose to lay the draft CPRs before Parliament shortly. If approved the regulations will come into force on 6 April 2008.

Union Modernisation Fund

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost to his Department was of administering the Union Modernisation Fund programme in each year since 2004. [173169]

Mr. McFadden: The cost of administering the scheme represents 5 per cent. of the funds managed.

	£
2005	63,573
2006	121,683
2007	176,027

Wind Power

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what estimate he has made of the quantity of (*a*) steel and (*b*) concrete required to build sufficient wind turbines to supply the energy needed to meet targets likely to be required under the EU 20 per cent. renewables target; [175674]

(2) what estimate he has made of the quantity of (*a*) steel and (*b*) concrete required to build and develop the infrastructure, including access roads, to service wind turbines needed to supply the energy needed to meet targets likely to be required under the EU 20 per cent. renewables target. [175675]

Malcolm Wicks: It is too early to estimate what proportion of the UK contribution to the EU 20 per cent. target will come from any particular source of renewable energy, and the impact that will have. Agreement has not yet been reached on the contribution that each member state will make toward the 20 per cent. target, but we will consult in 2008 on policy options to meet the UK's contribution and publish our full UK renewable energy strategy the following spring once the EU directive has been agreed.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will estimate the number of days annually on which wind speed is too high for the generation of power from wind turbines in each area in which wind farms are located. [175775]

Malcolm Wicks: No such estimate has been made, but the likelihood of wind turbines shutting down due to high wind speed conditions is very rare.

Wind speed statistics are very location specific and vary from year to year. At any one typical UK wind farm location, wind speeds might be high enough to cause wind turbines to shut down for a few hours per year, more on a high wind speed site, fewer on a low wind speed site.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many factories in the UK are capable of manufacturing the primary components of a 2MW wind turbine, including (*a*) masts, (*b*) hubs, (*c*) generators and (*d*) turbine blades. [176048]

Malcolm Wicks: We do not hold statistics on how many factories in the UK are capable of manufacturing the primary components of a 2MW wind turbine. However, we are aware of a number of UK factories with the capability of producing the primary components. In terms of masts we are aware of five companies with the capability, three companies for hubs, two companies for generators and two companies for blades.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimated size of labour force is needed to maintain the number of wind turbines required to meet targets likely to be required under the EU 20 per cent. renewables target for total primary energy, what types of qualifications are likely to be required for such a labour force, and what projection he has made of the number of suitable personnel who will be available on the labour market in 2020 is. [176049]

Malcolm Wicks: It is too early to estimate what proportion of the UK contribution to the EU 20 per cent. target will come from any particular source of renewable energy, and the impact that will have. Agreement has not yet been reached on the contribution that each member state will make toward the 20 per cent. target, but we will consult in 2008 on policy options to meet the UK's contribution and publish our full UK renewable energy strategy the following spring once the EU directive has been agreed.

Wind Power: Tourism

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect on the level of tourism income of the installation of wind turbines in the countryside. [175774]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has not made such an assessment. However, we are not aware of any evidence to suggest that the level of tourism income has been affected by the installation of wind turbines in the countryside.

The UK's first commercial wind farm at Delabole in Cornwall received 350,000 visitors in its first ten years of operation.

A MORI poll in Scotland (October 2002) showed that 80 per cent. of tourists would be interested in visiting a wind farm. Furthermore, wind farm developers are often asked to provide a visitor centre, viewing platforms and rights of way to their sites.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 10 January 2008

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equal Pay

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether an equal pay audit has been conducted for the Women and Equality Unit. [170512]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 3 December 2007]*: The Women and Equality Unit ceased to exist on 26 July this year when the formation of the Government Equalities Office (GEO) was announced. However, the GEO did not become a new Department until the transfer of functions order went through on 12 October this year.

As a result, the GEO will be conducting its first equal pay audit in 2008.

The Women and Equality Unit (WEU) was not a stand alone Department so no separate equal pay audit was ever conducted for it. The WEU was located successively within the Department for Social Security (as the Women's Unit), the Cabinet Office, the Department of Trade and Industry, and the Department for Communities and Local Government. An equal pay audit was conducted by the Cabinet Office using spring 2002 data. This review is likely to have included WEU staff in the Cabinet Office at that time, although this can not be confirmed as the review does not specify units or individuals. The Department for Communities and Local Government is currently conducting an equal pay review using June 2007 pay data, and this will include WEU staff paid by that Department at that time.

Forced Marriage Unit

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many alleged incidents of forced marriage have been reported to the Government's Forced Marriage Unit in each year since its establishment. [174506]

Barbara Follett: The Forced Marriage Unit was established in 2005 as the Government's one stop shop for dealing with forced marriage casework, policy and projects.

The Forced Marriage Unit receives 5,000 inquiries and handles approximately 300 cases a year. Subject to concerns about maintaining confidentiality, a new system to capture data on cases will be implemented next year.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bangladesh: Overseas Aid

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 469, on Bangladesh: overseas aid, what the estimated end of year financial position is for each country where his Department is active according to the latest expenditure forecast; and if he will make a statement. [175724]

Mr. Thomas: Indicative budgets for country programmes for 2007-08 were published in the Department for International Development's 2007 Annual Report published in May 2007 [HC 514]. We are planning to fully spend the budget allocations.

Lesotho: Overseas Aid

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has received on the Lesotho Highlands Water project. [175728]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government provided support to the Lesotho Highlands Water programme in 1987 and to the Highland Water scheme (Phase I and II) and the Lesotho Delegation of the Highlands Water Commission from 1999 to January 2005. Funding was mainly in the form of engineering technical assistance.

There have been no other interventions by the UK, nor have we received any representations since then.

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects his Department has supported in Lesotho in the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [175729]

Mr. Thomas: The UK bilateral programme to Lesotho is approximately £5 million.

We have co-ordinated closely with the UN in Maseru in response to the current drought. DFID provided £500,000 through UNICEF to ensure people have access to clean water. We are also the largest donor to the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), which has allocated US $4.74 million to the humanitarian response.

The European Union's ninth European Development Framework (EDF 9) provided funds of €104 million to Lesotho between 2002 and 2007. DFID's imputed share of this is approximately 17 per cent. The key areas covered were: water and sanitation, road transport, macro-economic support and capacity building, HIV and AIDS, trade and regional integration.

The following table shows projects that DFID has supported in the last three years:

Name of programme	*Start to End dates*	*Sector*	*Funds (£000)*
Lesotho Revenue Authority: Phase 1	March 2002 to March 2006	Governance	3,200
Lesotho Justice Sector Development Programme	August 2003 to November 2007	Justice	2,100

Name of programme	Start to End dates	Sector	Funds (£000)
Lesotho Textile Project	February 2004 to February 2009	Trade	1,500
Lesotho Priority Support Programme: Job Creation/Food Security	April 2004 to May 2009	Trade Food Security	1,960
Lesotho Poverty Reduction Strategy Foundation Programme	September 2004 to November 2008	Governance Public Financial Management Support to Civil Society Donor Harmonisation Poverty Monitoring	5,000
Lesotho Priority Support Programme: HIV&AIDS Programme	November 2004 to May 2009	Health/HIV	1,800
Apparel Lesotho Alliance to Fight Aids	January 2005 to March 2007	Health/HIV	300
Support to Vulnerable Rural Households in Lesotho (FAO)	November 2005 to August 2006	Food Security	350
Lesotho Revenue Authority: Phase 2	September 2006 to March 2009	Governance	2,930
Potato Culture Project	February 2007 to September 2008	Science and Technology	55
Water, Sanitation, Hygiene (UNICEF)	October 2007 to March 2008	Humanitarian	500

Overseas Aid: Disease Control

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of his Department's bilateral spending is directed towards *(a)* tuberculosis and *(b)* tuberculosis/HIV; whether the UK's strategy on HIV and AIDS for 2008 to 2012 will include a specific target on tuberculosis/HIV co-infection reduction; and what steps he plans to take to support an integrated response to tuberculosis and HIV in other countries. [177743]

Mr. Malik: DFID bilateral expenditure on HIV and AIDS activities in 2006-07 was £348 million and bilateral expenditure targeting communicable disease control, including tuberculosis, was £79 million. There is additional DFID spending on poverty reduction budget support and health system strengthening which help address all major causes of ill health, including TB and HIV. We are unable to systematically capture the amount spent on HIV/TB collaborative activities.

The UK's updated strategy on HIV and AIDS will include addressing TB/HIV co-infection. DFID strongly supports an integrated response to TB and HIV. We support this through a range of different channels including our support to international organisations and partnerships, such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the World Health Organisation, UNAIDS, the Stop TB Partnership and funding research into HIV/TB co-infection.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he plans to take to facilitate the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria reaching its target size of US$ 8 billion by 2010. [177744]

Mr. Malik: At the Global Fund Executive Board in April 2007, members acknowledged that the size of the fund would increase, dependent on high quality demand from countries and improved performance of the fund itself. Three scenarios of future demand had been prepared by the Secretariat, the highest one assuming that demand would rise more than fourfold by 2010, and that $8 billion per annum would be needed to support these new proposals and continue with existing programmes (representing $18 billion for the period 2008-10). The G8 noted the projected demands and pledged to work with the other donors to replenish the fund, and to provide long-term predictable funding based on ambitious but realistic demand driven targets.

Donor pledges and Secretariat projections now total $9.7 billion for the period 2008-10. This is a highly significant increase in resources, which allows the fund to support a substantial expansion of all ongoing programmes, and all of the new proposals which have been recommended by the Technical Review Panel, while still leaving over $750 million available for future proposals. Thus all the high quality demand for financing the current round of proposals has been met.

But the UK's own pledge goes beyond this. The UK has made an unprecedented long-term commitment over the eight years up to 2015, of up to £1 billion. Within this framework we announced a commitment of £360 million over the three year replenishment period, of which £30 million is subject to demand and results. This 20 per cent. increase in our commitment means that we have maintained our share of the total replenishment at about 7.5 per cent. In addition, we also pledged a further £640 million from 2011-15, providing the global fund is receiving good quality demand, continues to perform well and is demonstrating sustainable impact.

World Bank: Loans

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on *(a)* acceptable and *(b)* unacceptable conditionality for lending in relation to World Bank lending policy; and if he will make a statement. [175723]

Mr. Thomas: World Bank conditionality for lending must be in line with the Bank's policy. In 2004, the Bank abolished its use of prescriptive conditionality—the practice of pushing specific reforms. Following a review in 2005, it adopted the good practice principles on conditionality. These principles stress the importance of country ownership and commit the Bank to ensure that conditions are limited to those critical for the programme's success and are customised to individual country circumstances. In 2006, the Bank committed to avoiding conditions in sensitive policy areas such as privatisation,

unless they are critical to the effectiveness of a programme and there is clear evidence of ownership by the developing country government. The UK has made it clear to the World Bank that we expect all lending to respect the commitments it has made in the last few years.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what response he has made to the World Bank's review of Conditionality in Development Policy published on 15 November 2007; and if he will make a statement. [175726]

Mr. Thomas: The World Bank's 2007 report on Conditionality in Development Policy Lending incorporates findings from consultations in eight developing countries with governments and other stakeholders. It also draws on external studies and reports.

The report highlights continued improvements in the bank's practice on conditionality. The average number of conditions per bank policy-based operation in low-income countries fell from 32 in 1999 to 12 in 2006 and in 2007. There has also been a reduction in conditions in "sensitive areas" and the number of privatisation conditions is low. The consultations highlighted that the bank's practice has improved in respecting country ownership and increasing opportunities to debate policy options.

The report acknowledges there is room for improvement and makes further recommendations, notably the need to involve local counterparts more fully in policy formulation and analytical work, and the need to strengthen the use of poverty and social impact analysis by bank staff.

The findings of the report and the bank's commitment to further improve its performance in this area are encouraging. We continue to maintain pressure on the bank to ensure that it fulfils its commitments on the use of conditionality.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recycling scheme is in operation in each building operated by his Department. [176711]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department introduced a new waste management system at its Cockspur Street offices in January 2007. This includes the recycling of paper, cardboard, glass and cans. The scheme is currently being extended to its offices at Tottenham Court Road.

English Language

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on English language classes for staff in the last year for which figures are available. [177433]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In the last year, January 2007 to January 2008, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has spent £0 on English language classes for staff. The Department has two staff currently participating in English language classes organised through Learn Direct but no financial costs will accrue.

National Identity Register

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans his Department has to make use of data on the National Identity Register when it is established; and what the estimated cost to his Department of that use is. [174038]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department will be working with the Home Office prior to the introduction of the National Identity Scheme to establish how identity information held on the proposed National Identity Register might be used to provide easier access to our services for our customers. It is too early in the process to establish the detailed costs and benefits.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Christmas Cards

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on (*a*) Christmas cards and (*b*) postage of Christmas cards in 2007. [176911]

David Cairns: The information is as follows:

(*a*) The Scotland Office incurred no expenditure on Christmas cards in 2007 as an e-card and surplus stock from previous years were used.

(*b*) No separate record was kept of the expenditure on postage specifically for Christmas cards in 2007.

Departmental Pay

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 746W, on departmental pay, how many of those earning over £100,000 were employed (*a*) as special advisers and (*b*) in a political role in each year since 1997. [177177]

David Cairns: Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the number of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information, I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister, on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, 147-51WS.

Information on the numbers and costs of special advisers prior to 2003 was provided at regular intervals and this information will be available in the Library of the House.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many branded plastic bags the

Electoral Commission has purchased in the last 24 months for which figures are available; and at what cost. [176495]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it purchased 1,000 branded carrier bags in July 2006 and 3000 in September 2006 at a total cost of £2,477.37 including VAT.

Electoral Register

Mr. Pickles: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what research the Electoral Commission has commissioned from NOP on electoral registration; and at what cost. [176492]

Peter Viggers: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave him on 13 December, *Official Report*, column 768W.

Local Government: Norfolk

Mr. Pickles: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether the review by the Boundary Committee for England into restructuring of local government in Norfolk is a review under the (*a*) Local Government Act 1992 and (*b*) Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. [176494]

Peter Viggers: Section 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 states that the Secretary of State may request the Boundary Committee to advise on any matter that relates to a proposal for unitary status. The 2007 Act also repeals the power of the Secretary of State under section 13 of the Local Government Act 1992 to request the Electoral Commission to recommend whether a structural or boundary change should be made in a specified area.

The Electoral Commission informs me that the Boundary Committee for England has not yet received any such request and that it has not yet commenced a review of local government in Norfolk. The committee has, however, carried out preparatory work following the announcement in July 2007 that the Secretary of State is minded to make such a request.

Local Government: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many performance indicators the Electoral Commission is setting for local authorities. [176493]

Peter Viggers: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave him on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 767W.

TREASURY

Child Benefit: Personal Records

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date HM Revenue and Customs first informed the police of the loss of the computer discs containing the data of child benefit claimants. [176894]

Jane Kennedy: The former Chairman of HMRC, Paul Gray, asked the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) to investigate the loss of the child benefit datadisks on 15 November 2007.

Council Tax Benefits: Scotland

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what account would be taken of a local income tax in Scotland when determining funding to be paid by the UK Government to Scotland for council tax benefit. [176496]

Andy Burnham: Council tax benefit is a reserved matter, funded by the Department for Work and Pensions. England, Scotland and Wales operate a council tax system. Council tax benefit is paid as a rebate to households, up to a maximum of their council tax liability. No benefit is payable to households that do not pay council tax.

Departmental Expenditure Limits

Dr. Fox: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Winter Supplementary Estimates (HC 29), for what reasons he plans to transfer £70 million from voted capital DEL to non-voted near cash resource DEL; and if he will make a statement. [173758]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence and Minister for Veterans (Derek Twigg) on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 40W.

Economic Situation

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of when the last economic cycle concluded. [177604]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury's latest assessment of cyclical developments is set out in the 2007 pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review (Cm 7227).

International Monetary Fund: Gold

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the economic implications of the sale of gold by the International Monetary Fund. [177507]

Angela Eagle: Any IMF gold sales would require a 85 per cent. vote in favour by the members of the IMF. The UK Government believe that any sales of gold should take place in an orderly way, phased overtime, and within the bounds set by official sellers of gold in recent years so as to avoid disruption to the gold market.

Personal Income: Yorkshire and Humber

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the median household income was in each parliamentary constituency in Yorkshire and the Humber in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [174298]

Caroline Flint: I have been asked to reply as Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber.

The information is not available below the level of Government Office Region.

Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much PricewaterhouseCoopers will be paid to carry out the Poynter Review. [169997]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* HM Treasury has entered into a contract with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC), that is commercially confidential.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer from which budget the cost of the Poynter Review is being met; and what estimate he has made of the total expected cost of the review. [173362]

Jane Kennedy: HM Treasury has entered into a contract with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC), that is commercially confidential.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what security measures he has put in place to protect data exchanged via the HM Revenue and Customs website by contractors to file online returns under the construction industry scheme. [177605]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC has in place appropriate security measures to protect data exchanged via the HMRC website: these include measures to ensure authentication of access, encryption and a secure connection such as firewall technology to safeguard information received. Users of HMRC's e-services are required to confirm their identity using a unique user identification and password before they can access the Department's Construction Industry Scheme (CIS) Service. Additionally the system used encrypts all data to ensure any exchange via the Department is transmitted securely.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what safeguards he has put in place to protect the data held by HM Revenue and Customs for the construction industry scheme. [177606]

Jane Kennedy: All data held by HMRC in respect of the construction industry scheme is subject to safeguards consistent with the Department's revised security guidelines.

Tax Allowances: Trade Unions

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance HM Revenue and Customs has produced on whether subscriptions to trades unions qualify for tax relief. [177520]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC provides guidance on the tax treatment of trades unions subscriptions paid by employees in its Employment Income Manual at EIM32885.

TRANSPORT

A303: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding is available from *(a)* central and *(b)* local government for road improvements to the A303 at Stonehenge in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [177162]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 9 January 2008]:* There are currently no proposals for funding improvements to the A303 running past Stonehenge in 2007-08 or 2008-09. Following our announcement on Thursday, 6 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 97-8WS on the A303 Stonehenge Improvement scheme, the Highways Agency will be investigating possible smaller scale measures to improve traffic flows and safety along this section of the A303.

The Department is also working with Department for Culture, Media and Sport and other stakeholders to investigate options for improving the environment around Stonehenge and improving visitor facilities. This work will include an assessment of the possibility of closing the junction of the A344 with the A303. Funding for possible small scale improvements to the A303 will be considered as part of this further work.

Crossrail Line

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if she will place in the Library a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Mayor of London and her Department on the Crossrail project; [176340]

(2) what liability *(a)* taxpayers from general taxation and *(b)* the London taxpayer, via the Greater London Authority, have for any cost-overruns from the Crossrail project; [176341]

(3) which public authorities will be responsible for bearing the cost of any overruns from the Crossrail project. [176372]

Mr. Tom Harris: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement made by the Secretary of State on 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 133-34 WS and the answer given to the hon. Member for Wokingham (Mr. Redwood) on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1294W.

Driving Under Influence: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government is taking to increase public awareness of the volumes and timings of alcohol consumption likely to result in reaching the maximum blood alcohol concentration permitted for driving on public roads. [177358]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department are spending about £3.5 million this year advertising against drink-driving. We have an advice leaflet, 'How Much Will Your Next Round Cost You?', which is available on-line at:

http://www.thinkroadsafety.gov.Uk/campaigns/drinkdrive/pdf/1184.pdf

Our advice has consistently warned drivers that it is not possible to calculate how much alcohol they can consume. We have included in our leaflet a warning about the persistence of alcohol impairment and the "morning after" effect.

Alcohol impairment is a complex matter. It is influenced by various factors, including the driver's gender, body mass, his or her state of health and level of fatigue; the confounding effects of drugs—legal and illegal; by the level of driving skills—including the effects of inexperience and old age; and by the amount and rate of alcohol consumption. Any level of alcohol impairs driving and our core message is "don't drink and drive".

Motorways: Accidents

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many (*a*) deaths and (*b*) injuries resulting from accidents on motorways in Hampshire there were in each of the last two years, broken down on a junction-to-junction basis. [177326]

Mr. Tom Harris: The number of deaths and injuries resulting from accidents on the Highways Agency's motorways in Hampshire in each of the last two years is given, on a junction-to-junction basis, in the following table.

			2005		2006	
Road	*From*	*To*	*Killed*	*Injured*	*Killed*	*Injured*
M3	J4	J4A		11		9
	J4A	J5		29		36
	J5	J6	1	23		22
	J6	J7		19	1	32
	J7	J8		5		18
	J8	J9	1	40		28
	J9	J10		9		17
	J10	J11		22	1	17
	J11	J12	1	23		21
	J12	J13		17		11
	J13	J14		15		16
M27	J1	J2	1	22		14
	J2	J3		11		15
	J3	J4W		22		30
	J4E	J5		14		11
	J4W	J4E		3		8
	J5	J7		20		29
	J7	J8		11		4
	J8	J9		21		17
	J9	J10	1	7		15
	J10	J11		3		8
	J11	J12W		23	1	36
	J12E	End		4		3
	J12W	J12E		16		12
M271	J1	End (A35)	1	19		5
	M27	J1		13		15
	Start (A3057)	M27		1		3
A3(M)	Start	J2		4		6
	J2	J3		15		13
	J3	J4		5		3
	J4	J5		7		19
	J5	End		4		2

Railways: Norwich

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will hold an investigation into disruptions to the service on the Norwich to London railway line (*a*) at Christmas 2007 and (*b*) throughout 2007. [177327]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Office of Rail Regulation has launched an investigation into Network Rail's management of engineering projects including the causes of the engineering overrun at Liverpool Street over Christmas and new year, and expect to announce their preliminary findings by 29 February 2008. We will not seek to pre-empt the Office of Rail Regulation by speculating on causes before the report is issued.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what proportion of train delays on the Norwich to London railway line were due to problems with overhead cables in 2007. [177328]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department does not receive the information at this level of detail. Information about specific causes of delay is collected and processed by Network Rail. The hon. Member should therefore contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his question.

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London NW1 2EE

Railways: Repairs and Maintenance

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she has taken to ascertain the reasons for the delay in the completion of works to the railway infrastructure near London Liverpool Street station over the Christmas and new year holiday period; and if she will make a statement. [177449]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR), as the rail industry's economic regulator, monitors Network Rail's stewardship of the national rail network. The ORR has launched an investigation into the cause of this over-run and expects to publish its findings by the end February. It would be inappropriate to make a statement before the report is published.

Railways: Safety Measures

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 600W, on railways: safety measures, if she will place in the Library the full research data from which the review referred to was compiled, with particular reference to the test data reviewed in section 9.4 of the report. [177242]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 9 January 2008]*: The research referred to in the question was commissioned by the Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB). RSSB has no plans to publish any material relating to hammers. Having reached the conclusion that escape through windows of passenger trains should not be encouraged, RSSB concluded that the work on hammers should cease. There is therefore no final report or validated set of data relating to hammers. The final report on the overall approach to passenger containment, to which the hon. Gentleman refers in his question, is available on the RSSB website at:

www.rssb.co.uk

The Department for Transport does not have any of the data requested.

Railways: Swindon

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the timescale is for a decision to be taken on the re-doubling of the Swindon-Kemble line. [177629]

Mr. Tom Harris: I understand Network Rail has consulted rail industry parties on possible changes to the Swindon to Kemble line. However, this is an operational matter for Network Rail, as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for a response to his question.

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London NW1 2EE

Roads: Safety

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport by what process a road safety grant, provided for by section 1 of the Road Safety Act 2006, is awarded to a local authority or any other body. [177230]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Section 1 of the Road Safety Act provides powers for Government to make payments to local authorities or any other authority or body for meeting the costs of measures for promoting road safety.

There is no single mechanism for award of grant under this legislation, but in the case of Road Safety Partnership Grant, bids for grant are invited to address specific road safety issues and priorities, and are then assessed against project criteria. Grant is awarded to those bidders who best satisfy the project criteria and road safety priorities.

It is envisaged that the powers under this legislation will also be used to award grants associated with road safety trials or demonstration projects. In such cases, grant will be awarded to authorities or bodies on the basis of their particular experience of a road safety issue, or its solution.

Trains: Standards

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will request Passenger Focus to conduct a study into passenger comfort on Desiro Class 450 trains; and if she will make a statement. [177333]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Secretary of State will not request Passenger Focus to conduct a study as the independent study which was commissioned and funded by South West Trains was reviewed by Passenger Focus. The findings of this report are available on the South West Trains Website:

www.southwesttrains.co.uk

West London Line: Railway Stations

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the total cost of the proposed West London Line train station at Imperial Wharf. [177378]

Mr. Tom Harris: The provision of a new station at Imperial Wharf was agreed between the local authority and the developer as part of the wider development of the area. The costs of the station are therefore not a matter for the Department for Transport but for the local authority.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Communications Allowance

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1225W, on the communications allowance, why the allowance is being increased by the retail prices index rather than the consumer prices index. [177597]

Helen Goodman: The communications allowance is uprated annually from 1 April in line with the RPI for the preceding December. This is in accordance with the MEC report on the allowance (HC 319, 2006-07) which was approved by the House on 28 March 2007. This is the same as the uprating procedures for IEP and ACA.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1225W, on the communications allowance, what representations she has received supporting an increase in the communications allowance by more than the rate of inflation; and what assessment she has made of such representations. [177598]

Helen Goodman: I have received no such representations. The communications allowance is uprated each year in line with the retail prices index. This follows the recommendations of the report of the Members Estimate Committee (HC 182, 2006-07) which was approved by the House on 28 March 2007.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1225W, on the communications allowance, what the aggregated budgeted expenditure on the communications allowance is expected to be in 2007-08. [177599]

Helen Goodman: The communications allowances was introduced in April 2007 and set at £10,000 per annum for each hon. Member, with the possibility of adding money transferred from staffing and IEP incidental expenses provision. The maximum spend from the basic allowance in one year is therefore £6.46 million. The Members Estimate Committee, in its report on the communications allowance (HC 319, 2006-07) assumed similar take-up to the other allowances. As noted in the report, this equates to a likely total annual cost of the allowance of about £6 million. Currently spending on the communications allowance is running below this level.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Leader of the House what audits her Office has carried out in relation to personal data and IT equipment in each of the last 10 years. [176490]

Helen Goodman: Following a machinery of government change the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons falls under the auspices of the Cabinet Office on this issue.

My hon. Friend the Member for Lincoln (Gillian Merron) will be answering in due course and will also answer on behalf of the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons.

DEFENCE

Annual Army Abstracts

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of the Annual Army Abstracts published since 1997. [174478]

Derek Twigg: No. The Annual Army Abstract report is restricted management as it may disclose sensitive personal information and redacting historical information could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of the rest and recuperation arrangements for armed forces personnel during their deployment on operational tours. [177844]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A number of studies on the future size and disposition of United Kingdom armed forces on operations are currently ongoing. This work will include an assessment of the adequacy of welfare provision in the long term and any changes will be announced in due course. In the meantime, the current arrangements for rest and recuperation will continue to apply as per our previous correspondence.

Armed Forces: Divorce

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the provision of support to the former spouses of service personnel following marriage breakdown. [178624]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave him on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1024W, and 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1029-30W, which described much of the support available to all members of service families experiencing relationship difficulties.

A former spouse of a service person who no longer lives in the service community will receive support from local authorities or devolved administrations who have statutory responsibilities for appropriate services. Also, service charities will often become, or remain, involved in supporting needy cases, including the former spouses of service personnel. For example, SSAFA-Forces Help operates Stepping Stone Homes as transitional assistance specifically for the separated or divorced former dependants of service personnel.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will break down by married accommodation location the married service personnel based at (*a*) Woolwich, (*b*) Wellington Barracks, (*c*) Hounslow and (*d*) Windsor. [177560]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held in the format requested.

Staff working in London are entitled to be housed within 90 minutes travel time (using public transport) of their permanent duty station. Therefore there is no direct linkage between the married accommodation at each of the sites and the basing of service personnel at those sites. However, the numbers of service family accommodation at each of the requested locations is as follows:

	Number
Woolwich	260
Wellington Barracks	33
Hounslow	117
Windsor	454

Personnel living at these locations may work at other London locations, and conversely personnel who are posted there may be housed elsewhere.

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the reasons were for the decision to change the abbreviated description for UK armed forces for badging and identification purposes while deployed from UK to GBR. [174702]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 17 December 2007]*: In 2004, NATO's Standardisation Agreement 1059 (STANAG 1059), which provides agreed Letter Codes for Geographical Entities, was amended to replace the previous two letter country code with three letter codes based on those used by the International Organisation for Standards (the ISO 3166-1 standard). As a result, the standard NATO letter code for the United Kingdom changed from UK to GBR.

Army: Statistics

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of the monthly Defence Analytical Services Agency British Army Statistics Report issued since April 1997. [174479]

Derek Twigg: No. The Defence Analytical Services Agency British Army Statistics report is restricted management as it may disclose sensitive personal information and redacting the historical information could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Army: Labour Turnover

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* total outflow and *(b)* voluntary exit rate was of (i) officers, (ii) other ranks and (iii) all personnel in the Army in each month since January 2006. [177531]

Derek Twigg: Army figures for total outflow and voluntary exit rates broken down by officers and other ranks since January 2006 can be found in Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 5 — 'Trained Outflow to Civil Life'. Monthly figures show the number of personnel who have outflowed in the previous 12 month period. TSP 5 is published monthly and all publications can be found at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/tsp5/tsp5tab5.html

Copies of TSP 5 are available in the Library of the House and at:

www.dasa.mod.uk

Athena: Finance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding the United Kingdom provided to the Athena provisional financing scheme in each year since 2004. [177521]

Des Browne: The UK does not participate in the Athena provisional financing scheme.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the EU's Athena budget was in each year since 2004; and what percentage of that budget was provided by the United Kingdom. [177525]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is provided in the following table:

	Athena budget (£ million)	*UK share (percentage)*
2004	8.615	17.28
2005	41.474	18.07
2006	30.199	17.57
2007	19.457	17.02
2008	21.861	17.23

The budget agreed for 2008 does not yet include the costs of a planned EU-led military operation in Chad and the Central African Republic. The 2008 Athena budget will be increased as necessary once a budget for that operation has been approved.

Defence Analytical Services Agency: Forecasts

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of *(a)* the Defence Analytical Services Agency's (DASA) monthly price index booklet, *(b)* DASA's quarterly price index forecasts, *(c)* DASA's quarterly foreign price index, *(d)* DASA's negotiators' briefing pack issued in 2007 and *(e)* the DASA electronic price indices query tool. [176290]

Derek Twigg: I will arrange for copies of the Monthly Price Indices booklet, Quarterly Foreign Price Indices booklet and the Negotiators Briefing Pack(s) published in 2007 to be placed in the Library of the House.

I am withholding copies of the DASA Price Indices UK Quarterly Forecast as their release would, or would be likely to, prejudice commercial interests.

Similarly, I am withholding the electronic price indices query tool as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice commercial interests.

Defence Aviation Repair Agency: Vector Aerospace

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the basis was for the decision to sell the DARA Helicopter, Rotary Wing and Components business in Almondbank on to the Canadian company Vector Aerospace. [176802]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer my hon. Friend to my previous answer on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 773W, to the hon. Member for Gosport (Peter Viggers).

European Defence Agency: Finance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the projected budget is for the European Defence Agency in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [177523]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The European Defence Agency budget for 2008 is €32 million; there are no budget figures for 2009 and 2010.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many medical personnel were hired by his Department under private contract to work in (*a*) Afghanistan and (*b*) Iraq in each of the last three years; and what the cost of hiring such staff was; [176838]

(2) which private companies his Department uses to hire medical personnel for service in Iraq and Afghanistan; [176839]

(3) if he will break down by specialisation those medical personnel hired by his Department under private contract to work in Afghanistan and Iraq. [176840]

Derek Twigg: The Defence Medical Services Department employs civilian medical locums to work at UK medical facilities on deployed operations through Frontier Medical (a division of Exploration Logistics Group plc).

The following table provides the total number of individuals who have been employed over the past three complete financial years and up to 15 December of this financial year. Not all of these individuals deployed at the same time. For example, during the financial year 2006-07, at any one time, up to two intensive therapy unit nurses and two emergency nurses were deployed as civilian locums in Iraq by the Defence Medical Services.

Financial year	Specialism	Operation	Number of individuals employed as civilian locums	Cost £ million
April 2004 to April 2005	Intensive Therapy Unit and Emergency Nurses	Telic (Iraq)	50	1
April 2005 to April 2006	Intensive Therapy Unit and Emergency Nurses	Telic (Iraq)	50	1.1
April 2006 to April 2007	Intensive Therapy Unit and Emergency Nurses	Telic (Iraq)	54	1.155
April 2007 to 15 December 2007	Intensive Therapy Unit and Emergency Nurses	Telic (Iraq)	26	0.87
	Neurosurgeon; Intensive Therapy Unit and Emergency Nurses	Herrick (Afghanistan)	4	0.21

Kenya: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK military personnel are based in Kenya; and what their roles are. [177310]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: 65 UK military personnel are based in Kenya, undertaking a wide variety of roles. These include: providing advice and assistance to the British high commissioner; helping build Kenyan and regional capacity to manage and conduct peace support operations; providing high quality mine action training; and liaising with Kenyan authorities over the planning and execution of British Army exercises.

RAF: Labour Turnover

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the (*a*) total outflow and (*b*) voluntary exit rate was of (i) officers, (ii) other ranks and (iii) all personnel in the RAF in each month since January 2006. [177535]

Derek Twigg: RAF figures for total outflow and voluntary exit rates broken down by officers and other ranks since January 2006 can be found in Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 5 'Trained Outflow to Civil Life'. Monthly figures show the number of personnel who have outflowed in the previous 12 month period. TSP 5 is published monthly and all publications can be found at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/tsp5/tsp5tab5.html

Copies of TSP 5 are available in the Library of the House and at:

www.dasa.mod.uk

Royal Navy: Labour Turnover

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the (*a*) total outflow and (*b*) voluntary exit rate was of (i) officers, (ii) other ranks and (iii) all personnel in the Royal Navy in each month since January 2006. [177530]

Derek Twigg: Royal Navy figures for total outflow and voluntary exit rates broken down by officers and other ranks since January 2006 can be found in Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 5 'Trained Outflow to Civil Life'. Monthly figures show the number of personnel who have outflowed in the previous 12 month period. TSP 5 is published monthly and all publications can be found at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/tsp5/tsp5tab5.html

Copies of TSP 5 are available in the Library of the House and at:

www.dasa.mod.uk

Sierra Leone and the Balkans: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 11 June 2007, on Sierra Leone: peacekeeping operations, what progress has been made on reconciling casualty data for operations in (*a*) Sierra Leone and (*b*) the Balkans since May 2007. [162225]

Derek Twigg: Work on reconciling casualty data for operations in Sierra Leone and the Balkans is continuing. I will write to the hon. Member when the work is complete and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Derek Twigg to Liam Fox:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 19 November 2007 (Official Report, Column 486W) about the progress made on reconciling casualty data for operations in Sierra Leone and the Balkans since May 1997. I trust you will also accept this letter as a reply to your letter of 13 December on the same subject.

I can now confirm the current position in respect of both the Sierra Leone and Balkans casualties is as follows:

Fatalities

As at 10 June 2006, a total of 72 British Forces personnel had died while serving in the Balkans since the start of operations in 1992. This information can be found at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/BalkansBritishFatalities.

During the operations in Sierra Leone between 2000 and 2002, five UK Armed Forces personnel died whilst deployed: one was killed in action, three died in operational accidents and one died of natural causes. This information is not available via the public websites.

Non-fatal casualties

I can also confirm that the notifiable casualty (NOTICAS) data on Very Seriously Injured (VSI) and Seriously Injured (SI) for Operations in the Balkans and Sierra Leone since January 2001 have now been verified and validated.

Between January 2001 and April 2007, there were four VSI and 13 SI casualties in the Balkans. This data is published on the MOD Website at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/DoctrineOperationsandDiplomacyPublications/OperationsinTheBalkans/TheBalkanCasualtyTable.htm

Between 1 January 2001 and 30 July 2002, there were no VSI or SI casualties on operation in Sierra Leone.

Non-fatal casualty data prior to 2001 have not been examined and could only be captured centrally and verified at disproportionate cost.

I am placing a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Warships

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of *(a)* Royal Navy and *(b)* Royal Fleet Auxiliary ships are in each readiness category, broken down by ship type. [177537]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding the information requested as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of the Armed Forces. My predecessor wrote to my hon. Friend the Member for New Forest, East (Dr. Lewis) on 6 March 2007 explaining in detail the Department's policy on releasing such information. A copy of his letter is available in the Library of the House.

Weapons: Testing

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what records his Department holds on *(a)* the testing of weapons in space by other Governments over the last 10 years, *(b)* the volume of debris in low earth orbit which relates to such testing and *(c)* the potential effects of such debris; and if he will make a statement. [177043]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We have no evidence suggesting that any state has conducted tests of space-based weapons in the past 10 years. China conducted a successful anti-satellite (ASAT) missile test against its own space asset on 11 January 2007, but the missile itself was ground launched and hence, not stationed in space. The UK has expressed its concern to China about the potential impact of the additional debris this ASAT test created.

The British National Space Centre (BNSC) conducts regular assessments of the volume of space debris in orbit and the potential threat this poses to UK assets.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carbon Monoxide: Alarms

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance his Department has issued to the Health and Safety Executive on annual testing of carbon monoxide alarms. [175657]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) regulates domestic gas safety and provides Ministers with information in this area. In its public advice to domestic gas consumers, HSE recommends that carbon monoxide alarms are fitted and used according to manufacturers' instructions.

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission: ICT

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the existing IT contract between his Department and EDS—Electronic Data Systems—will be transferred to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (CMEC); and whether it is open to CMEC to seek to renegotiate this contract. [169006]

Mr. Plaskitt: The contract between the Department and EDS contains clauses that cover the possibility of future changes in our organisation. These clauses will be used to ensure that the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission will be able to continue to make use of EDS services in the same way that the Child Support Agency does now.

It will be for the Commission to determine its future arrangements for the provision of IT services. Should the Commission wish to renegotiate the EDS contract, however, it would have to do so in conjunction with the Department as the contract is at a departmental level.

Child Maintenance: Arrears

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the *(a)* amount and *(b)* proportion of child maintenance arrears that are uncollectable; and if he will make a statement. [173590]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 10 January 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and pensions, what estimate he has made of the amount and proportion of child maintenance arrears that is uncollectable; and if he will make a statement. [173590]

The latest estimate of the amount and proportion of child maintenance arrears that is uncollectable is set out in notes 5 and 6 to the Client Funds Accounts as published in the Agency's Annual Report and Accounts 2006-07. This was laid before Parliament on 3 December 2007 and copies were placed in the House of Commons Library. A copy can also be found on the internet via the following link: http://csa.gov.uk/en/PDF/reports/arep0607.pdf

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the policy of the Child Support Agency is on British fathers paying child maintenance to non-British mothers resident in the UK. [168396]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 10 January 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the policy of the Child Support Agency is on British fathers paying child maintenance to non-British mothers resident in the UK. [168396]

The Agency will make a maintenance calculation provided the parent with care, non-resident parent and the qualifying child are all habitually resident in the United Kingdom. The nationality of the parents does not affect this policy.

A person is habitually resident if he/she is ordinarily resident and has been for an appreciable period. While each case is different, the Agency has to take account of the person's circumstances and intentions as follows:

the person's normal centre of interest or connections to a particular place;

the length, continuity and purpose of residence in the United Kingdom;

the length and purpose of any absence from the United Kingdom; and

the nature of the person's work.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answers of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 328-29W, on children: maintenance, how many individuals received a consolatory payment from the Child Support Agency in each year since 1997; what the average value of payment was in each year; and how much was paid in total in consolatory payments in each year. [172827]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 10 January 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the Answers of 27th November 2007, Official Report columns 328-9W on children: maintenance how many individuals have received a consolatory payment from the Child Support Agency in each year since 1997; what the average value of payment was in each year; and how much was paid in total in consolatory payments in each year. [172827]

Information on the number of individuals who receive consolatory payments is not available. However, the total number of consolatory awards, the average value of each payment the total amount paid is provided in the table below. Information prior to December 2001 is not available.

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Total number of consolatory awards made	8,335	8,435	5,891	9,001	9,208	9,194
Consolatory payments (£ million)	0.696	0.661	0.406	0.782	0.669	0.666
Average (£)	83.56	78.36	68.92	86.88	72.66	72.44

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Christmas

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether it is his Department's policy to use (*a*) incandescent light bulbs and (*b*) LED lights for festive decorations on departmental premises; [173491]

(2) what his Department's policy is on the selection of (*a*) real and (*b*) artificial Christmas trees for his Department's festive decorations, and how real trees are disposed of. [173514]

Mrs. McGuire: It is not the policy of this Department to provide Christmas trees, incandescent light bulbs or LED lights for festive decorations on departmental premises.

The vast majority of the Department's estate has been sold (freehold, feuhold and long leasehold interests) or transferred (short leasehold interests) to Land Securities Trillium via a PFI private finance initiative contract known as PRIME. DWP pays a unitary charge in return for fully serviced accommodation.

Community Care Grants: Elderly

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of community care grants were awarded to pensioners in the most recent period for which figures are available. [174670]

Mr. Plaskitt: In October 2007 in Great Britain the percentage of community care grant initial awards made to pensioners was 10.6 per cent.

Note: Initial awards do not include awards made after review.

Source:

DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent by his Department on international flights in each year since 1997. [174355]

Mrs. McGuire: DWP was formed in 2001 and therefore has details of spend on international flights only from February 2002. The information is provided in the following table.

	£ Total
February 2002 to January 2003	600,572
February 2003 to January 2004	639,783
February 2004 to January 2005	703,189
February 2005 to January 2006	878,605
February 2006 to January 2007	652,620
February 2007 to October 2007	454,849

Departmental Buildings

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress his Department is making in its programme to rationalise its head office outside central London and maximise the flexible use of space in line with the Working Without Walls report. [174891]

Mrs. McGuire: The Head Office Estate programme originally included 27 buildings (outside those buildings in central London) and plans to retain 11 buildings, with the remainder being vacated and disposed of by 2009. DWP has so far completed the vacation and disposal of nine of the smaller offices outside London, with staff being re-housed in those larger DWP buildings designated for retention.

DWP is taking the opportunity with each programme change to introduce flexible working, where it does not already operate. DWP is also finalising preparations for its first 'Pathfinder' in flexible working which is planned to commence in Leeds in February 2008. The start date is linked to the rollout dates for the DWP Telephony programme which will deliver improved phone systems that provide staff with the ability to use their designated extension number from wherever they are sitting.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many letters his Department received from hon. Members and Peers in each session of Parliament since 1997. [174945]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of departments in replying to Members/Peers correspondence. Information relating to 2007 will be published as soon as it has been collated. The report for 2006 was published on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 101-04WS. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Data Protection

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of the recently published letter from his Department to council revenue and benefit offices suspending data exchanges on security grounds; and if he will make a statement. [171239]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 4 December 2007]*: A copy of Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Bulletin number U3/2007 which was issued on 21 November has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Location

Mr. Jack: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of his Department's staff will be moving to the Peel Park site in the next six months; how many are working there; and how many will be located there by 1st April 2008. [165759]

Mrs. McGuire: There are currently 160 DWP staff at Peel Park.

Under current plans and assumptions, there will be 759 moving in between now and 31 March 2008. This would therefore bring the total to 919 DWP staff by 1 April 2008.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Winter Supplementary Estimates (HC 29), if he will break down his Department's (*a*) main estimate and (*b*) winter supplementary estimate provision by subhead in (i) near cash and (ii) non-cash terms. [174987]

Mr. Plaskitt: Near-cash and non-cash are essentially used as departmental expenditure limit (DEL) budgetary control concepts and are not specifically identified with voted resources in estimates. However, we have been able to break down net total resources for each section in the Part II: Subhead detail table of our main [and winter supplementary] estimates in the following table.

£000

		Main estimate 2007-08			Winter supplementary estimate 2007-08		
Subhead Line		Near-cash	Non-cash	Total	Near-cash	Non-cash	Total
R1R1	*DEL*						
A	Administration	402,019	4,732	406,751	404,041	4,732	408,773
	Total for R1R1	402,019	4,732	406,751	404,041	4,732	408,773
R1R2	*DEL*						
A	Administration	2,595,662	121,937	2,717,599	2,600,177	121,937	2,722,114
B	Employment Programmes	771,555	622	772,177	771,761	622	772,383
C	Health and Safety Executive	219,382	8,000	227,382	219,382	8,000	227,382

£000

		Main estimate 2007-08			Winter supplementary estimate 2007-08		
Subhead Line		Near-cash	Non-cash	Total	Near-cash	Non-cash	Total
D	Health and Safety Laboratory	(2,274)	2,274	0	(2,274)	2,274	0
E	Capital Grants	5,927	2,549	8,476	5,927	2,549	8,476
F	The Rent Service Executive agency	30,680	4,902	35,582	30,680	4,902	35,582
G	European Social Fund and European Globalisation Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
H	European Social Fund payments in advance of receipts	0	32,700	32,700	0	32,700	32,700
I	Employment programmes	37,047	0	37,047	37,047	0	37,047
J	Housing benefit and council tax benefit administration grants	680,208	0	680,208	680,208	0	680,208
K	Capital grants to local authorities	2,895	0	2,895	2,895	0	2,895
L	European Social Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
M	European Social Fund payments in advance of receipts	0	0	0	0	0	0
	AME						
N	Severe disablement allowance	886,053	614	886,667	895,959	614	896,573
O	Industrial injury benefits	792,527	582	793,109	806,563	582	807,145
P	Income support (under 60 years of age)	8,675,813	102,490	8,778,303	8,682,510	102,490	8,785,000
Q	Jobseekers allowance (income based)	2,041,366	9,929	2,051,295	2,041,366	9,929	2,051,295
R	Jobseekers allowance (contribution based)	0	0	0	0	0	0
S	Job grant	45,064	0	45,064	47,936	0	47,936
T	Employment allowances	84,297	0	84,297	84,297	0	84,297
U	Housing and council tax benefit capital charge	0	3,277	3,277	0	3,277	3,277
V	Housing benefit and council tax benefit subsidies	13,916,309	0	13,916,309	14,143,852	0	14,143,852
W	Rent rebates	5,234,667	0	5,234,667	5,259,560	0	5,259,560
X	Discretionary housing payments	20,000	0	20,000	20,000	0	20,000
	Non-budget						
Y	Statutory benefits (SSP and SMP)	1,712,065	0	1,712,065	1,712,065	0	1,712,065
Z	Working Age (Grant in Aid)	3,687	0	3,687	3,687	0	3,687
	Total for RfR2	37,752,842	289,876	38,042,718	38,043,510	289,876	38,333,386
RfR3	DEL						
A	Administration	184,464	14,202	198,666	192,065	14,202	206,267

£000

	Subhead Line	Main estimate 2007-08 Near-cash	Non-cash	Total	Winter supplementary estimate 2007-08 Near-cash	Non-cash	Total
	AME						
B	Pension benefits	60,486	13	60,499	66,023	13	66,036
C	Income support for the elderly and pension credit	7,303,663	23,391	7,327,054	7,303,663	23,391	7,327,054
D	TV licences for the over 75s	503,078	0	503,078	503,078	0	503,078
	Non-budget						
E	Payments to the Social Fund	2,475,283	0	2,475,283	2,496,283	0	2,496,283
F	Pensions Grants in Aid	35,785	0	35,785	35,785	0	35,785
	Total for RfR3	10,562,759	37,606	10,600,365	10,596,897	37,606	10,634,503
RfR4	*DEL*						
A	Administration	246,855	1,488	248,343	245,333	1,488	246,821
B	Motability administration	2,800	0	2,800	2,800	0	2,800
	AME						
C	Attendance allowance	4,376,854	14,627	4,391,481	4,428,373	14,627	4,443,000
D	Disability living allowance	9,736,572	11,582	9,748,154	9,947,418	11,582	9,959,000
E	Carer's allowance	1,268,937	2,850	1,271,787	1,268,937	2,850	1,271,787
F	Vaccine damage payments	500	0	500	500	0	500
G	Grants to independent bodies	300,468	0	300,468	300,468	0	300,468
	Non-budget						
H	Disability Rights Commission (Grant in Aid)	20,000	0	20,000	20,000	0	20,000
	Total for RfR4	15,952,986	30,547	15,983,533	16,213,829	30,547	16,244,376
RfR5	*DEL*						
A	Administration	1,021,416	17,964	1,039,380	1,060,346	17,964	1,078,810
	Total for RfR5	1,021,416	17,964	1,039,380	1,060,346	17,964	1,078,810
	Total subhead as per estimates	65,692,022	380,725	66,072,747	66,319,123	380,725	66,699,848

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's policy is on recycling. [174399]

Mr. Plaskitt: Targets for sustainable operations on the Government estate require DWP to improve its environmental performance across a range of activities. During 2006-07 the Department recycled 67 per cent. of its waste, exceeding the specific target to recycle 40 per cent. of waste by 2010 and placing us in a strong position to meet the 2020 target to recycle 75 per cent. of our waste.

The Department's sustainable development policy statement commits the Department to maximise recycling wherever possible. Working with our estates partners, Land Securities Trillium, we have concentrated on our major waste streams and have rolled out 'total paper recycling' across the whole estate. We are now exploring how this scheme can be further enhanced and extended to improve performance further.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much and what proportion of its waste his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [174430]

Mr. Plaskitt: DWP waste figures, as reported in Sustainable Development in Government reports up until 2005-06, are provided in the following table. The figures shown for 2006-07 will be reported by the Sustainable Development Commission early in 2008.

	Total waste (tonne)	Waste recycled (tonne)	Waste recycled (percentage)
2002-03[1]	17,480	10,413	60
2003-04[2]	22,057	11,758	53
2004-05	30,116	15,348	51
2005-06	28,089	14,782	53
2006-07	22,365	14,881	67

[1] Figures for 2002-03 include information on waste generated from buildings on the former DSS estate only. Information on waste generated from buildings on the former Employment Service estate are not available.

[2] Figures for 2003-04 include information for the whole year on waste generated from buildings on the former DSS estate, and for one quarter only for waste generated from buildings on the former Employment Service Estate.

Departmental Sustainable Development

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what sustainability appraisal his Department has conducted of its recent relocation annoüncements; and what the outcome of the appraisal was. [172982]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 10 December 2007]*: The Department for Work and Pensions Head Office Estate (HOE) Programme undertook a diversity and equality assessment in each of the geographical areas in which closures were proposed which also addressed sustainability issues. The assessment showed that rationalisation would provide:

Impacts on the Environment

More conference and meeting facilities (including video conferencing) reducing the need to travel;

The city centre sites generally have good public transport links;

Good workspace practice enables the estate to better support the Department's core business while reducing resource usage and cost; and

The buildings that are being closed are generally of a lower standard of accommodation than the buildings being retained once refurbished e.g. Peel Park, one of the retained sites in the North West has been accredited with ISO 14001 Environmental Management System.

Impacts on Society

Improved working conditions for Departmental staff;

Greater access to quiet rooms and open plan workspace thereby breaking down barriers, increasing staff morale and improving communication; and

Many of the retained sites have gym facilities, nursery and holiday play schemes operating and additional facilities such as Prayer Rooms, contemplation and nursing mother rooms.

In addition, the HOE Programme must also satisfy the DWP requirement to help to deliver the objectives of the 3rd UK Strategy for Sustainable Development and the programme team work proactively with others to ensure appropriate compliance is achieved including expert review of design proposals where appropriate.

Employment Schemes: Lone Parents

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his Department's publication Ready for Work, what forecast he has made of *(a)* the likely number of work focused interviews which will be attended by lone parents in each quarter until 2011, broken down by (i) region, (ii) ethnicity and (iii) family size, *(b)* the annual cost of providing such work focused interviews, *(c)* the number of additional staff needed to provide such work focused interviews and *(d)* the cost of such additional staff in each quarter until 2011. [176945]

Caroline Flint: The full information requested is not available. The Impact Assessment published alongside the publication "Ready for Work: full employment in our generation" presented our current estimates of the impact of the proposals on the number of lone parents on benefits and costs. Work is ongoing on detailed implementation plans.

Employment Schemes: Young People

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for how long a person under 25 years old must *(a)* have not been in education, employment or training and *(b)* have been claiming jobseeker's allowance to qualify for accelerated entry to the new Gateway. [176854]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 7 January 2008]*: The proposals are to fast track those aged 20 and over to the new Gateway if they have spent a large proportion of the previous two years in receipt of jobseeker's allowance. Those aged under 20 who have not had time to build up two years of benefit history will be fast tracked to the new Gateway on the basis of how much time they have previously spent not in education, employment or training or in receipt of jobseeker's allowance. Precise qualifying criteria for both age groups have yet to be determined. These arrangements will be mandatory.

Subject to capacity, Jobcentre Plus will also give voluntary early access to the new Gateway to other disadvantaged groups.

Financial Assistance Scheme: Standards

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the administration of the financial assistance scheme in making timely payments to those who qualify for assistance under the scheme. [173785]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A review was carried out during this year by Mercers Human Resource Consulting which reported back in August that the process of gathering data to operate the financial assistance scheme (FAS) is fit for purpose and is managed in a satisfactory manner.

They also concluded that delays in obtaining high enough quality data are sometimes due to problems for trustee's administrators and insurance firms being able to supply information.

As of 18 December 2007 3,665 people were receiving assistance payments from the financial assistance scheme and £11,786,114 has been paid out. This compares to the same time last year when 675 members were receiving assistance totalling £2,003,227.

Housing Benefit

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department plans to take to improve the administration of housing benefit by local authorities. [175328]

Mr. Plaskitt: Since 2002-03, housing benefit and council tax benefit (HB and CTB) administration has improved significantly. In 2002-03, the national average for the time taken to deal with new claims to HB and CTB was 55 days, with the worst 15 per cent. taking an average of 99 days. These worst 15 per cent. performing authorities have made the greatest improvements in 2006-07 by processing claims in 54 days. In 2006-07, the national average had improved to 33 days.

Complaints to the local government ombudsman regarding HB and CTB administration have also fallen by 72 per cent. between 2000-01 and 2006-07 from 4,028 to 1,121 complaints. In 2006-07, HB and CTB administration accounted for only 6 per cent. of complaints, compared to 21 per cent. in 2001-02.

We will continue to monitor local authorities' performance, engaging where appropriate with the poor performers and will continue to provide consultancy support and good practice on all aspects of HB and CTB administration.

We are continually taking steps to simplify the system to make it easier for local authorities to administer the scheme, for example, the roll-out of the local housing allowance from April 2008 is a more straightforward and transparent way of calculating entitlement to housing benefit in the private sector. We have also developed a new IT link which passes information about DWP benefits straight to the computers of housing benefit/council tax benefit staff. These initiatives will help in the administration of the scheme.

Incapacity Benefit: East of England

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* Suffolk claiming incapacity benefits had drug or drink dependency as their primary medical conditions in each of the last five years. [174154]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Number of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants in east of England and Suffolk, who have alcoholism or drug abuse as their main disabling condition

	East of England		*Suffolk*	
Quarter ending	*Alcoholism*	*Drug abuse*	*Alcoholism*	*Drug abuse*
May 2003	1,890	2,270	180	200
May 2004	2,020	2,400	170	190
May 2005	2,110	2,520	190	200
May 2006	2,230	2,590	200	210
May 2007	2,400	2,640	240	220

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation.
4. All IB/SDA claimants in east of England and Suffolk who have alcoholism or drug abuse as their main disabling condition are working age.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Industrial Health and Safety

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* incidents and *(b)* complaints were (i) reported to and (ii) investigated by the Health and Safety Executive in each of the last four years. [173797]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The numbers of Incidents reported to HSE (i.e. those reportable under RIDDOR – reporting of injuries, diseases, and dangerous occurrences regulations), and the number of these incidents which meet the Health and Safety Commission's (HSC) investigation selection criteria and which are investigated, in each of the last four years are as follows:

	All HSE Reportable RIDDOR Incidents	*Numbers investigated meeting HSC's selection criteria*
2003-04	148,592	5,288
2004-05	141,740	4,890
2005-06	138,848[p]	4,677
2006-07	134,418	5,567

(b) The numbers of complaints reported to HSE, and investigated, in each of the last four years are as follows:

	Total number of complaints reported	*Total number investigated*[1]
2003-04	24,404	22,528
2004-05	22,794	21,633
2005-06	21,074	19,675
2006-07	18,865	18,540

A majority of complaints are investigated by Complaints Officers and not HSE Inspectors. Dependent on the seriousness of the nature of the complaint it may be referred to an inspector to investigate.

Industrial Health and Safety: Criminal Proceedings

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* enforcement notices have been served and *(b)* prosecutions have been initiated by health and safety inspectors under health and safety at work legislation in each year since 2002-03. [173796]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The total number of enforcement Notices issued by the HSE – the Health and Safety Executive – since 2002-03 are:

	Total number of Notices issued
2002-03	13,324
2003-04	11,335

	Total number of Notices issued
2004-05	8,471
2005-06	6,593
2006-07	8,071
2007-08[1]	3,885

[1] Half year figures.

Figures up to and including 2006-07 are based on published HSE annual statistics, the 2006-07 is the provisional figure.

The 2007-08 figure is the numbers issued in the first half of this year, and this is also a provisional figure.

(b) The total number of prosecutions initiated (i.e. specific charges laid) by HSE since 2002-03 are:

	Total number of prosecutions initiated
2002-03	1,659
2003-04	1,720
2004-05	1,320
2005-06	1,056
2006-07	1,141
2007-08[1]	561

[1] Half year figures.

Figures up to and including 2006-07 are based on published HSE annual statistics, the 2006-07 is the provisional figure.

The 2007-08 figure is the number of specific charges laid before the courts in the first half of this year, and this is also a provisional figure.

Jobcentre Plus: Interpreters

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what interpreter services are available to support Jobcentre Plus *(a)* interviews and *(b)* telephone calls; [173273]

(2) which Jobcentre Plus materials are available in languages other than English, broken down by language. [173274]

Caroline Flint: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to reply to the hon. member.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 10 January 2008:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to reply to your questions about what interpreter services are available to support Jobcentre Plus (a) interviews and (b) telephone calls, and which Jobcentre Plus materials are available in languages other than English broken down by language. This is something, which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus recognises that additional support may be required to enable people who do not have English as a first language to gain access to our services, (a) when contacting us by telephone, or (b) attending an interview.

We provide this additional support through the:

(a) DWP Telephone Interpreting Service, currently contracted to "thebigword". This service allows immediate access to interpreters for callers to our Contact Centre networks, for example when making new claims to benefits or applying for National Insurance Numbers.

(b) Face to Face Interpreting, including access to interpreters available through our partnership working with the Voluntary Sector, and local community and customer representative groups. We may also use staff with relevant language skills, or customer's friends and relatives, where the customer has indicated that this is their preferred method of language support.

Jobcentre Plus currently produces its suite of customer information leaflets (providing details of benefits and entitlements, and our mandatory Welfare to Work programmes) in English, Welsh and in the following ethnic languages:

Arabic

Bengali

Chinese (Some titles only available on request, due to file size)

Gujurati

Punjabi

Urdu (Some titles only available on request, due to file size)

This information is also available as online electronic-only files that can be downloaded or printed as required.

Information in Somali and Vietnamese is also available in audio format on request.

The languages offered are based on analysis of UK demographic data.

I hope this is helpful.

Marginal Tax Rates

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the marginal deduction rate experienced by a lone parent, local authority tenant, with two children under 11, with child care costs, working 36 hours per week at adult rate minimum wage. [173347]

Caroline Flint: The Department considers the issue of marginal deduction rates (MDRs) within the wider context of making work pay. It is not possible to calculate the MDR in this particular example because it would require assumptions to be made about rent levels and child care costs as well as issues such as disability. More generally, the number of families facing MDRs in excess of 70 per cent. has fallen by 545,000 since before Budget 1998.

The Government provide a broad range of support for lone parents that focuses on ensuring that work pays, that barriers to employment are addressed and that lone parents are made aware of the employment opportunities available to them.

The in-work credit (IWC) is currently being piloted in 22 Job Centre Plus districts and will be rolled out nationally from April 2008. The IWC further increases the financial benefit from a move into employment and is helping lone parents move away from benefit dependency. This, combined with tax credits and the national minimum wage, means that most lone parents are likely to be significantly better off in work.

National Identity Register

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans his Department has to make use of data on the National Identity Register when it is established, and what the estimated cost to his Department of that use is. [174050]

Mrs. McGuire: DWP will be working with the Home Office prior to the introduction of the national identity scheme to establish how data held on the proposed National Identity Register might be used to provide easier access to DWP benefits and services for our customers. It is too early in the process to identify estimated costs and benefits.

National Insurance Fund

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of employers paying employee pensions contributions at the reduced rate on national insurance fund revenue in the last three years. [173578]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is in the following table.

Cost of contracted-out rebate

£ billion

	Tax year					
	2004-05		*2005-06*		*2006-07*	
Type of scheme	*Employer*	*Employee*	*Employer*	*Employee*	*Employer*	*Employee*
Occupational DB	4.6	2.1	4.8	2.2	5.0	2.3
Occupational DC	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.3

Note:
1. Rebate expenditure for all years is estimated and based on the latest available contracting-out data in 'Second Tier Pension Provision'.
2. Figures are for the UK and expressed in cash terms.
3. The cost of paying the rebate will be balanced in the longer term by a reduction in the cost of the additional state pension.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions

Occupational Pensions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many occupational pension schemes have fully wound up since 1997; how many are in the process of winding up; and what the total membership of such schemes was in each year since 1997. [173750]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 764W.

Occupational Pensions: Financial Assistance Scheme

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what plans he has to change the proportion of pension payments made to occupational pension scheme members who make claims to the financial assistance scheme; and what the timescale is for such changes; [173781]

(2) what assessment he has made of the findings in the Young report on changes to the proportion of pensions payable in cases involving the financial assessment scheme. [173786]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Findings of the Young Review, released on Monday 17 December 2007, has indicated we are able to increase our commitment to the financial assistance scheme for pension scheme members who have lost their pension since April 1997 to April 2005 from 80 per cent. to 90 per cent. of their expected pension, in addition I have also announced that we will now pay all members from their normal scheme retirement age subject to a lower age limit of 60.

We are keen to ensure that members do not wait any longer than is absolutely necessary for increased payments. We are considering the changes that will require legislation in order to bring the new FAS benefits into effect.

We will bring forward some legislative changes as part of the Pensions Bill currently before Parliament

The full scheme will only be in place when the regulations made under any new powers are in force; we intend to make sure this happens as soon as possible.

Pensioners: Macclesfield

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of pensioners in Macclesfield constituency claimed pension credit at the latest date for which figures are available. [172060]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Population estimates from the Office for National Statistics are not available on a constituency basis, so the question has been answered for Macclesfield local authority.

As at May 2007 5,290 households in Macclesfield were receiving pension credit which represents 14 per cent. of the pensioner population.

There were 6,190 individual beneficiaries of pension credit in Macclesfield in May 2007.

Notes:

1. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

2. The number of individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners, some of which may be under 60 years of age.

3. Pensioner population includes all those people aged 60 or over based on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) mid-2006 population estimates.

4. Household recipients and individual beneficiaries data is rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data

Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 1 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 2376W, on pensions, for what reason his Department's Resource Accounts 2006-07, page 104, give the number of letters sent to pensioners between September 2004 and September 2005 as 414,427; and if he will make a statement. [173770]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As stated in the answer of 1 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 2376W, on pensions, the Pension Service contacted 470,000 pensioners in the target group of 632,000 up to the end of the project in April 2006.

The figure of 414,427 pensioners stated in the Deficiency Notices paragraph (note 39 of the Department's Resource Accounts 2006-07) refers to the number of pensioners contacted between the period September 2004 to September 2005. The figures quoted therefore relate to different periods and this is the reason for the difference.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have opted to contract out of the state second pension since its introduction. [175064]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since its introduction on 6 April 2002, around five million people have contracted out of the state second pension into either a personal pension, a stakeholder pension or an occupational pension. This figure is an estimate and based on a 3 per cent. sample of the national insurance records system database.

Pensions: Fraud

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to prevent the fraudulent use of deceased pensioners' details; and if he will make a statement. [175061]

Mr. Plaskitt: DWP has specific processes in place to help ensure that deceased pensioners' details are not used for fraudulent purposes within the tax and benefit systems.

When a person dies, DWP is notified of the registered death by the Office of National Statistics for deaths in England and Wales, the General Registrar's Office (Scotland) for deaths in Scotland and the General Registrar's Office (Northern Ireland) for deaths in Northern Ireland.

When a death is notified, the date of death is recorded on the DWP customer information system (CIS) which in turn notifies the benefit systems in order to end payment of pensions and benefits. Local authorities are also notified for housing benefit and council tax benefit purposes.

CIS will also notify the HMRC national insurance recording system (NIRS) of this date of death for tax purposes.

Once an account held on CIS has a date of death inserted, there are specific checks in place to ensure that all access to deceased accounts for tax and benefit purposes is legitimate. There will often be some legitimate access to a deceased national insurance account held on CIS if, for example, the surviving spouse claims pensions based on their late partner's national insurance contributions.

This process helps protects the tax and benefit system from fraudulent attack using deceased pensioners' details. Processes are also in place, and will be utilised in the new year, to notify the Identity and Passport Service of deaths in order to prevent fraudulent use of a deceased person's identity to obtain, or use, a passport in the deceased person's name.

Pensions: National Insurance Contributions

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of individuals who will reach state pension age between now and April 2010 with 30 years or fewer national insurance contributions or credits. [172159]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The latest information available indicates that at the end of the financial year 2003/04 there were around 1.8 million people due to reach state pension age before the 6 April 2010 who had not yet accrued more than 30 qualifying years for basic state pension.

Notes:

1. Figures refer to people who are estimated to be resident in the UK in 2003-04.

2. Entitlement to basic state pension depends on a number of factors including the number of qualifying years accrued, home responsibilities protection and the spouse's contribution record.

Source:

Lifetime Labour Market Database 2, 2003-04.

Pensions: Private Sector

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of private sector employers who offered any pension to employees in each year since 1997 for which data is available. [173751]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 764W.

Poverty

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will publish estimates of the number of people living in poverty in 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [174853]

Caroline Flint: The Department for Work and Pensions will publish poverty estimates for 2006-07 in the next Households Below Average Income report in spring 2008.

Social Fund

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 6 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1508-09W, on the social fund, what definition his Department uses of serious risk to health and safety in relation to crisis loan applications. [173811]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 13 December 2007]*: There is no specific definition.

However the social fund Directions state that:

"... a social fund payment may be awarded to assist an applicant to meet expenses (except those excluded by these directions)

(a) in an emergency, or as a consequence of a disaster, provided that the provision of such assistance is the only means by which serious damage or serious risk to the health or safety of that person, or to a member of his family, may be prevented;"

Therefore the applicant has to meet three requirements; the need must have arisen as a result of a disaster or emergency; it must constitute a serious risk to the health and well being of the applicant or a member of their family and there must be no other means of meeting the need.

The decision maker will consider carefully the circumstances of the applicant and should interpret the phrase, "serious damage or serious risk to the health or safety of that person" and "in an emergency, or as a consequence of a disaster," in a broad common sense manner that includes consideration of both physical and mental health.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress is being made on achieving a single independent review of social fund claims. [174668]

Mr. Plaskitt: There are no plans currently to change the discretionary social fund review process. This consists of an internal review and, for those still dissatisfied with the outcome of their application, an independent review by a social fund inspector at the Independent Review Service.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of calls were connected to the social fund in the most recent period for which figures are available. [174671]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 17 December 2007]*: The information requested is not available.

Social Fund: Applications

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people asked for a face to face interview about a social fund application and were not offered this in the latest month for which figures are available. [174648]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not routinely collected and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Social Security Benefits

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* on-flow and origin, *(b)* off-flow and destination and *(c)* stock figures for (i) jobseeker's allowance, (ii) incapacity benefit (not credits only), (iii) severe disablement allowance, (iv) income support with incapacity benefit credits and (v) income support, broken down by statistical group, were for each of the last 36 months for which figures are available. [162114]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 12 November 2007]*: Information for on-flow origin and off-flow destination is not available. The available information has been placed in the Library.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people on incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance started their claim since 1997. [173894]

Mrs. McGuire: A total of 1,846,470 claimants, who were included in the incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance caseload in May 2007, have started their claim since 1997. Of these, 1,836,660 claimants were of working age.

Social Security Benefits: Christmas

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the effect on Post Office counters of the 2007 arrangements for paying benefits which would otherwise fall due over the Christmas period; [174227]

(2) what the earliest date is on which benefit payments which would otherwise fall due over the Christmas period may be paid; and if he will make a statement; [174228]

(3) if he will bring forward the earliest date on which benefit payments which would otherwise fall due over the Christmas period may be paid; and if he will make a statement. [174229]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department has always ensured that when customers are due payments on a national public holiday when most banks and financial institutions are closed, they have access to their money in advance.

We normally advance payments to the last banking day before the Christmas holiday, which last year fell on 24 December. Post Office Ltd. had been aware for some time of these arrangements and had assured us that branches would be able to cope with the anticipated volumes.

However, Post Office Ltd.'s own decision to close at lunch time on the Monday raised concerns about customers' ability to get their money that day. Post Office opening times are operational matters for Post Office management.

Although Post Office Ltd. has provided further assurances that they would be able to cope, including with lunch time closing, we have decided that, where it is technically possible to do so, we will advance payments to 21 December last year. This means that every pensioner will receive their payment before Christmas and around three quarters of pensioners will be paid on 21 December. Some customers will still need to collect their money on the Monday and others may choose to do so. Post Office Ltd. has made clear that everyone who wants their money that day, will be able to get it.

Eight out of 10 of the Department's customers are paid into bank accounts and will be able to access their money from their bank on the Monday, or whenever they want from cash machines over the Christmas period.

Social Security Benefits: EU Nationals

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the likely increase in the number of claimants of *(a)* disability living allowance (care component), *(b)* attendance allowance and *(c)* carer's allowance after 5 April 2008 when they become exportable within the european economic area; [175505]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likely additional costs of *(a)* disability living allowance (care component), *(b)* attendance allowance and *(c)* carer's allowance after 5 April 2008 when they become exportable within the european economic area; [175506]

(3) what estimate he has made of the likely number of staff needed to handle extra cases of *(a)* disability living allowance (care component), *(b)* attendance allowance and *(c)* carer's allowance after 5 April 2008 when they become exportable within the european economic area. [175507]

Mrs. McGuire: As I reported in my statement of 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 68WS, we are

still involved in ongoing discussions with the European Commission to clarify the extent of the Government's responsibilities following the judgment in the European court on 18 October 2007. Until we understand the full implications of the judgment we cannot estimate the additional costs, staffing requirements or the number of additional customers.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 68WS, on Disability Benefits (European Court of Justice), what matters he expects to be discussed in future meetings between officials from his Department and European Commission officials on European legislation on the exportability of benefits. [175516]

Mrs. McGuire: In its judgment of 18 October 2007, the European Court of Justice decided to remove the care component of disability living allowance, attendance allowance and carer's allowance from the list of non-exportable 'special non-contributory cash benefits' in Annex IIa to the EC Regulation 1408/71. The Court decided that these benefits should be classified as sickness benefits (as defined by Regulation 1408/71). We are working with the European Commission to clarify how our disability benefits, which are long term residence-based benefits, fit into a regime originally designed to cover short-term contributions-based sickness benefits.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 68WS, on disability benefits (European Court of Justice), what legal advice his Department sought ahead of the European Court of Justice's judgment; and at what cost. [175517]

Mrs. McGuire: In addition to legal consideration by internal legal advisers, Her Majesty's Government instructed external counsel to represent the United Kingdom in the proceedings before the European Court of Justice at a cost of approximately £19,000.

Social Security Benefits: Overseas Residence

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects on the payment of benefits to UK citizens resident elsewhere in the EU of the judgment of the European Court of Justice in case C299/05 on 18 October. [173942]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 68WS.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the basic state pension was for *(a)* couples and *(b)* single households, excluding other benefits and special payments in each year since 1997-98, in cash terms. [176245]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is in the following table.

	Basic state pension for pensioner couple (£)	*Basic state pension for single pensioner (£)*
1997-98	99.80	62.45
1998-99	103.40	64.70
1999-2000	106.70	66.75
2000-01	107.90	67.50
2001-02	115.90	72.50
2002-03	120.70	75.50
2003-04	123.80	77.45
2004-05	127.25	79.60
2005-06	131.20	82.05
2006-07	134.75	84.25
2007-08	139.60	87.30
2008-09	145.05	90.70

Note:
There are no singles or couples rates as such, the basic state pension is an individual benefit, although the category A rate is commonly referred to as the singles rate, and the combination of the category A and category B rate is commonly referred to as the couples rate.

Unemployment

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households include no one in full-time employment; and what steps he has taken to tackle worklessness in the last five years. [175373]

Caroline Flint: The available information is shown in the following table.

Working-age households in which no one works full-time, United Kingdom, April-June 2007 (not seasonally adjusted)

	Number	*Percentage*
Workless households	2,980,000	16.2
Households with employed persons in which no one works full-time	1,673,000	9.1
All households in which no one works full-time	4,653,000	25.3

Notes:
1. A working-age household is a household that includes at least one person of working age (male aged 16-64 or female aged 16-59).
2. Estimates have not been adjusted for households with unknown economic status.
3. Base for percentages excludes households with unknown economic status.
4. As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.
5. Variables used: HNFTIME, HEACOMB, RELHRP6.

Source:
Labour Force Survey household dataset

The percentage of households in which all inhabitants of working age are in employment has risen from 54.5 per cent. in 1997 to 57.9 per cent. in 2007. Through our active labour market policies we have achieved a record number of people in employment, an increase in the employment rate, and the lowest claimant unemployment level since 1975. There are now a million lone parents in work for the first time ever.

We have taken forward an ongoing programme of welfare reform over the last five years and are determined to go further still. Our command paper "Ready for work: full employment in our generation", published on 13 December 2007, sets out further

measures to increase employment opportunities for disadvantaged people and to support them in taking up those opportunities.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Regional Income

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of the gross value added of the Copeland area was dependent upon the farming industry in the latest period for which figures are available. [175940]

Jonathan Shaw: We are not able to provide data for the area of Copeland alone so the figures given are for the region of West Cumbria. This is made up of Copeland, Allerdale and Barrow-in-Furness, with Copeland covering just under half of the total area.

For the region of West Cumbria the agricultural industry accounted for 2.1 per cent. of gross value added in 2005.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of England's comparative performance against *(a)* other EU member states, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Scotland in making payments under the 2007 single payment scheme. [175614]

Jonathan Shaw: We have relatively little data at this stage on 2007 SPS payments made by other EU member states. However, all parts of the UK have either met or are on course to meet their targets. This includes England, where figures published by RPA for the end of December showed that full SPS payments amounting to over £497 million had been made to nearly 50,000 claimants. With payments having been initiated a month earlier than for the last scheme year, the Agency is currently on track to meet its targets for 2007 SPS of making 75 per cent. of the total value of payments by the end of March 2008 and 90 per cent. by the end of May 2008.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total value is of single farm payments made to farmers within Copeland since the payments began. [175935]

Jonathan Shaw: Detailed analysis of the total value of single farm payments made to farmers within Copeland since the payments began is not available. Once the remaining scheme payments have been completed, a decision will be taken on the level of detail that will be published.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of single farm payments owed to farmers within Copeland for *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07 has not yet been paid. [175936]

Jonathan Shaw: Detailed analysis of the percentage of single farm scheme owed to farmers within Copeland for 2005-06 and 2006-07 is not available. Once the remaining scheme payments have been completed, a decision will be taken on the level of detail that will be published.

Avian Influenza: Pigeons

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will relax restrictions on pigeon flights arising from measures to combat avian influenza. [175287]

Jonathan Shaw: It is inappropriate to relax restrictions designed to mitigate the risks of introducing or spreading avian influenza in the face of uncertain evidence about the potential role that racing pigeons might play.

DEFRA's Veterinary Risk Assessment takes account of all available evidence, including evidence that pigeons can be susceptible to this disease. In particular, a study by the European Food Safety Authority in 2006 concluded that pigeons may have the potential to act as a 'bridging' species between waterfowl and poultry. It is likely that the susceptibility of pigeons to avian influenza, and the clinical picture caused by infection, is strongly associated with genetic and biological variations between different strains of the virus.

There is research available which suggests that pigeons have limited susceptibility to some virus strains (mainly isolated some years ago), but other more recent publications[1] suggest the contrary and demonstrate that recently isolated strains of HPAI H5N1 could infect pigeons. This later study indicates that pigeons may be asymptomatic carriers of avian influenza virus.

Pigeons could also spread AI mechanically through infective material on their feet and feathers, and there is potential, especially in long races, for pigeons to land and mingle with wild birds while still on the continent.

Pigeon races can still take place in the absence of avian influenza cases on the near continent. However, good biosecurity, record-keeping and notification requirements must be followed.

[1] Yu et al, Emerging Infectious Diseases Vol. 13, No. 5, May 2007

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will consider the merits of taking steps to review the status of the Channel Islands in relation to restrictions on pigeon flights arising from measures to combat avian influenza. [175288]

Jonathan Shaw: Avian influenza can potentially be a fast spreading disease so it is important that we have robust measures in place to mitigate the risks. Therefore, we require any birds from outside the British Isles attending any type of bird gathering to first be resident in the British Isles for 28 days, to allow time for any clinical signs of disease to become evident. This mitigates the risk that birds might be infected when they enter the British Isles but are not yet showing clinical signs; that is, they are incubating the disease. When birds are gathered together it provides a high risk of dissemination of infectious disease should it be present.

The geographical position of the Channel Islands means they are closer to continental Europe than the

UK mainland, making it illogical to treat the Islands differently from France. For these purposes the islands are considered to be part of continental Europe rather than the British Isles. We therefore do not permit birds from the Channel Islands to attend gatherings in the British Isles without first being in the British Isles for 28 days. We have no plans to change this requirement.

Aviation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many air miles were travelled by Ministers in his Department in each year since 2000; and what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as a result. [172267]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA came into being in June 2001. From information held centrally, and for the period April 2006-September 2007 inclusive, ministerial air travel totalled £112,118 miles with an associated carbon dioxide emissions figure of 66,021 Kg/CO_2. Information for the period(s) prior to April 2006 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

DEFRA Ministers attend meetings abroad for the purpose of representing the UK Government, and for furthering international dialogue. Where possible and appropriate, video conferencing is utilised as an alternative to air travel.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many air miles were travelled by (*a*) the Secretary of State and (*b*) Ministers in his Department on short haul flights over the last year; and what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as a result of these flights. [172454]

Jonathan Shaw: Since 1999 the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the current financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. From next year, the list will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

All central Government ministerial and official air travel has been offset from 1 April 2006. Departmental aviation emissions are calculated on an annual basis and subsequently offset through payments to a central fund. The fund purchases certified emissions reductions credits from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with sustainable development benefits, located in developing countries.

In addition, offsetting the flights of Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development, and the Prime Minister has been backdated to 1 April 2005.

A list of Government Carbon Offsetting Fund members, their emission figures and what activities they have offset through the fund is available online at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/carbonoffset/government.htm

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent by his Department on international flights in each year since it was established. [174357]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA came into being in June 2001. From information held centrally the core-Department's expenditure on domestic, continental and inter-continental flights for the period April 2006-November 2007 inclusive is:

	£
Domestic	296,937
Continental	841,271
Inter-Continental	1,372,694

Since 1999 the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the current financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the current financial year. From next year, the list will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

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A list of Government Carbon Offsetting Fund members, their emission figures and what activities they have offset through the fund is available online at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/carbonoffset/government.htm

Other information on the core-Department's flights expenditure prior to April 2006 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Bats: Protection

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's responsibilities are for bat protection; and if he will make a statement. [176148]

Joan Ruddock: As required by the European Habitats Directive, all species of bat and their roosts are afforded protection under regulation 39 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994. The principal offences address deliberate capturing, injuring or killing; deliberate disturbance; damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place; and possessing, transporting, selling or exchanging live or dead specimens. Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 also affords protection against intentional or reckless obstruction of access to

places of shelter or protection; disturbance whilst in occupancy and sale activities, including advertisement for the purpose of sale.

Where justified, exceptions to the legislative protection can be authorised under licences issued by Natural England.

DEFRA also acts as the UK focal point for the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats, also known as the Eurobats Agreement. This Agreement seeks to protect all 45 species of bats identified in Europe, through legislation, education, conservation measures and international co-operation with other range states. The UK Government was instrumental in establishing the agreement and acts as the depositary to it.

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund differentiates between domestic and international flights. [176169]

Mr. Woolas: Emissions from domestic and international flights are calculated differently where the air travel data available allow. Calculation factors for short, medium and long-haul flights are taken from DEFRA's Greenhouse Gas conversion factors for company reporting, available on the DEFRA website.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what methodology is used by the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund to calculate the distance travelled to require one tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent to be offset. [176570]

Mr. Woolas: The Government Carbon Offsetting Fund (GCOF) uses the DEFRA greenhouse gas conversion factors for company reporting to calculate emissions from air travel per kilometre.

GCOF also employs a radiative forcing multiplier of two to account for the additional impacts of emissions at altitude. Figures are presented in the form of CO_2e (equivalent). Air travel distances are reported in kilometres by individual GCOF participants.

Cattle

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what types of ear tag for cattle were shown to be most effective in the most recent survey of tags by his Department. [174915]

Jonathan Shaw: No recent survey of cattle ear tags has been carried out by this Department.

Christmas

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department and its agencies have spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in each of the last five years. [171438]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to review the premises excluded from section 102 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, with particular reference to transport-based premises; and if he will make a statement. [175601]

Jonathan Shaw: I have no current plans to review the premises excluded from section 102 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

Transport operators are obliged to provide adequate lighting to ensure the health, safety and security of their employees, customers and others. Artificial lighting is needed outside at night.

The transport premises exempted either tend to operate in a 24-7 environment or are places where essential maintenance takes place during the night due to the need to ensure that vehicles and the infrastructure is operational during the day. It is not open to the transport industry, without causing disruption to the wider economy, to switch operations to the daytime. In such cases, it is far more resource intensive to mitigate against light escaping into the atmosphere than is the case with other commercial premises where much of the activity will be carried out indoors and the question of light pollution can be addressed through adequate blinds.

Where artificial lighting is required for operational, security and safety reasons in transport premises, it is in the public interest for Parliament to recognise this in the form of exemptions and to put beyond doubt that, in such circumstances, artificial lighting is not a statutory nuisance.

The prime objective of extending the statutory nuisance provisions to include artificial lighting is to deal with local sources of bright light which cause annoyance to local residents, such as domestic security and decorative lighting. The existence of the transport exemptions does not affect the Act's effectiveness against this sort of problem.

Delivery Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which companies are under contract to his Department to provide mail services. [170165]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has Framework Agreements in place with Royal Mail and Amtrak for UK and International mail services. The Government Despatch Service is also used.

Departmental Buildings

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of new buildings approved by his Department were built to the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method *(a)* very good and *(b)* excellent standard in each of the last five years; and what the construction cost of those buildings was. [172283]

Jonathan Shaw: The Secretary of State can confirm that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) approved four new buildings through the period 2003-07. Of these 25 per cent. achieved very good and 75 per cent. achieved excellent under the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) methodology, the very good rated project was a high containment laboratory complex.

DEFRA is unable to provide full construction cost breakdown for these projects at this time as all developer/contractor cost information is not held centrally.

These details will be provided to the right hon. Member for Hazel Grove by 25 January 2008.

In addition to the above DEFRA completed five number major refurbishments through 2003-07 and of these 40 per cent. achieved very good and 20 per cent. achieved an excellent rating under the BREEAM methodology.

Departmental Data Protection

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many confirmed security breaches of databases controlled by his Department occurred in each of the last five years, whether the breach resulted from internal or external sources in each case, how many records were compromised on each occasion, and what estimate was made of the total number of records accessible to the individuals concerned. [173659]

Jonathan Shaw: Except in exceptional cases, when it is in the public interest, it has been the policy of successive Governments not to comment on breaches of security.

Departmental Pay

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many Departmental employees were paid *(a)* over £60,000 and *(b)* over £100,000 per annum, inclusive of bonuses, in the most recent financial year for which figures are available. [173104]

Jonathan Shaw: In the 2006-07 financial year 290 staff were paid between £60,000 and £100,000 and 28 staff were paid over £100,000 per annum, inclusive of bonuses.

This data relates to staff in core-DEFRA and those Agencies covered by the core-Department's reward arrangements (Animal Health, Pesticides Safety Directorate, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Marine and Fisheries Agency and Government Decontamination Services).

Bonuses are used to reward excellent performance during the year, and are based on a judgment of how well an individual has performed relative to their peers. Performance related pay schemes encourage high attainment because bonuses have to be earned each year. They help drive high performance in departments and agencies and support better public service delivery.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the standard terms and conditions of purchase used by his Department in procurement of goods and services from the private sector prohibit the assignment of debt. [172320]

Jonathan Shaw: Yes, the standard terms and conditions of purchase used by the Department in procurement of goods and services from the private sector include a prohibition against assignment. This is a common provision where one party does not wish to deal with a third party it has not chosen to deal with as the other contracting party.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Winter Supplementary Estimates (HC 29), if he will break down his Department's *(a)* main estimate and *(b)* winter supplementary estimate provision by subhead in (i) near cash and (ii) non-cash terms. [174050]

Jonathan Shaw: Near-cash and non-cash are essentially used as Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) budgetary control concepts and are not specifically identified with voted resources in estimates. However, we have been able to break down net total resources for each section in the Part II Subhead detail table of our Main Estimate and Winter Supplementary Estimate as follows:

Part II Subhead — Main Estimate

£'000

		Non-cash	Near-cash	Net total resources
	Spending in Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL)			
	Central Government spending			
A	Animal Health and Welfare		301,914	301,914
B	Environment		1,104,082	1,104,082
C	Sustainable Farming Food and Fisheries		88,313	88,313
D	Natural Resources and Rural Affairs		343,119	343,119
E	Departmental Operations	23,712	204,867	228,579
F	Rural Payments Agency EC Funded		2,297,122	2,297,122
G	Rural Payments Agency running costs		157,882	157,882
H	Rural Payments Agency other	82,400		82,400
I	Other executive agencies	29,438	106,811	136,249
	Support for local authorities			
J	Environment		144,537	144,537

Part II Subhead Main Estimate

		Non-cash	Year cash	£000 Net total resource
K	Rural Payments Agency EC Funded	0	4,992	4,992
	Spending in Annually Managed Expenditure (AME)			
	Central Government spending			
I	Environment	55,680		55,680
	Non-Budget			
M	Environment		692,778	692,778
N	Sustainable Farming Food and Fisheries		9,341	9,341
O	Natural Resources and Rural Affairs		199,654	199,654
P	Departmental Operations		24,899	24,899
Q	Rural Payments Agency EC Funded			
R	Other executive agencies			
	Total for Estimate	191,150	5,680,361	5,871,511

Part II Subhead Winter Supplementary Estimate

		Non-cash	Year cash	£000 Net Total Resource
	Spending in Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL)			
	Central Government spending			
A	Animal Health and Welfare		262,119	262,119
B	Environment		919,763	919,763
C	Sustainable Farming Food and Fisheries		82,314	82,314
D	Natural Resources and Rural Affairs		328,861	328,861
E	Departmental Operations	34,712	216,053	250,765
F	Rural Payments Agency EC Funded	0	2,297,207	2,297,207
G	Rural Payments Agency running costs	27,815	244,224	266,039
H	Rural Payments Agency other	82,400		82,400
I	Other executive agencies	32,115	107,455	139,570
	Support for local authorities			
J	Environment		144,537	144,537
K	Rural Payments Agency EC Funded		4,992	4,992

Part II Subhead Winter Supplementary Estimate

		Non-cash	Year cash	£000 Net Total Resource
	Spending in Annually Managed Expenditure (AME)			
	Central Government spending			
I	Environment	55,680		55,680
	Non-Budget			
M	Environment		692,930	692,930
N	Sustainable Farming Food and Fisheries		9,341	9,341
O	Natural Resources and Rural Affairs		200,207	200,207
P	Departmental Operations		24,899	24,899
Q	Rural Payments Agency EC Funded			
R	Other executive agencies			
	Spending in Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL)			
	Central Government spending			
S	LocalArea Agreements		118,621	118,621
	Total for Estimate	226,642	5,656,573	5,883,215

Departmental Redundancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost was of redundancies in his Department in the 12 months preceding (*a*) 30 June 2004, (*b*) 30 June 2005 and (*c*) 30 June 2006. [175342]

Jonathan Shaw: Information is not readily available to provide an accurate and timely answer to this question in line with the periods requested. I can confirm that for the most closely aligned financial years the cost of redundancies within my Department were:

Year to 31 March each year	£
2004	496,650.30
2005	555,157.35
2006	221,494.97

Departmental Sustainable Development

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many (*a*) new build and (*b*) refurbishment projects in 2005-06 met the targets under the Framework of Sustainable Development on the Government Estate. [175950]

Mr. Woolas: In its 2006 annual report on Sustainable Development in Government, the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) reported 15 new build and 16 refurbishment projects incorporated a full

range of Sustainable Development considerations. The information was compiled from information returned by Departments. The SDC's report is available on its website at:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/sdig2006

Dredging: Norfolk

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of offshore aggregate dredging on sea defences and erosion along the East Anglian coastline on the Norfolk economy; what his policy is on the future of offshore aggregate dredging; and if he will make a statement. [175602]

Jonathan Shaw: Dredging of marine minerals in English waters is carefully controlled under the Environmental Impact Assessment and Natural Habitats (Extraction of Minerals by Marine Dredging) (England and Northern Ireland) Regulations 2007. Currently, the area licensed for extraction in the UK is only 1 per cent. of the sea bed. The actual area dredged is even smaller, equating to less than 15 per cent. of the licensed area.

All marine minerals dredging proposals are subject to an environmental impact assessment and must be accompanied by an environmental statement and coastal impact study. Dredging will only be permitted if conservative modelling and assessments indicate that no significant harm will occur to the marine environment and the coastline. As the dredging proceeds, such assessments are routinely checked through monitoring.

The recently published Marine Aggregate Extraction summary report (Marine Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund, 2007) concluded that, based on recent research, modelling and field studies, almost all marine aggregate extraction areas are too far offshore to have any effect on the coastline.

The Government wish to see indigenous mineral resources developed and utilised within a framework of sustainable development. Marine dredging of sand and gravel makes a significant contribution to the supply of aggregate to the construction industry, and is important for beach nourishment as well as flood and coastal defence schemes, particularly along the north Norfolk coasts. In 2006 the total marine aggregate production from the UK was 24.3 million tonnes, with 33 per cent. (8 million tonnes) derived from the east coast.

Early Retirement

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 29 November, *Official Report*, column 616W, on early retirement, what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the early retirement schemes being offered to staff; and if he will make a statement. [173413]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 11 December 2007]*: The total cost of early departure schemes being run by this Department during financial year 2007-08 is estimated at £47 million.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 29 November, *Official Report*, column 616W, on early retirement, what the grades are of those members of staff who have (*a*) been offered and (*b*) accepted early retirement. [173414]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 11 December 2007]*: Pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 616W:

(*a*) (i) the grades of staff to whom voluntary early retirement (VER) was offered in the six months to 27 November 2007 are as follows:

	Number
Support Grade Band 1	2
Support Grade Band 2	8
Administrative Assistant	4
Administrative Officer	35
Executive Officer	27
Higher Executive Officer	21
Plant Health and Seeds Inspector II	1
Senior Executive Officer	20
Senior Professional Technical Officer	2
Grade 6	8
Grade 7	30
Senior Civil Service	3
Total	161

(ii) of those listed at (*a*) (i), the grades of staff who accepted VER offers are as follows:

	Number
Support Grade Band 1	2
Support Grade Band 2	8
Administrative Assistant	3
Administrative Officer	25
Executive Officer	24
Higher Executive Officer	18
Plant Health and Seeds Inspector II	1
Senior Executive Officer	19
Senior Professional Technical Officer	2
Grade 6	7
Grade 7	30
Senior Civil Service	3
Total	142

(*b*) (i) the grades of staff to whom voluntary early severance (VES) was offered in the six months to 27 November 2007 are as follows:

	Number
Support Grade Band 1	5
Support Grade Band 2	10
Administrative Assistant	11
Administrative Officer	50
Personal Secretary	3
Senior Personal Secretary	1
Executive Officer	69

	Number
Higher Executive Officer	49
Higher Executive Officer (Development)	1
Plant Health and Seeds Inspector II	1
Senior Executive Officer	16
Grade 6	1
Grade 7	13
Total	230

(ii) of those listed at (*b*) (i), the grades of staff who accepted VES offers are as follows.

	Number
Support Grade Band 1	5
Support Grade Band 2	10
Administrative Assistant	9
Administrative Officer	46
Personal Secretary	3
Senior Personal Secretary	1
Executive Officer	63
Higher Executive Officer	47
Higher Executive Officer (Development)	1
Plant Health and Seeds Inspector II	1
Senior Executive Officer	12
Grade 6	1
Grade 7	11
Total	210

Figures on acceptances have been amended to reflect acceptances which have taken place since the date of the reply on 29 November 2007 *Official Report*, column 616W, referred to.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his estimate is of the revenue which will be obtained from auctioning of allowances under Phase II of the European Emissions Trading Scheme in each year over the period of the scheme; what proportion of this revenue he expects will be spent on schemes (*a*) to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and (*b*) to mitigate the effects of global warming; and if he will make a statement. [175656]

Mr. Woolas: Under the terms of the EU ETS Directive 2003/87/EC the total number of allowances auctioned cannot exceed 10 per cent. of the number allocated during Phase II. We plan to auction 7 per cent. of allowances in Phase II of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), amounting to approximately 85 million allowances, plus those allowances from installations that close during Phase II and any unused surplus from the New Entrant Reserve (NER).

The Government's spending priorities are not in general, determined by the way in which the money is raised. The spending review process ensures that resources are allocated efficiently to deliver Government objectives and ensures priorities receive the increased levels of funding, as set out in the comprehensive spending review (CSR).

The CSR increases DEFRA's budget by 1.4 per cent. in real terms, from £3,508 million in 2007-08 to £3,960 million. This increase allows the Government to allocate substantial resources to tackle climate change including the Environmental Transformation Fund, and increased resources for flood defences to help the UK adapt.

Farmers: Copeland

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of farmers in Copeland who have diversified into other business areas in the latest period for which figures are available. [175932]

Jonathan Shaw: Results from the Survey of Labour, Machinery and Diversification on Agricultural and Horticultural holdings 2005 for diversification in Copeland are given in the following table. These exclude businesses independent from the farm which do not use farm resources.

Farms which undertook diversification activity in 2005

	Percentage
Copeland	20
England	21

The survey sample consisted of around 40 thousand farms in England, of which around 100 farms were from Copeland.

Note, these figures are likely to underestimate the levels of diversification since farmers tend to only record large diversification activities and may not record some activities due to the complexities of defining diversification.

Fisheries: Quotas

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 865W, on Fisheries: Quotas, on what Quota Management Change Programme proposals his Department was prepared to consult in autumn 2007; if he will place a copy of drafts in the Library; and if he will make a statement. [176139]

Jonathan Shaw: As noted in my answer of 21 November to the hon. Member, DEFRA and the devolved fisheries administrations had been planning to consult on the findings of the Quota Management Change Programme (QMCP) in autumn 2007. When the Scottish Executive announced its withdrawal from the QMCP in June 2007, the draft consultation document was incomplete, with some further work required which would have been carried out before the planned autumn consultation. Subsequent developments have in any case overtaken certain aspects of the draft proposals. In these circumstances, the publication of the draft document in its present form would be misleading and unhelpful.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to make changes to the management and quota arrangements for the 10 metre and under fleet; and if he will make a statement. [176144]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 703W.

Floods: Cleethorpes

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps have been taken to prevent flooding in Cleethorpes constituency; and what plans he has for additional steps to be taken. [176865]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency has been developing a long-term strategy for the management of tidal flood risk around the Humber estuary over the next 100 years. This strategy has recently been completed and will be launched on 7 March 2008.

The Environment Agency has completed a number of improvements to flood defences in the last five years in advance of the aforementioned strategy. This includes improvement works to the concrete defences at Stallingborough in 2002 at a cost of £2.2 million, improvements to the earth embankments at Barton on Humber in 2005 at a cost of £3.4 million and new pumps and electrics at Butts Road Pumping Station in 2007 at a cost of £0.165 million.

In 2007, the Environment Agency commissioned a system of flood warning sirens in the Grimsby and North Cleethorpes area. These will be sounded if the Environment Agency issues a 'severe flood warning' for extreme tidal conditions.

Floods: Compensation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make representations to Severn Trent plc to grant compensation to Gloucestershire residents who were without mains water for a substantial period of time following the July floods. [177678]

Mr. Woolas: Under the GSS (Guaranteed Service Standard) automatic right to compensation is not available to those Severn Trent customers that found themselves without water. This is because compensation is not payable if the disruption is caused by severe weather conditions (including flooding). Nonetheless, Severn Trent Water has put in place a community recovery fund of £3.5 million to support a range of projects in Gloucestershire. This payment was made on a voluntary basis and will come from company profits rather than customers' bills.

Research carried out and reported by Consumer Council for Water found that most residents recognise that the flooding and subsequent loss of water supply to over 140,000 households was unprecedented and that the majority are not seeking compensation. Instead they are seeking a clear commitment from Severn Trent that the company will invest to protect its infrastructure.

Floods: Insurance Companies

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will include representatives of insurance companies in the work of local flood forums. [175667]

Mr. Woolas: For emergency planning purposes, the principal mechanism for local multi-agency co-operation is the Local Resilience Forum; Local Flood Forums and Groups are independent of Government and free to liaise with whomever they choose. However, advice given on insurance issues to Local Resilience Forums and local responders on emergency situations is contained in National Recovery Guidance.

At the national level, Government work closely with the Association of British Insurers with the mutual aim of ensuring continued widespread availability of flood insurance cover.

Floods: Warnings

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to review the flood warning system operated by the Environment Agency, including the most appropriate form of warning given; and if he will introduce an opt-out system of flood warning registration. [175669]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to Sir Michael Pitt's Interim Report on the 2007 floods, to which the Secretary of State responded to on 17 December.

Foot and Mouth Disease: Cumbria

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the loss in income to farmers in Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency as a consequence of the 2007 foot and mouth disease outbreaks. [175363]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA's current estimate of the economic cost to the UK livestock sector of the movement restrictions and the ban on exports imposed as a result of foot and mouth disease is over £100 million. Disaggregated estimates of the cost to farmers in individual constituencies have not been made.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has made an assessment of the impact of the recent foot and mouth disease outbreak on the agricultural economy of (*a*) Cumbria and (*b*) Copeland. [175949]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA's current estimate of the economic cost to the GB livestock sector of the movement restrictions and the ban on exports imposed as a result of foot and mouth disease is over £100 million. Disaggregated estimates of the cost to farmers in individual counties and constituencies have not been made.

Groundwater: Monitoring

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the procedure is for monitoring groundwater levels; how frequently such monitoring is carried out; and what plans he has to increase the frequency. [175666]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency monitors groundwater levels from over 6,400 boreholes across England and Wales. These boreholes are monitored at frequencies ranging from every 15 minutes by automation to manually, either quarterly or half yearly.

The frequency of monitoring at any particular borehole is determined by the way in which the data is used and the hydro-geological setting from which it is being collected.

Warm Front Scheme: Finance

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of the total costs of all Warm Front schemes were material costs in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [177639]

Mr. Woolas: Between 1 December 2006 and 30 November 2007, 25.58 per cent. of the total costs for the Warm Front scheme were material costs.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in how many and what proportion of cases the cost of Warm Front work recommended exceeded the available grant *(a)* in Bassetlaw and *(b)* nationally in the latest period for which figures are available. [177747]

Mr. Woolas: Since June 2005, 16.94 per cent. of households in England which received assistance through the Warm Front scheme were asked to pay an excess contribution.

Over the same period 22.33 per cent. of households in Bassetlaw which received Warm Front assistance were asked to pay an excess contribution.

Irish Sea: Pollution

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what pollution incidents there were involving more than 0.01 tonnes of spillage in the Irish Sea in each year since 2003; on what date each occurred; what size the spillage was; and which company *(a)* reported and *(b)* was responsible for each incident. [176661]

Jonathan Shaw: The Environment Agency's pollution incident database shows that there were 237 recorded incidents on or close to the Irish Sea coast between 2004 and 2006. These cover a range of incident types and severities. Not all of these spillages or releases will have entered the waters of the Irish Sea.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effect of tribulyte tin from ships on the marine environment in the Irish Sea. [177056]

Jonathan Shaw: The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), together with colleagues in the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland and the Fisheries Research Services in Scotland have carried out studies on the effects of tributyl tin (TBT) on dogwhelks in the seas around the UK, including the Irish sea. The results, based on surveys between 1994 and 2003, show that effects on reproduction only appear to be significant within a few hundred metres from point source discharges of TBT.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what procedures are in place to monitor the effect of the tribulyte tin from ships on the marine environment in the Irish Sea. [177511]

Jonathan Shaw: The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), together with colleagues in the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland and the Fisheries Research Services in Scotland have carried out studies on the effects of tributyl tin (TBT) on dogwhelks in the seas around the UK, including the Irish sea. The results, based on surveys between 1994 and 2003, show that effects on reproduction only appear to be significant within a few hundred metres from point source discharges of TBT.

In the UK, approval for use of tributyl tin as a biocide in antifouling systems, granted under the Food and Environment Protection Act (FEPA) or the Control of Pesticides Regulations (COPR), was revoked by the Health and Safety Executive in 2003.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his next OSPAR quality status report on the Irish Sea is due; and if he will make a statement. [177512]

Jonathan Shaw: The main joint working on the state of the Irish sea is carried out within the framework of the Oslo and Paris (OSPAR) Convention for the Protection of the North East Atlantic, where regular assessments are done, information gathered by the various organisations is brought together and assessments are made and published in the OSPAR quality status report (QSR). The last QSR was published in the year 2000, and included a regional report on the Celtic seas. The next QSR will be published in 2010.

Meat: Imports

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms are in place to ensure that meat is not imported from countries which are experiencing problems with foot and mouth disease; and if he will make a statement. [174709]

Jonathan Shaw: Controls on imports of meat are laid down in European Community legislation. Imports are permitted from certain countries where foot and mouth disease (FMD) is present, but only where the disease is restricted to specific areas. In such cases, imports are only permitted from parts of the country that are free of disease or under strict conditions to ensure the meat does not come from any animal that may have come in contact with FMD before, during or after slaughter. These provisions are in line with guidelines established by the Office International des Epizooties (OIE), the world animal health organisation.

All meat imported from third countries must be accompanied by appropriate veterinary certification. It must enter at designated Border Inspection Posts where checks are carried out to ensure that import conditions have been met. All consignments are subject to identity and documentary checks and at least 20 per cent. of consignments undergo a physical check.

If an EU country experiences an outbreak of FMD, meat from that country can only be traded if it meets certain conditions laid down in Community law in relation to the origin and/or processing of the meat. Community law also allows Member States to take appropriate safeguard action, which may include a ban on imports of meat from all, or parts of, EU and third countries where FMD is present.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many letters his Department received from hon. Members and Peers in each session of Parliament since 1997. [174935]

Jonathan Shaw: On an annual basis the Cabinet Office publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members' and Peers' correspondence. Information relating to 2007 will be published as soon as it has been collated. The report for 2006 was published on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 101-04WS. Reports for earlier years are available in the Libraries of the House.

Mushrooms: Compost

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many mushroom composting plants there are in England. [174710]

Jonathan Shaw: There are three firms in England producing spawned compost for mushroom growers.

National Identity Register

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans his Department has to make use of data on the national identity register when it is established; and what the estimated cost to his Department of that use is. [174040]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA will be working with the Home Office prior to the introduction of the national identity scheme to establish how identity information held on the proposed national identity register might be used to provide easier access to DEFRA's services for our customers. It is too early in the process to establish the detailed costs and benefits.

Recycling: Domestic Wastes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion and volume of household waste collected for recycling was sent *(a)* overseas and *(b)* to China, for processing in the latest period for which figures are available. [176573]

Joan Ruddock: Where non-hazardous wastes (such as separated recyclables) are exported, they are generally subject only to commercial controls and not to the prior notification and consent procedures which apply to exports of hazardous wastes. Precise data on the amounts and destinations of exported recyclables are not, therefore, available.

However, HM Revenue and Customs' indicative overseas trade statistics indicate that, of the waste metal, paper, plastic and glass cullet and their associated scraps exported from the UK in 2006, 19 per cent. were destined for China. The tonnages for China that year were estimated at 2,400,000 against a figure for all exports of 12,700,000.

Recycling: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of performance against targets set for local authorities on recycling and composting, in each year since 2000-01. [176572]

Joan Ruddock: Recycling and composting targets for household waste were set for each local authority in England for 2003-04, 2005-06 and 2007-08. Performance against the targets is measured by adding together recycling and composting rates under best value performance indicators 82a (household waste the local authority sends for recycling) and 82b (waste sent by the authority to composting or anaerobic digestion).

261 (66 per cent.) authorities met or exceeded their individual targets in 2005-06; while in 2003-04, 224 authorities (57 per cent.) met their individual targets.

Individual local authorities best value performance indicators are available on the Audit Commission website (www.audit-commission.gov.uk) or via the Communities and Local Government's best value website (www.bvpi.gov.uk). Statistical data relating to national recycling performance are available on the DEFRA website. England's household recycling and composting rates for years from 2000-01 are as follows:

	Percentage
2000-01	11.2
2001-2	12.5
2002-3	14.5
2003-4	17.8
2004-5	22.5
2005-6	26.7
2006-7	30.9

Rural Payments Agency: Christmas

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans the Rural Payments Agency has to hold a Christmas party or parties in 2007. [175189]

Jonathan Shaw: The RPA does not organise or subsidise Christmas Parties for its staff. Should teams or sections decide to mark the season together, they are organised and paid for locally by the staff themselves.

Rural Payments Agency: Expenditure

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of the Rural Payments Agency's income was spent on *(a)* administration and *(b)* payments to farmers in each of the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [174278]

Jonathan Shaw: The RPA's income was expended on running costs and scheme expenditure. The following figures are as reported in the Rural Payments Annual Report and Accounts, but rounded.

	2006-07		2005-06	
	£ million	Percentage	£ million	Percentage
Net running costs	228	10.3	239	9.5
Scheme expenditure	1,998	89.7	2,279	90.5
Total expenditure	2,226		2,518	

The majority of scheme expenditure is funded by the European Commission under CAP schemes.

The above excludes schemes which are administered by other agencies but for which RPA is the paying agency. It also excludes payments made by other UK paying agencies which RPA funds as the UK funding body.

Seas and Oceans

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the effect of the proposals in the Planning Bill on *(a)* the proposed Marine Bill and *(b)* the marine environment; and if he will make a statement. [176146]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA Ministers and officials have worked closely with the Department for Communities and Local Government on the development of both the Marine and Planning Bills. We will continue to do so during their passage through Parliament to ensure that our proposals for new legislation are coherent and compatible.

Both Bills seek to promote the Government's policy of sustainable development in the marine environment.

Sewers

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to simplify the infrastructure and division of responsibilities between the responsible agencies in relation to drains and drainage. [175672]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the response I gave on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1008W.

Sheep Meat: Exports

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what rules his Department has set for the export of lamb carcases with mesenteric fat attached. [175954]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* There are no additional export rules relating to lambs with mesenteric fat attached.

No immediate public health concern is attached to carcases dressed this way, provided both the lamb and the fat have been produced hygienically in accordance with European legislation, and passed as fit for human consumption after post mortem inspection.

Waste Disposal: Domestic Wastes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has made of the number of waste collection authorities in England that use (i) sacks and (ii) wheelie bins for collecting residual household waste; [176540]

(2) what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste Resources Action Programme has given to local authorities on the use of barcodes on receptacles for household rubbish; [176166]

(3) what procurement guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste Resources Action Programme has produced for local authorities, on the purchase of receptacles for the collection of household rubbish. [176576]

Joan Ruddock: No estimate has been made by my Department or by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) on the receptacles used by waste collection authorities in England to collect residual household waste. Decisions on the best way to collect waste are a matter for local authorities, not central Government.

Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 empowers local authorities to specify the number, size, construction and maintenance of their waste receptacles, what can be placed in each, and also where and when they should be placed for collection.

WRAP provides general guidance and support to local authorities on their waste collection services and procurement. However, neither WRAP nor DEFRA has issued specific procurement guidance on the purchase of receptacles for household waste or the use of barcodes on receptacles for household rubbish.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste Resources Action Programme has given to local authorities on whether the disposing of domestic rubbish in a municipal litter bin constitutes an offence. [176543]

Joan Ruddock: Neither DEFRA nor the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) have produced guidance on the legality of disposing of household waste in municipal litter bins.

There is a range of powers available to local authorities to ensure waste is dealt with legitimately. The Government encourage authorities to make good use of the powers available to them, taking account of local circumstances and priorities.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which waste collection authorities in England, according to records held by (*a*) his Department and (*b*) the Waste Resources Action Programme, have (i) no side waste collection policies and (ii) closed lid collection policies with regard to the collection of household waste. [176545]

Joan Ruddock: Neither my Department nor the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) hold the records requested.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to allow charges for householders using civic amenity sites to dispose of household residual waste. [176566]

Joan Ruddock: The Government have no plans to allow charges for householders using civic amenity sites to dispose of household residual waste.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fixed penalties were issued for (*a*) putting domestic rubbish in the wrong container, (*b*) leaving domestic rubbish out on the wrong day and (*c*) overfilling a wheelie bin with domestic rubbish in the last year for which figures are available. [176567]

Joan Ruddock: DEFRA does not hold the information requested. Data provided by each local authority in England includes details of the number of fixed penalty notices issued in respect of waste receptacle-related offences generally. These figures are not broken down further into specific types of offence.

Data for 2006-07 (the most recent available) are available from DEFRA's website.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research and statistical data gathering has been conducted by the Waste Resources Action Programme into the proportion and volume of household rubbish collected for recycling that is not recycled. [176583]

Joan Ruddock: The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has conducted no research or statistical data gathering into the proportion and volume of household rubbish collected for recycling that is not recycled. Though data collection has improved significantly in recent years, there is currently no available data to show how big the discrepancy is between waste being accepted at a recycling plant and that amount actually being recycled. DEFRA estimates the gap to be small.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the additional revenue to be raised from new bin taxes on family homes. [176589]

Joan Ruddock: No additional revenue will be raised from waste incentive schemes because local authorities must return any revenue they raise to residents, through rebates for those producing low levels of waste.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which waste collection authorities have expressed an interest in taking part in the pilots for the new proposed household rubbish collection tax. [177154]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 9 January 2008]:* My Department is currently considering the appropriate process for waste collection authorities to express an interest in running a pilot waste incentive scheme. Timings for this process will be subject to parliamentary progress on the Climate Change Bill. In the meantime, we continue to encourage and welcome authorities making enquiries on the implications of the legislation.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on charging charity shops for waste disposal; and if he will make a statement; [176532]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to stop the over-charging by local authorities of charity shops for collecting and disposing of waste from their shops. [176585]

Joan Ruddock: Regulation 4 of the Controlled Waste Regulations (CWR), generally referred to as schedule 2, states that one of the types of household waste for which an authority can make a charge for collection is that from 'premises occupied by a charity and used for charitable purposes'. Authorities cannot charge for the disposal of waste classed as household waste.

The CWR, as they pertain to waste, have not changed since 1992. However, it has recently come to DEFRA's attention that there is an inconsistent approach to councils' interpretation of these regulations. In the light of this, in October 2007, DEFRA wrote to all waste authorities in England clarifying its interpretation of the regulations and their waste data reporting duties. A copy of this letter is available on the DEFRA website at:

www.defra.gov.uk

Waste Disposal: Radioactive Wastes

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects his Department to make a formal response to the recently concluded public consultation on managing radioactive waste safely. [175937]

Mr. Woolas: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced the publication of the 'Summary and Analysis of Responses to the Consultation on Managing Radioactive Waste Safely; A Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal', in a written statement to the House on 10 January 2008.

The consultation responses will be considered in developing the details of the next stages of the implementation process. This will be set out in a White Paper to be published in the first half of this year.

Water: Nitrates

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the sources of nitrates found in water; and if he will make a statement. [173978]

Mr. Woolas: The paper 'D1 — Nitrates in water: the current status in England (2006)', published in support of the consultation on implementation of the nitrates directive in England, details DEFRA's assessment of the sources of nitrogen in surface waters in England.

The source of nitrates found in water, in England, is shown in the following table:

Source	*kt N/yr*	*Percentage*
Agricultural land	330	60.6
Sewage treatment works	175	32.1
Non-agricultural land	23	4.1
Direct industrial	9.5	1.8
Septic tanks	3.9	0.7
Direct deposition	2.1	0.4
Combined storm overflows	1.9	0.3

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Government Departments: Contracts

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what rules are in place for deciding which outsourced Government projects should be put to open tender. [176836]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

All Government procurement, including for outsourcing, operates within a legal and policy framework based on the EU procurement rules and the Government's policy of securing value for money.

The EU rules comprise the EU procurement directives and the EU treaty. Procurements valued above certain thresholds, starting at around £90,000, must meet the requirements of the EU directives, and must be subject to open competition following advertisement in the *Official Journal of the European Union*. In addition, the EU treaty principles, which govern all procurement regardless of the value, require that public purchasing is conducted in a transparent and open manner. This normally requires a level of advertising proportionate to the value of the contract.

Government policy, as set out in Managing Public Money, is to achieve value for money (VFM) for all purchases. VFM is usually achieved through competition by means of open tendering procedures.

Honours: Criminal Investigation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) which external law firms or barristers were paid from the public purse for legal advice to employees in connection with the police inquiry into honours; [164214]

(2) what the timetable is for the Government to publish the cost of the legal advice for employees in connection with the police inquiry into honours. [164215]

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the total legal costs incurred by the Government were in respect of advice to (*a*) Ministers and (*b*) officials with regard to the inquiry into cash for honours. [171123]

Edward Miliband: Following his evidence session before the Committee on 13 November, the Cabinet Secretary and head of the home civil service submitted a memorandum to the Public Administration Select Committee on the provision and cost of legal advice provided to civil servants in connection with the Metropolitan police inquiry into allegations of cash for peerages. The Select Committee has now published the memorandum and I have placed a copy in the Library of the House.

JUSTICE

Cemeteries

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to change the law on burials, with particular reference to the re-use of graves; and if he will make a statement. [177193]

Bridget Prentice: On 5 June 2007, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Camberwell and Peckham (Ms Harman) announced that we would introduce measures to allow local authorities to re-use graves in their cemeteries and make other improvements to burial law as and when opportunities arose. We are currently preparing detailed proposals for re-using old graves and will make a further announcement in due course. This will of course be subject to public consultation.

Civil Proceedings: Custodial Treatment

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people are in prison for (*a*) non-payment of fines, (*b*) civil debt and (*c*) other civil matters; and if he will make a statement. [177608]

Maria Eagle: In 2006, the last year for which information is available, 1,904 persons were imprisoned for the non-payment of fines. In the same year a total of 4,734 persons were imprisoned for non criminal matters in the Crown and magistrates courts. This figure cannot be broken down to show those imprisoned for civil debt or other civil matters.

The figures for those imprisoned as a result of orders made in the County courts are not available.

Courts: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to his answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 507W, on courts: Colchester, when in 2008 he expects the outline business case for a new courthouse at Colchester to be (*a*) completed and (*b*) submitted for approval; on what date he expects building work to (i) commence and (ii) be completed; and if he will make a statement. [177638]

Maria Eagle: The outline business case for the new courthouse in Colchester is planned to be *(a)* completed and *(b)* submitted for departmental approval during March 2008. Subject to departmental and HM Treasury approval and subsequent statutory approvals, it is planned for the building work to (i) commence during summer 2009 and, (ii) with a construction completion estimated to be summer 2011.

Departmental Corporate Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions he has accepted corporate hospitality in the last 12 months. [171393]

Mr. Straw: Chapter 7 of the Ministerial Code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality. As Secretary of State for Justice, I have not received any corporate hospitality which requires registration under section 7.24 of the code.

Driving Offences: Convictions

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men were convicted for drink driving offences in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years. [177359]

Maria Eagle: Available information held on convictions for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs from 1996 to 2005 (latest available) is provided in the following table.

The data provided cover both drink and drugs offences combined, as they cannot reliably be distinguished separately.

Findings of guilt at all courts for driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1] by gender, England and Wales, 1996 to 2005

	Number of offences	
	Female	*Male*
1996	7,750	87,956
1997	8,425	91,777
1998	8,509	84,607
1999	8,409	80,955
2000	8,457	77,372
2001	8,401	76,341
2002	9,512	80,973
2003	10,112	83,589
2004	10,765	85,473
2005	10,849	82,869

[1] Data cover summary offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs (which cannot reliably be distinguished separately).

Notes:

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, is less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Legal Aid Scheme: ICT

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the online computer system for reporting legal aid claims by solicitors was originally planned to come into operation. [175639]

Maria Eagle: The Legal Services Commission intended the system to come into operation in late October/early November, in order to support the introduction of the new civil and family fees schemes.

The system is currently suspended due to technical problems but the LSC is working hard with its technical partners Oracle and Steria to resolve these problems as soon as possible.

Prison Service

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many briefings have been presented to Ministers on the Tasker inquiry; what the date of each briefing was; how many pages were contained in each written briefing; and if he will make a statement. [175625]

Maria Eagle: My predecessor, the hon. Member for Bradford, South (Mr. Sutcliffe) received an oral briefing prior to a meeting with the hon. Member for North-West Norfolk (Mr. Bellingham) which included the Tasker inquiry. It has not been possible to establish the date. I received an oral briefing on 30 July 2007, covering parliamentary questions from the hon. Member about the enquiry.

I and my predecessors have received numerous written background briefings accompanying draft parliamentary questions, but the high number of questions involved means that it would involve significant disproportionate cost to establish the number and length of these briefings.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many investigations carried out by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman since 2001 have been conducted by staff who used to work for HM Prison Service; and if he will make a statement. [175628]

Maria Eagle: It is a matter for the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman to determine his staff. Staff who work in the office of the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman have been recruited from a wide variety of employment backgrounds, including some having previously worked for HM Prison Service and the probation service. It is right that the office has a good mix of experience across its cadre of investigators in particular, including having operational knowledge of the organisations which can be subject to investigations. This mix is kept under review. Detailed information on the precise numbers of staff, present and past, who have carried out investigations for the PPO since 2001 and have previously worked for HM Prison Service, could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* full-time, *(b)* part-time and *(c)* casual staff employed by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman have previously been employed by HM Prison Service; and if he will make a statement. [175631]

Maria Eagle: It is a matter for the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman to determine his staff. Staff

have been recruited from a wide variety of employment backgrounds, including some having previously worked for HM Prison Service and the probation service. It is right that the office has a good mix of experience across its cadre of investigators in particular, including having operational knowledge of the organisations which can be subject to investigations. This mix is kept under review. Detailed information on the precise numbers of staff, full or part time, who have been employed by the prisons and probation ombudsman and previously employed by HM Prison Service is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Social Security Benefits

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether asylum seekers who are given leave to remain in the UK because their files have been lost are entitled to backdate benefits claims. [175997]

Mr. Byrne: There is no policy to grant leave to remain to asylum seekers on the grounds that their file has been lost. All cases are considered on their merits, according to existing law and policy.

Chinese Community: Greater London

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by whom and for what reasons television and other media were invited to attend the raid in Chinatown on 11 October; and if she will make a statement. [162698]

Mr. Byrne: The media were invited to observe the work being undertaken by the Border and Immigration Agency to combat illegal working and to enforce the UK's immigration laws. The media have accompanied the agency on a number of operations in the London and South East region in the last few months.

Departmental Manpower

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of posts in her Department have been recategorised from back office to frontline posts as classified by the Gershon efficiency review in each year since 2004. [172255]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office is committed to achieving work force reductions of 2,327 posts by the end of 2007-08. This is a net target and no posts will be reallocated to the frontline as part of it.

Departmental Minimum Wage

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many London-based staff are employed by her Department on the national minimum wage. [175972]

Mr. Byrne: There are no London-based staff employed by the Home Office or its agencies on the national minimum wage.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the winter supplementary estimates (HC 29), if she will break down her Department's *(a)* main estimate and *(b)* winter supplementary estimate provision by subhead in (i) near cash and (ii) non-cash terms. [174992]

Mr. Byrne: Near cash/non cash splits relate to departmental expenditure limit resource budget controls and are not compatible with supply estimates which relate to voted resource expenditure. Voted expenditure for the Home Department at the winter supplementary estimate 2007-08 is some £922,944,000 higher than the resource budget departmental expenditure limit. A high level reconciliation between the different bases is provided within the estimate.

The following table assigns non-cash within resource budgets to the related subhead at the main estimate 2007-08 and the winter supplementary estimate 2007-08. All other provision is near cash.

£000

Subhead		Main estimate	Winter supplementary estimate
C	Criminal Records Bureau	717	717
D	Counter Terrorism and Intelligence	21,319	16,719
F	Criminal justice reform	16,338	0
G	National Offender Management Service HQ	383,983	0
H	Prisons - private sector	23,720	0
I	Prisons - public sector	(4,900)	0
J	Probation HQ	457	0
K	Border and Immigration Agency	72,136	72,446
L	Identity and passport Service	22,563	44,563
M	Central services	3,439	(15,528)
W	Independent Police Complaints Commission	2,626	2,626
X	Security Industry Authority	2,583	2,583
Y	Serious and Organised Crime Agency	16,016	16,016
AA	National Policing Improvement Agency	29,780	29,780
AB	Youth Justice Board	3,000	0
AC	Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority	(3,740)	0
AD	Criminal Cases Review Commission	513	0
AE	Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner	110	0
		590,660	169,922

Frontiers: Security

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions her Department has had with the Irish government on the introduction of the e-borders system in Great Britain; and what the outcome of those discussions was. [168405]

Mr. Byrne: As outlined in our 'Securing the UK Border' strategy, March 2007, we are reviewing the rules and operation of the common travel area to explore how border security can be strengthened. The results of that review will be announced in due course.

The e-Borders contract includes provision for the supply of data on passengers and crew travelling by air and sea between the Republic of Ireland and the UK.

The governments of the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland continue to work closely together at every level and keep each other informed of operational, policy and legislative issues, including the implementation of the e-Borders programme, which is a key part of the Government's plans for securing our borders.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she first informed the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland of plans to introduce an e-borders system. [168413]

Mr. Byrne: The concept of e-Borders, in the context of proposals to obtain passenger and crew data in from carriers for screening by the border agencies in advance of travel, was first articulated in the Government's White Paper 'Secure Borders, Safe Haven' (CM 5387) published in February 2002.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has made to the Irish government on adopting an e-borders system compatible with the UK system. [168414]

Mr. Byrne: We continue to work closely with the Government of the Republic of Ireland at ministerial and official level on the implementation of the e-Borders programme. Discussions are ongoing at all levels on sharing best practices and procedures to enable sufficiently compatible systems.

Identity Management Public Private Forum

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will publish the report of the Crosby review of identity management. [175659]

Andy Burnham: I have been asked to reply.

Sir James Crosby was appointed to establish and chair the Public Private Forum on Identity Management in July 2006 with a remit to produce a preliminary report to Ministers by Easter 2007. In March 2007 he discussed his preliminary conclusions with the then Chancellor of the Exchequer and was invited to work with the forum to produce a fuller report later in the year. The report is now being finalised. No date has been fixed for publication

Immigration: Skilled Workers

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures she has put in place to ensure that immigrants applying for skilled jobs in the UK who are from countries where English is not the first language will not be discriminated against as a result of the English language test requirement. [175497]

Mr. Byrne: The Government are introducing the new points based system (PBS) to ensure that decisions on migration are objective, transparent and fair. While we recognise that an English language test presents an additional requirement for migrants, this is an important element of the new PBS which will help facilitate the integration of skilled workers coming to live and work in the UK. We expect that majority of skilled workers coming to the UK should be able to meet this requirement. Nevertheless, we will closely monitor the implementation of this requirement, and prior to launch of the PBS we will carry out an equality impact assessment.

Police: Arrests

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests were made by (*a*) police and (*b*) immigration officers for offences under the Immigration Act 1971 in each year since 1997. [172864]

Mr. Byrne: The arrests collection undertaken by the Ministry of Justice provides aggregated data only on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) by age group, gender, ethnicity, and main offence group, i.e. violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, etc. Data are collected from 43 police forces in England and Wales. More detailed data about specific offences do not form part of this collection.

The Border and Immigration Agency does not compile statistical records on which Act an arrest by an immigration officer pertains to.

Published information is available on the total number of persons proceeded against, and found guilty, for offences under the Immigration Act 1971, in the Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom Command Paper. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Prisons: Deportation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Reading, East (Mr. Wilson) of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 169W, on prisons: deportation; when the Chief Executive of the Border and Immigration Agency will next update the Home Affairs Committee on the position of foreign national prisoners in the immigration detention estate. [169602]

Mr. Byrne: The chief executive wrote to the Home Affairs Committee on 20 November in which she provided an update on the position of foreign national prisoners. A copy of this letter is available in the Library of the House.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Bail

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what use the Police Service of Northern Ireland has made of street bail since the power was introduced; and if he will make a statement. [170498]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is not readily available. The Police Service of Northern Ireland has, however, undertaken to collate figures over the last reporting year (2006-07) and I will write as soon as I receive their response.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff work in his Department's parliamentary branch; and what proportion of their time is spent on dealing with *(a)* parliamentary questions and *(b)* correspondence from hon. Members and peers. [174968]

Mr. Woodward: There are four staff working in the parliamentary branch of my Department: one head of branch, one Parliamentary Clerk, one Committee Clerk and one Questions Clerk. The Questions Clerk deals solely with parliamentary questions. The Parliamentary Clerk spends approximately 35 per cent. of his time on PQ related matters.

Correspondence from MPs and peers is handled through my and the Minister of State's private offices, rather than parliamentary section. Staff at all grades within the private offices deal with correspondence. However, there are two full-time Correspondence Clerks who mainly process correspondence from hon. Members, peers and the public.

These figures are in addition to the policy and operational staff across the Department who are responsible for drafting answers to parliamentary questions and correspondence from MPs and peers, the numbers of which could be calculated only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the Winter Supplementary Estimates (HC 29), if he will break down his Department's *(a)* main estimate and *(b)* winter supplementary estimate provision by subhead in (i) near cash and (ii) non-cash terms. [174986]

Mr. Woodward: Near-cash and non-cash are essentially used as departmental expenditure limit (DEL) budgetary control concepts and are not specifically identified with voted resources in estimates. However, we have been able to break down net total resources for each section in the part II: subhead detail table of our main and winter supplementary estimates as follows:

£000

	NIO section titles	2007-08 main estimates (net resource) Near cash	2007-08 main estimates (net resource) Non cash	2007-08 winter supplementary (net resource) Near cash	2007-08 winter supplementary (net resource) Non cash
	RfR 01				
A	Central Administration	27,439	7,858	37,153	7,693
B	Ministers	3,284	1	2,707	3
C	Political Directorate	8,414	322	40,925	390
D	Department of the Director of Public Prosecutions	31,726	79	35,171	660
E	Forensic Science Northern Ireland	0	552	301	1,145
F	Criminal Justice	22,623	1,485	29,567	1,443
G	Compensation Agency	3,779	24,125	3,800	33,150
H	Policing and Security	16,647	222	16,001	319
I	Policing – Non Severance	2,260	0	2,100	0
J	Northern Ireland Prison Service	107,838	25,935	113,737	17,339
K	Youth Justice Agency	15,951	1,580	18,670	1,961
L	Bloody Sunday	1,100	0	4,049	5
M	Police (non-budget)	737,238	0	817,691	0
N	Police Pensions (non-budget)	55,271	0	55,271	0
O	Police Ombudsman (non-budget)	8,181	0	9,076	0
P	Probation Board for Northern Ireland (non-budget)	14,315	0	15,642	0
Q	Northern Ireland Policing Board (non-budget)	8,414	0	9,274	0
R	Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (non-budget)	1,561	0	1,746	0
S	Criminal Justice Inspectorate (non-budget)	1,500	0	1,506	0
	RfR 01 total	1,068,041	62,159	1,214,187	64,108
	RfR02				
A	Grants to the Northern Ireland Consolidated Fund (non-budget)	10,334,000	0	10,334,000	0
B	European Institutions (Net) (non-budget)	1	0	1	0
	RfR 02 total	10,334,001	0	10,334,001	0
	Total NIO	11,402,042	62,159	11,548,188	64,108

RfR = request for resource

Departmental Redundancies

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost was of redundancies in his Department in the 12 months preceding *(a)* 30 June 2004, *(b)* 30 June 2005 and *(c)* 30 June 2006. [175324]

Mr. Woodward: There have been no redundancies in each of the 12 months preceding 30 June 2004, 30 June 2005 and 30 June 2006.

Members' Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many letters his Department received from hon. Members and peers in each session of Parliament since 1997. [174940]

Mr. Woodward: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/peers correspondence. Information relating to 2007 will be published as soon as it has been collated. The report for 2006 was published on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 101-04WS. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

Police Stations: Closures

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which police stations in Northern Ireland he expects to have closed by the end of 2009. [175641]

Paul Goggins: The current PSNI estate strategy identifies 61 police stations for potential closure and to date the Northern Ireland Policing Board have approved 20 closures and these stations are now closed.

The PSNI are currently reviewing district police facilities with a view to developing a schedule of potential closures during 2009. It is anticipated that these reviews will be completed by March 2008.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 6 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1473-74W, on prisoners: foreigners, what provision has been made for interpreting services for foreign prisoners by the Prison Service in each of the last 12 months, and what the cost was of such services. [175824]

Paul Goggins: Over the last 12 months interpreting services have been provided on an ad hoc basis based on individual prisoner need, largely through a telephone interpreting service. As part of the development of a specific strategy to meet the needs of foreign national prisoners in custody, the service issued a tender earlier in the year to secure interpreting and translation services and two service providers have now been appointed.

Prison Service records do not currently provide a breakdown between translation and interpreting costs except for the costs of the telephone interpreting service.

The following table shows the costs in each of the last 12 months for telephone interpreting and other interpreting and translation costs (i.e. written translations and face to face interpreters).

£

	Telephone interpreting	*Written translation and face to face interpreting*	*Total*
December 2006		70	70
January 2007	237	100	337
February 2007	44	711	755
March 2007	206	35	241
April 2007	36		36
May 2007	386	443	829
June 2007		522	522
July 2007	541	2,139	2,680
August 2007	140	53	193
September 2007	428		428
October 2007	279	50	329
November 2007		1,378	1,378
Total	2,297	5,501	7,798

Prisons: Education

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 6 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1474W, on prisons: education, what the earliest anticipated date is that infrastructure could be in place to process those sentenced to imprisonment for public protection sentences in Northern Ireland. [175825]

Paul Goggins: Infrastructure is already in place within Northern Ireland prisons to undertake risk assessments, provide programmes and work directly with dangerous offenders to reduce their risk. The impact of the proposed legislation on the Prison Service will increase over time and additional infrastructure will be in place when it is required.

Rape: Victims

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many persons in Northern Ireland have been victims of rape in each of the last 10 years, broken down by (*a*) age and (*b*) sex. [174858]

Paul Goggins: The following table shows the number of recorded rape offences (including attempted rape) from 1998-99, categorised by age group and gender.

Until the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2003, males could not be designated as victims of rape.

	Age under 18	*Age 18-64*	*Age 65+*	*Age unknown*	*All ages*
1998-99					
Male					
Female	135	171	3	15	324
Total	135	171	3	15	324
1999-2000					
Male					
Female	131	160	1	19	311
Total	131	160	1	19	311
2000-01					
Male					
Female	95	125	1	11	232
Total	95	125	1	11	232
2001-02					
Male					
Female	108	179	0	5	292
Total	108	179	0	5	292

	Age under 18	Age 18-64	Age 65+	Age unknown	All ages
2002-03					
Male					
Female	164	192	0	1	357
Total	164	192	0	1	357
2003-04					
Male	5	0	1	0	6
Female	165	222	2	0	389
Total	170	222	3	0	395
2004-05					
Male	9	7	0	1	17
Female	157	204	2	0	363
Total	166	211	2	1	380
2005-06					
Male	20	15	0	0	35
Female	134	218	3	1	356
Total	154	233	3	1	391
2006-07					
Male	27	20	0	0	47
Female	151	257	1	1	410
Total	178	277	1	1	457

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Cosmetics

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by her Department and its predecessor on (*a*) make-up artists for media appearances and (*b*) cosmetics for media appearances in each of the last four years for which figures are available. [176597]

Mr. Dhanda: Neither Communities and Local Government nor its predecessor department has incurred any expenditure on cosmetics and make up artists for media appearances, in the previous four years.

Council Tax: Renewable Energy

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether ground source heat pumps are taken into account in the valuation of a property for council tax purposes by the Valuation Office Agency. [176632]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 897W.

Crossrail Line: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for how many years the supplementary business rate on London businesses will remain in force to pay for Crossrail. [176232]

John Healey: The Mayor of London envisages levying a business rate supplement across the Greater London Authority area to service debt raised for Crossrail's construction, which will cease once the debt has been fully repaid. As with any authority proposing to levy a business rate supplement, the Mayor will be required to undertake a statutory consultation with local businesses and other stakeholders, setting out detailed plans for expenditure, including time scales.

Crossrail Line: Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her proposals to allow a supplementary business rate to be levied will apply to London; and whether local authorities will be able to charge the supplementary business rate on top of the Crossrail business rate levy. [176559]

John Healey: We intend that the power to raise local business rate supplements should apply across England but that only the highest tier authority in any area should be entitled to levy them. This means that, in London, the power to levy supplements will rest with the Greater London Authority.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which section in her Department is responsible for answering correspondence from hon. Members and peers, and how many staff work in that section. [177238]

Mr. Dhanda: 12 staff work in the ministerial correspondence team in the ministerial group which is responsible for processing responses to correspondence from hon. Members and peers.

Fire Services: Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what target for Gershon savings the Government has set for (*a*) each stand alone fire authority and (*b*) each fire authority which is part of a local authority (i) in total and (ii) as a proportion of expenditure. [177244]

John Healey *[holding answer 9 January 2008]*: At the start of SR04, all Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) in England were set a national target to achieve £105 million gross cashable efficiency gains in the years 2005-06 to 2007-08. FRAs were not set individual authority efficiency targets. The evidence received by the Department to date indicates that FRAs are set to exceed this target and have already achieved approximately £132.9 million in cashable efficiency gains in 2005-06 and 2006-07. Based on forecast figures provided by FRAs, a further £44 million will be achieved in 2007-08.

Cashable efficiency gains by authority type to the end of 2006-07 are as follows:

	£
Metropolitan Fire and Rescue Authorities	50,850,000
Combined authorities	45,993,000
London	20,813,000
County authorities	15,287,000
Total	132,900,000

FRAs in England are being set a national target of a further £110 million of net cashable efficiency gains for the CSR07 period.

Housing: Finance

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the value was of discretionary housing payments made by each local authority in the last year for which figures are available; and what the value was of contributions made towards such payments by the Government. [173407]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 11 December 2007]*: I have been asked to reply.

The available information has been put in the Library.

Housing: Haringey

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when Haringey council and Homes for Haringey will be given their full funding under the Decent Homes Programme for improvement to housing stock; and what the reasons are for the time taken to provide the funding. [175562]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department has been in discussion with Haringey council and Homes for Haringey since November 2007 over their bid for capital funding support to deliver a Decent Homes investment programme. The bid is a substantial one, and needs to be considered in detail. We aim to conclude our discussions and agree an overall funding total, and specific allocations for 2008-09 and 2009-10, for Haringey, by the end of January.

Housing: Overcrowding

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking on overcrowding in housing following the Tackling Overcrowding consultation. [175525]

Mr. Iain Wright: On 12 December my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and Planning, announced an additional £15 million funding for overcrowding and launched an action plan setting out the Government's commitment to tackling overcrowding—copies have been placed in the Library of the House. We have already announced an increase in the provision of new social housing including a year-on-year increase in the number of family homes, namely those with three or more bedrooms.

Housing: Renewable Energy

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate the Valuation Office Agency has made of the number of domestic dwellings with (*a*) wind turbines and (*b*) solar panels. [176611]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 898W.

Land Use Planning Review

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the hon. Member for Truro and St Austell is expected to publish the conclusions of her review of land use and planning. [176198]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell) on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 666W.

Local Government Executive

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many referendums have taken place on whether to establish an elected mayor since 1997. [176740]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 685W.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much of the funding allocated to local authorities to deliver the Community Empowerment Action Plan is (*a*) new and (*b*) additional funding. [176742]

John Healey: All funding to local authorities to deliver the Community Empowerment Action Plan is new funding.

Ministerial Duties: West Midlands

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of his working week the Minister for the West Midlands spent carrying out his regional responsibilities in the latest period for which figures are available. [172171]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 10 December 2007]*: My hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Hodge Hill (Mr. Byrne) was appointed Regional Minister on 29 June 2007.

Time spent on regional duties very much varies from week to week.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the receipts from supplementary business rates may be used for capital expenditure other than on infrastructure and revenue expenditure. [176163]

John Healey: The Government's White Paper Business rate supplements, published in October 2007, makes it clear that supplements should be used only to finance investment in economic development that would not otherwise have taken place. In addition to infrastructure projects, the White Paper gives business centres and retail development as examples of capital projects that could be supported by the additional resources raised through business rate supplements. Revenue from supplements could also be used for revenue projects such as increasing the security or improving the environment of a business district.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what factors she took into account when deciding whether to conduct a consultation on introducing supplementary business rates. [176321]

John Healey: There has been extensive public debate on reforms to business rates, including the introduction of supplements, with contributions from the business community, local and central Government as well as independent experts and academics. We also held discussions with stakeholders as part of developing the proposals in our White Paper 'Business rate supplements', published in October 2007. These included the Local Government Association, the Greater London Authority, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, the Confederation of British Industry, the British Chambers of Commerce, the British Retail Consortium and the Federation of Small Businesses, as well as representatives of individual businesses.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the business rate multiplier, including each of the different rates for small and large firms, was in each year since the introduction of the uniform business rate. [176558]

John Healey: Details of the national non-domestic rating multiplier since 1990-91 and of the small business non-domestic rating multiplier since its introduction in 2005-06 are in the following table:

Pence

	National non-domestic multiplier	Small business multiplier
1990-91	34.8	
1991-92	38.6	
1992-93	40.2	
1993-94	41.6	
1994-95	42.3	
1995-96	43.2	
1996-97	44.9	
1997-98	45.8	
1998-99	47.4	
1999-2000	48.9	
2000-01	41.6	
2001-02	43.0	
2002-03	43.7	
2003-04	44.4	
2004-05	45.6	
2005-06	42.2	41.5
2006-07	43.3	42.6
2007-08	44.4	44.1
2008-09	[1]46.2	[1]45.8

[1] Provisional

The small business multiplier is used to calculate the rate liability for those non-domestic properties in receipt of small business rate relief. For all other properties, the national non-domestic multiplier is used. At revaluations, the multipliers are adjusted to take account of changes in valuations.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which property attributes will form part of the Valuation Office Agency's multiple regression analysis in its proposed Automated Valuation Model for business rates. [176595]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1154W.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the rateable value of a business premises changes between statutory revaluations if there is a material change to the property. [176606]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1154W.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the rateable value of a business premises is re-assessed when it is *(a)* sold and *(b)* rented to a different body outside statutory revaluations. [176607]

John Healey: There is no automatic requirement for non-domestic properties to be revalued following a change in ownership or occupation. However, the rateable value of a property may be reassessed following a proposal to the valuation officer to have the value altered. Valuation officers may also alter the rateable value of non-domestic properties as part of their duty to maintain the rating lists.

Non-Domestic Rates: Fines

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which public authority retains the revenue from civic penalty notices issued for failure to provide information requested for non-domestic rating purposes; and what the average size of the penalty payment is. [176749]

John Healey: Any sums received from civil penalty notices issued for failure to provide information requested by a valuation officer for non-domestic rating purposes must be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

The average penalty payment from 1 April 2005 to 31 December 2007 was £311.

Non-Domestic Rates: Tax Allowances

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to review business rate relief for (*a*) previously developed and (*b*) derelict land. [176563]

John Healey: Where previously developed or derelict land constitutes a hereditament for the purposes of non-domestic rates, the ratepayer may be entitled to relief under the existing arrangements. As stated in the White Paper Business rate supplements, published in October 2007, the Government have concluded their review of business rates reliefs and exemptions following the Lyons Inquiry recommendation to conduct such a review.

Planning Permission: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the de minimis threshold will be for a residential planning application to incur the new standard planning charge. [176560]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government have made it clear that subject to low de minimis thresholds, residential and commercial development will be liable to pay the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Consultation, on the draft regulations setting out the details of the CIL including any proposals on de minimis thresholds will be undertaken later this year.

Public Houses: Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Valuation Office Agency collates information on (*a*) pub quizzes, (*b*) darts and (*c*) pool tables when valuing licensed premises for business rates purposes. [176187]

John Healey: The Valuation Office Agency does not collate this information.

Social Security Benefits: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what local area agreements have been agreed on targets for the number of (*a*) benefit awards and (*b*) unclaimed benefits; and with which local authorities. [176588]

John Healey: Local area agreements (LAAs) have been agreed with all top tier local authorities, with the exception of the Isles of Scilly. Since 21 pilots were launched in October 2004, 104 of these agreements have targets relating to benefit awards and unclaimed benefits. These are listed in the following list.

Local area agreements with benefit targets

Pilots

Barnsley;
Bradford;
Brighton and Hove;
Coventry;
Derbyshire;
Devon;
Doncaster;
Dorset;
Gateshead;
Greenwich;
Hammersmith and Fulham;
Kent;
Peterborough;
Sheffield;
Suffolk;
Telford and Wrekin;
Wigan;
Wolverhampton

Round 2

Birmingham;
Leeds;
Leicester;
Blackburn with Darwen;
Manchester;
Norfolk;
Buckinghamshire;
Northamptonshire;
Northumberland;
Camden;
Nottingham;
Nottinghamshire;
Cornwall;
Oldham;
Redbridge;
Croydon;
Somerset;
South Tyneside;
Enfield;
Stoke;
Sunderland;
Essex;
Surrey;
Swindon;
Hounslow;
Brent;
Durham;
Kingston upon Thames;
Kensington and Chelsea;
Islington;
Kirklees;
Durham;
Hartlepool;
Lancashire;
Isle of Wight;
West Sussex;
Shropshire;
Stockport;

Wirral.

Round 3

Barnet;
Bath and NE Somerset;
Bournemouth;
Bracknell Forest;
Bristol;
Bromley;
Bury;
Calderdale;
City;
Cumbria;
Hackney;
Hull;
Liverpool;
Merton;
Middlesbrough;
Newcastle;
Newham;
NE Lincolnshire;
North Somerset;
North Tyneside;
North Yorkshire;
Plymouth;
Richmond upon Thames;
Rochdale
Salford;
Sefton;
Solihull;
Southwark;
Staffordshire;
Tameside;
Torbay;
Trafford;
Wandsworth;
Warwickshire;
Wiltshire;
York;
Dudley;
Ealing;
Havering;
Hillingdon;
Lambeth;
Reading;
South Gloucestershire;
Southampton;
Thurrock;
Halton;
Haringey.

Valuation Office: Consultants

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether there is (*a*) a termination date and (*b*) an option to terminate in the contract between Cole Layer Trumble and Capgemini, for the consultancy services that it provides to assist the ongoing work of the Valuation Office Agency. [176610]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1162W.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Better Regulation Executive

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he last met officials of the Better Regulation Executive to discuss the reduction of regulatory burdens on industry. [176964]

Mr. McFadden: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has been in regular contact with his officials from the Better Regulation Executive ever since the department's creation in the summer of 2007, as he has been with other areas of the department.

Business: Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what estimate he has made of the financial effect on UK industry of changes in the level of the burden of regulation in each year since 2005; [176963]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likely effect on the costs of business of the Government's proposed 25 per cent. reduction in administrative burdens. [176969]

Mr. McFadden: In May 2005 the Government embarked on a programme to reduce the administrative burden of regulation—the direct cost to businesses and third sector organisations of filling in forms, dealing with inspections and providing statutory information to third parties—by a net 25 per cent. by 2010. Simplification plans published in December 2007 demonstrated that Government have identified annual savings of £3.5 billion by 2010 (26 per cent. of the May 2005 baseline) with £800 million (6 per cent. of the baseline) already delivered.

Further details have been provided in the following table 1.

Table 1

	Net administrative burden reduction (£ million)
2005-06	265
2006-07	647
2007-08	1,474
2008-09	2,505
2009-10	3,485

The Government have also announced gross reductions in the policy costs that arise from complying with regulations, such as paying licence fees or purchasing new equipment. Details of the annual reductions delivered to date, and forecast to May 2010, have been provided in the following table 2.

Table 2

	Policy savings (£ million)
2005-06	102
2006-07	469
2007-08	807
2008-09	1,246
2009-10	1,364

More information can be found at:

http://bre.berr.gov.uk/regulation/reform/simplifying/plans.asp

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made in developing methods to measure the impact of regulatory burden reduction in those areas identified by the National Audit Office as non-quantified irritation factors. [176966]

Mr. McFadden: The Government regularly consult with business and others on the areas of regulation they believe are most burdensome and key 'irritants'. Departmental simplification plans published in December 2007 and December 2006 include details of regulations identified as such, and how these will be addressed.

BERR consults stakeholders both formally and informally in the development of policy to ensure their concerns, including regulatory irritants, are taken into account.

In addition, representatives of business, consumer and employee organisations participate in the oversight of BERR's better regulation programme as well as contributing their views to the individual projects which make up our simplification plan. This helps to ensure that we are addressing those issues that are of most concern to our stakeholders.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made by the Better Regulation Executive in working with industry to reduce regulatory burdens. [176967]

Mr. McFadden: To ensure the Better Regulation Executive understands the regulatory issues facings those in the private, public and third sectors a visits programme has been established where staff at all levels see first hand how those being regulated are impacted by regulation and seek their ideas for change.

The Better Regulation Executive also created a website

(www.betterregulation.gov.uk)

to enable those in the; private, public or third sectors to submit ideas on how regulations, or the guidance surrounding them, could be improved. Both ideas submitted and Governments responses are posted online within 90 days.

The administrative burdens reduction programme, the drive to reduce data burdens on the public sector front line, improving inspection and enforcement and other better regulation initiatives are the result of close working between the Better Regulation Executive, Government departments, regulators and those being regulated. An update on progress on better regulation can be found at:

http://bre.berr.gov.uk/regulation/reform/simplifying/plans.asp

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many businesses his Department has consulted to identify areas for potential regulatory burden reduction in the last 12 months. [176968]

Mr. McFadden: BERR conducts extensive formal and informal consultation of business across the full range of its activities.

Ministers and officials regularly meet a wide range of individual businesses and business representative organisations and the Department uses a range of consultation techniques including business surveys and advisory groups, in addition to formal consultations to gather the views of business including on better regulation.

Hundreds of businesses and business organisations have contributed their views in these ways to the Department in the last 12 months.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what steps his Department is taking to determine the effects of reductions in regulatory burdens on businesses of all sizes; [176970]

(2) by what means his Department assesses the effectiveness of reductions in regulatory burdens on businesses arising from initiatives by Government. [176991]

Mr. McFadden: In May 2007 Government introduced the revised impact assessment process that aims to improve clarity and transparency of new regulations, including new requirements to summarise both the rationale for Government intervention and evidence supporting the final proposal. This has increased the focus on both the costs and benefits associated with regulation, with the strengthened ministerial declaration used to bolster the quality of the analysis further supported by improved arrangements within departments.

The revised impact assessment process has also placed greater weight on post implementation reviews, which are used to establish whether implemented regulations are having the intended effect and whether they are implementing policy objectives efficiently.

The Small Firm Impact Test (SFIT) is also a key element of this revised process. The SFIT enables policy makers to consider the impact that future policy may have on small business, and encourages examining at the earliest stages of policy design whether small businesses can be given a "complete or partial" exemption from new rules. Government are committed to creating new regulation only where it is needed, and that annual costs to micro, small and medium size businesses are quantified.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) by what mechanisms his Department measures the effectiveness of the means by which businesses are made aware of changes to regulation; [176971]

(2) what steps his Department is considering to improve the means by which businesses are (*a*) made

aware of and (*b*) advised on matters relating to changes in regulation. [176972]

Mr. McFadden: On the 7 of January Government published a consultation document on a Code of Practice on Good Guidance on Regulation. The Code outlines golden rules of good guidance which set the standards businesses and third sector organisations can expect from guidance on regulations. The consultation will run until the 31 of March to give businesses and others time to give their views on what the Code should contain.

To reduce the burden of changing regulations for business, the majority of changes affecting business come into force on two dates (Common Commencement Dates). In October 2007 for the first time, simple, easy to understand guidance was produced with the help of business to support the changes taking effect and communicated to businesses via the Business Link website (www.businesslink.gov.uk) and business and professional organisations. Business can also sign up on the Business Link website for email alerts informing them of forthcoming regulations.

In addition, the Department publishes on its website an annual statement of forthcoming legislation where we provide details of all legislation for which BERR is responsible due to enter into force in the next 12 months. http://www.berr.gov.uk/bbf/better-regulation/forthcoming-leg/page24668.html

Farmers: Bankruptcy

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many farmers in Copeland have declared bankruptcy over the last 20 years. [175941]

Mr. McFadden: The closest available estimates for bankruptcies among farmers are the numbers of bankruptcy orders made under the category "agriculture and horticulture" according to the Insolvency Trade Classification (ITC). The following table provides the numbers of such cases for England and Wales as a whole, which are available from 1990 onwards.

The ITC is not consistent with the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC), which is used to classify businesses held on the Companies Register by Companies House, and elsewhere. Additionally, a bankruptcy order would only cover those business insolvencies among sole traders (and some partnerships) not among registered companies, which would be the subject of a company liquidation. It is not, therefore, possible to provide estimates of the proportions of farmers becoming bankrupt. Bankruptcy statistics for the period covered are classified regionally according to the locations and areas of responsibility of Official Receivers' (ORs') offices, each of which covers a number of courts having insolvency jurisdiction, and are not directly comparable with administrative geographies, such as government office regions or districts. Additionally, statistics broken down by both detailed industry and regionally are not readily available.

Bankruptcies in England and Wales in the Agriculture sector, January 1990 to September 2006

1990	198
1991	266
1992	313
1993	277
1994	231
1995	218
1996	168
1997	155
1998	157
1999	183
2000	173
2001	183
2002	132
2003	151
2004	204
2005	195
2006[1]	129

1 Up to September. Figures from October 2006 are not available due to development work to update the classification to the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) 2003. These will be available for new cases from July 2007.

Note:
Figures are not available prior to January 1990.

Fisheries: Bankruptcy

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of commercial fishermen in (*a*) England, (*b*) the north-west and (*c*) Copeland have been declared bankrupt over the last 20 years. [175939]

Mr. McFadden: The closest available estimates for bankruptcies among fishermen are the numbers of trader bankruptcy orders made under the category "forestry and fishing" according to the Insolvency Trade Classification (ITC). The following table provides the numbers of such cases for England and Wales as a whole, which are available from 1992 through to September 2006.

The ITC is not consistent with the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC), which is used to classify businesses held on the Companies Register by Companies House, and elsewhere. Additionally, a bankruptcy order would, only cover those business insolvencies among sole traders (and some partnerships) not among registered companies, which would be the subject of a company liquidation. It is not, therefore, possible to provide estimates of the proportions of fishermen becoming bankrupt. Bankruptcy statistics for the period covered are classified regionally according to the locations and areas of responsibility of official receivers' (ORs') offices, each of which covers a number of courts having insolvency jurisdiction, and are not directly comparable with administrative geographies, such as government office regions or districts. Additionally, statistics broken down by both detailed industry and regionally are not readily available.

Bankruptcies in England and Wales in the Forestry and Fishing sector, January 1992 to September 2006

1992	98
1993	71
1994	72
1995	52
1996	91

Bankruptcies in England and Wales in the Forestry and Fishing sector, January 1992 to September 2006

1997	75
1998	65
1999	47
2000	76
2001	68
2002	88
2003	60
2004	51
2005	43
2006[1]	37

[1] Up to September. Figures from October 2006 are not available due to development work to update the classification to the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) 2003. These will be available for new cases from July 2007.

Note:
Reliable figures are not available prior to 1992.

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what effect the Review of the Postal Services Sector announced in his written ministerial statement of 17 December will have on the most recently announced round of post office closures currently being consulted upon; and if he will make a statement. [175828]

Mr. McFadden: The Review of the Postal Services Sector will look at developments in the mails market. It has not been set up to look at the future of the post office network or the current round of consultations on post office closures. The Government have already agreed a funding package of some £1.7 billion to support the post office network up to 2011.

Post Offices: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what the staffing establishment was at the main post office in Church Street, Peterborough, on 31 December *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006; [177149]

(2) how many people used the main post office at Church Street, Peterborough, on average per day in each year since 2001; [177150]

(3) how many branch post offices there were operating within *(a)* two, *(b)* three and *(c)* four miles of the main post office at Church Street, Peterborough as at 30 November 2007. [177158]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 9 January 2008]*: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member. I will place copies of the letter in the Libraries of the House.

Regional Development Agencies: South East Region

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of whether the South East of England Regional Development Agency offers value for money. [176365]

Mr. Timms: SEEDA's performance, like that of other RDAs, is assessed in a number of ways:

Performance against targets: In all except three cases SEEDA has met or exceeded the thirty-four targets set over the last five years.

Independent Performance Assessment: The NAO assessment last year found that SEEDA was performing strongly. This judgement was based on performance on: ambition; prioritisation; capacity; performance management; and achievement (report available on www.nao.org.uk.)

Regional Economic Strategy: SEEDA's review of the Strategy in 2006 and subsequent development of the RES action plan has demonstrated its strengths in achieving wide regional backing for the Strategy and its delivery.

Evaluation: SEEDA and other RDAs have a major programme of evaluation of the impact of their spending. Results from this will be available later this year.

Skilled Workers: English Language

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the UK restaurant trade of skilled chefs from abroad needing to pass the English language test requirement. [175496]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have not yet made a full assessment of the likely effect on the UK restaurant trade of skilled chefs from abroad needing to pass the English language test requirement. Full impact assessments for each tier of the PBS will be published in due course.

Small Businesses

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many small to medium sized businesses there were in each region of the UK in each of the last 20 years. [177513]

Mr. Timms: The number of small to medium sized businesses in each region of the UK is shown for 1991, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2003 and 2005. BERR's small and medium sized enterprise statistics were only published to the regional level in these years. Regional data for 2007 will be available by the end of 2008.

The number of small to medium sized businesses increased in all regions between 1997 and 2005. Overall, the number of small to medium sized businesses in the UK increased by 635,000 (17 per cent.), from 3,701,070 to 4,336,070 between 1997 and 2005.

Number of small and medium-sized businesses in the UK, by region

	1997[1]	*1998*	*1999*	*2001*	*2003*	*2005*	*Percentage change 1997-2005*
UK[2]	3,701,070	3,651,230	3,670,210	3,739,590	4,015,310	4,336,070	17
North East	96,915	98,910	91,045	96,790	98,760	108,500	12
North West	383,260	355,465	355,470	349,095	386,125	436,655	14

Number of small and medium-sized businesses in the UK, by region

	1997[1]	1998	1999	2001	2003	2005	Percentage change 1997-2005
Yorkshire and the Humber	291,060	269,395	258,665	255,740	277,865	313,335	8
East Midlands	239,875	228,695	234,435	235,890	263,145	283,005	18
West Midlands	306,095	286,330	288,080	289,320	314,830	352,870	15
East of England	378,335	378,550	351,595	385,930	430,315	455,060	20
London	566,300	566,850	664,455	672,940	640,880	674,615	19
South East	612,130	618,575	604,985	624,470	681,440	728,595	19
South West	363,100	370,790	360,075	348,760	379,310	417,125	15
Wales	157,890	153,115	143,925	154,295	172,160	175,280	11
Scotland	243,500	246,600	232,975	236,595	266,570	276,215	13
Northern Ireland	84,430	83,230	84,505	89,745	103,905	114,830	36

[1] Regional data for 1997 and 1998 are not directly comparable to other years because they include employment agencies.
UK totals may not equal the sum of the regional figures. This is due to rounding, and in the years 1997 and 1998 because employment agencies were excluded for the UK, but not at the regional level.

Source:
BERR Small and Medium sized Enterprise Statistics for the UK and Regions, 1997-2006 available at: http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/sme/index.htm

HEALTH

Broadmoor Hospital

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many attacks on staff were recorded at Broadmoor Hospital in each year since 1997. [170334]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not held centrally. However, to improve consistency in reporting incidents by the high secure hospitals, a new national reporting policy which includes information on assaults was introduced in January 2007, and this information is reviewed regularly by a dedicated performance manager for each hospital.

Carers

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* financial support and *(b)* advice on rights is available to carers who (i) live and (ii) work in (A) Leyton and Wanstead constituency, (B) Redbridge and (C) Waltham Forest. [177051]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not held centrally.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to receive the report into the findings of the National Treatment Agency survey into drug treatment projects. [169574]

Dawn Primarolo: We have received the report from the survey of drug treatment prescribing services, independently undertaken by the Central Office of Information, on behalf of the Department and National Treatment Agency (NTA) for substance misuse. The NTA published the results from the report on 14 December 2007.

The results provide a robust representation of treatment services.

The results of the survey were published alongside a detailed statement from the Clinical Guidelines on Drug Misuse and Dependence Update 2007 Working Group. The chair of the working group summarised the message of the statement as follows:

"The objective in prescribing is to give the patient the right medication at a dose that produces the greatest therapeutic benefit, without incurring unnecessary risk of harm. It is inappropriate for medications to be used as a reward, or to be withheld, or dose reduced solely as a punishment or sanction. Our new guidelines clarify this beyond doubt."

A full copy of the Audit of Prescribing Practitioners Summary Report has been placed in the Library.

Henderson Hospital: Closures

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had on the planned closure of the Henderson Hospital; and if he will make a statement. [176859]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Secretary of State for Health, (Alan Johnson) has had no discussions with the local national health service regarding the proposed closure of the Henderson Hospital, as this is a matter for the local NHS.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Care Services the hon. Member for Bury, South (Mr. Lewis) spoke to Peter Houghton, Chief Executive of South West London and St George's Mental Health National Health Service Trust by telephone regarding the Trust's proposals to close the Henderson Hospital on 17 December 2007.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Care Services also met with clinicians from Henderson Hospital, the National Clinical Director for Mental Health, managers from South West London, and St. George's Mental Health National Health Service Trust, the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam (Mr. Burstow) and the hon. Member for Carshalton and Wallington (Tom Brake) on 8 January 2008 to discuss this issue.

Mental Health

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the ability of patients with *(a)* mental illness and *(b)* learning difficulties to access (i) NHS emergency treatment and (ii) respite care; and if he will make a statement: [177018]

(2) what assessment he has made of the ability of carers of patients with (a) mental illness and (b) learning difficulties to access NHS emergency treatment. [177019]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In 2003 we published guidance entitled "Improving the Management of Patients with Mental Ill Health in Emergency Care". This provides practical support and guidance for those working in accident and emergency departments, mental health trusts and ambulance trusts to help improve the care of patients with mental illness when they access emergency care. We have not published similar guidance for people with learning disabilities.

The Carers Grant, which we introduced in 1999, provides financial support for carers to have breaks and to provide respite care. The Grant, which is worth £185 million in 2007-08 and £224 million in 2008-09, includes £25 million from which councils can provide emergency cover for carers. We have also issued guidance to councils about using this additional funding. We want to ensure that each council is able to provide short-term cover for carers in emergency situations, and that these monies are available for carers of people with mental illness, learning disabilities and all other conditions.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1318W, on mental health and employment: meeting the challenge, how much of the £173 million will be spent in each year to 2010-12. [177240]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The comprehensive spending review (CSR) covers the period to 2010-11. Additional investment in the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme, identified in the CSR 2007-10 will be in excess of £300 million, with an investment of £33 million in 2008-09, £103 million in 2009-10, rising to £173 million by 2010-11.

Mental Health Services: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many successful appeals against involuntary detention for treatment there were in each London mental health trust in each of the past five years; and if he will make a statement. [176028]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only by means of a manual sift of some 10,000 files, incurring disproportionate cost.

The Mental Health Review Tribunal considers whether people should continue to be detained under the Mental Health Act 1983. The Annual Report of the MHRT records that, in 2005-06 it received almost 22,000 applications and referrals of which 57 per cent. progressed to a substantive hearing. Of those applications 11 per cent. resulted in an order for discharge from the relevant provision of the Act.

A new database is being built for the Tribunal and is estimated to be live from summer 2008.

Mental Health Services: Hospital Beds

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 655W, on mental health services: hospital beds, how many community psychiatric nurses were practising in the NHS in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [177168]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The number of qualified nursing staff in the community psychiatry area of work in England is shown in the following table.

National health service hospital and community health services: qualified nursing staff in the community psychiatry area of work in England

As at September	England
1997	9,736
1998	10,231
1999	10,552
2000	11,080
2001	12,224
2002	12,292
2003	13,173
2004	14,909
2005	15,844
2006[1]	17,076

[1] More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total workforce figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than 1 per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures (and negligible for full-time equivalents). This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends over time.

Note

Workforce planning is a matter for local NHS organisations to deal with. They are best placed to assess the health needs of their local health community. The number of community psychiatric nurses has increased by 75 per cent. since 1997.

Source

The Information Centre for health and social care Non- Medical Workforce Census.

Overcrowding: Health Hazards

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment his Department has made of the effects of overcrowding in housing on health; [175523]

(2) what steps he has taken to ensure that the effects of overcrowding on health are reflected in the development of standards for housing. [175524]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 18 December 2007]*: I have been asked to reply.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister undertook a review of the evidence and literature looking at the impact of overcrowding on health and education in 2004 "(The Impact of Overcrowding on Health and Education: A Review of the Evidence and Literature (Housing Research Summary Number 210, 2004)" copies of which are available on :

www.communities.gov.uk/housing.

The published summary indicates that there is a small relationship between overcrowding and aspects of physical health of both children and adults. Additionally, evidence suggests that overcrowding in childhood affects aspects

of adult health. The evidence on any relationship between overcrowding and mental health (children and adults) is inconclusive.

The Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) and its Operating Guidance is an assessment tool for local authorities to determine risks arising from a range of potential hazards (including overcrowding) across all tenures and to take appropriate enforcement action through Environmental Health Officers. The HHSRS was introduced in April 2006.

The HHSRS is evidence-based. It is supported by extensive reviews of the literature and by detailed analysis of statistical data on the impact of housing conditions on health.

Pathology: Children

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that sufficient pathologists are trained to carry out specialist examinations on deceased children; (2) how many such pathologists are available in each Government Office region; and (3) if he will make a statement; [177739]

(2) if he will take steps to assist coroners in the South West in locating child pathologists to carry out specialist examinations on deceased children for the purposes of an inquest. [177740]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has worked closely with the Royal College of Pathologists to increase the number of paediatric pathologists in the national health service. Funding has been available for a Conversion Fellowship scheme to enable existing pathology consultants to retrain as paediatric pathologists to increase numbers in the short-term and this was vigorously promoted by the Royal College of Pathologists. However, the Conversion Fellowships were not taken up.

However the number of trainee paediatric pathologists has risen slightly in the last few years. The Royal College of Pathologists' Paediatric Pathology Specialist Advisory Committee anticipates that any difficulties will be largely resolved as the extra trainees become qualified in the next year or two and long-term service needs will be met. Paediatric pathology will remain a specialised service and ways of working in the specialty are changing to reflect this. Paediatric pathology is developing in a smaller number of specialist centres to focus resources where there will be adequate expertise and support. We understand that coroners, including in the South West, are aware of where paediatric pathologists are currently located and are able to contact them. We have asked officials from the Department to discuss with their counterparts at the Ministry of Justice the information currently provided to coroners about the availability of paediatric pathologists.

The Department does not collect data centrally about the number of paediatric pathologists in England. 2007 data from the Royal College of Pathologists show a total of 40 paediatric/perinatal pathology posts in England.

Personality Disorders

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people in England who have a severe personality disorder; how many are receiving treatment; what treatments are available and in how many centres; and what estimate he has made of the effectiveness of treatments; [177198]

(2) what estimate he has made of the proportion of those with severe personality disorder that are a danger (*a*) to themselves and (*b*) to others. [177199]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Personality disorders (PDs) are common conditions, although there is a considerable variation in severity, and in the degree of distress and dysfunction caused. The Department does not hold the requested information centrally, but research studies currently indicate a prevalence of 10 to 13 per cent. of the adult population in the community. The incidence in the sentenced prison population is around 64 per cent. for men and 50 per cent. for women. Estimates of the prevalence of personality disorders in psychiatric hospital populations vary between 36 to 67 per cent.

The treatment of patients with personality disorders is increasing through the development of new PD services in line with the implementation of "Managing Dangerous Offenders with a Severe Personality Disorder (1999), Personality Disorder: No Longer a Diagnosis of Exclusion" (2004) and the Mental Health Act 2007. The development of effective services for those most a risk to the public is being piloted through the Dangerous and Severe Personality Disorder (DSPD) programme which is a joint venture between the Department and the Ministry of Justice.

The number of people in England with a severe PD who are a significant risk to other people is currently estimated as being between 3,000-5,000. The DSPD programme provides assessment, treatment and management in conditions of high and medium security as well as in community residential and outreach services.

In respect of all those people with a PD who are no risk to others it is intended that the provision of treatment and support for this patient population will be through the growth of PD appropriate services within mainstream mental health services. Services for this patient group have been piloted and evaluated in each region of England through the Department's PD programme and are now devolved to the national health service for wider development by primary care trusts at a local level. While there is no accurate estimate of the numbers of patients overall treated in the NHS over 1,500 patients with PD have been treated in the non forensic PD pilot services to date.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much was raised from prescription charges in 2006-07; [175975]

(2) what the total cost was of collecting prescription charges in the last financial year. [175985]

Dawn Primarolo: As set out in "Department of Health Resource Accounts 2006-07", published by The Stationary Office, on 11 October 2007, for the period April 2006 to March 2007, the revenue raised from prescription charges collected by pharmacists, appliance contractors and from prescription prepayment certificate fees was £411.7 million. This figure excludes prescription

charges collected by dispensing doctors, which is not collected centrally, but remains with primary care trusts. A copy of the Resource Accounts is available in the Library.

Pharmacists, appliance contractors and dispensing doctors collect the prescription charge as part of the dispensing process. They are paid a fee for the dispensing process irrespective of whether a charge is collected. It is not possible to determine separately the cost of collecting prescription charges.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of civilians killed by the recent bombing at Nabo Aka in Afghanistan. [177041]

Meg Munn: The Government are not aware of any civilian casualties resulting from a bombing at Nabo Aka.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions (*a*) the British Government, (*b*) the British army and (*c*) coalition forces in Afghanistan have had with the Taliban. [177509]

Meg Munn: The UK supports President Karzai's efforts to bring disaffected Afghans into society's mainstream, providing they renounce violence and accept Afghanistan's constitution. In this context we have provided funds for the Afghan reconciliation programme, Programme Takhim-e-Solh. We support Afghan-led efforts to reach out to Taliban elements who no longer want to continue their armed opposition, in order to weaken the insurgency and isolate its leadership. We will continue to support President Karzai and his government in their efforts to reconcile all parties to Afghanistan's democratic constitution.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what definition the Government uses of the Taliban. [177510]

Meg Munn: "Taliban" is an umbrella term used for an increasingly splintered group of anti-government elements in Afghanistan. This includes warlords, those in the narcotics trade and jihadi fighters. The anti-government insurgency also includes Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin and the Haqqani network. It is associated with, but separate from, members of Al Qa'eda and the extremist tribesmen in Pakistan (the so-called "Pakistan Taliban").

Afghanistan: Taliban

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many meetings have taken place in (*a*) Helmand Province and (*b*) Afghanistan in the last 12 months between British representatives and (i) current, (ii) former and (iii) suspected Taliban insurgents. [177293]

Meg Munn: Our embassy in Kabul and the UK-led provincial reconstruction team in Lashkar Gah have made a wide range of contacts within the Afghanistan government and people in public life, some of whom will have held positions under the former Taliban regime. Data on these contacts are not collated in a form to enable the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to respond to the hon. Member's question.

The UK position on reconciliation remains unchanged. We support President Karzai' efforts to bring disaffected Afghans into society's mainstream, providing they renounce violence and accept Afghanistan's constitution.

Asylum: Finance

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much of the European Refugee Fund was spent in each member state in each year since 2000; and on what types of projects. [175439]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

The European Commission has not yet published the actual spend for each member state in respect of the European Refugee Fund as many annual programmes are still in the process of being closed by the Commission.

The first phase of the European Refugee Fund ran from 2000 to 2004. The second phase, which runs from 2005 to 2007, is under way. Projects for both phases have been funded for eligible actions which relate to reception, integration and voluntary repatriation of specified target groups. These include those with full refugee status or subsidiary forms of humanitarian protection, and those who have applied for this.

Ballistic Missile Defence

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date he was formally consulted by the Secretary of State for Defence on the request by the US to use RAF Menwith Hill as part of the Ballistic Missile Defence System; and if he will make a statement. [173685]

David Miliband: I was formally consulted by my right hon. Friend the Defence Secretary on 10 July 2007 over the decision to agree to the request by the US to use Menwith Hill as part of the Ballistic Missile Defence System.

Colombia: Armed Forces

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to encourage the Colombian Government to investigate alleged murders of civilians by the Colombian army. [177147]

Meg Munn: Whilst the majority of murders in Colombia are committed by illegal armed groups, we regularly call on the Colombian Government, privately and in public, to ensure procedures are in place to fully

investigate alleged abuses against civilians by the Colombian army. My hon. Friend the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Dr. Howells, did so with the Colombian Defence Minister and Vice President during their visits to the UK last year, and he repeated these concerns when visiting Colombia in November 2007. We have been impressed at the Colombian government's commitment to tackling this problem, but we recognise that more needs to be done. This is why the UK continues to provide the Colombian armed forces with human rights training and practical advice on military justice reform—which includes forging a closer working relationship between the Colombian Attorney General's Office and the Colombian armed forces—so to promote their adherence to international humanitarian law.

Committee of Permanent Representatives

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people form the UK's *(a)* Committee of Permanent Representatives I and *(b)* Committee of Permanent Representatives II to the EU Council. [176826]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK is represented by the Deputy Permanent Representative in the Committee of Permanent Representatives I and the Permanent Representative in the Committee of Permanent Representatives II.

EC Law

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of primary legislation passed between 3 May 1997 and 27 June 2007 originated in *(a)* EU regulations, *(b)* EU directives and *(c)* EU decisions. [177677]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information requested by the hon. Member is not held centrally.

English Language

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on English language classes for staff in the last year for which figures are available. [177489]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not spend anything on English language training for staff in the UK. Overseas, most locally recruited jobs require prior working knowledge of English. In certain circumstances posts may have contributed from their own budgets to the cost of English tuition for junior staff (e.g. drivers); but no central record is kept of this expenditure and to collate the figures would incur disproportionate cost.

European Union

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on *(a)* polling in the UK on EU-related issues and *(b)* publications and advertising relating to the EU in each of the last 11 years. [175438]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The spend in each financial year from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) EU Directorate budget codes related to EU communications in the UK are in the following table.

	£
1997-98	[1]13,500
1998-99	n/a
1999-2000	102,574
2000-01	258,000
2001-02	246,819
2002-03	167,891
2003-04	604,730
2004-05	400,499
2005-06	274,274
2006-07	200,00
April to December 2007	43,320

n/a= Not available

[1] Excluding EU presidency EU communications. Figures not available

[2] Plus 434,233 EU presidency public diplomacy

In line with the FCO's public service agreement, FCO spending on EU communications covers a wide range of projects to raise awareness and debate on EU issues, such as: the europe.gov.uk website, publications and public events on EU issues.

In terms of polling in the UK on EU-related issues, the FCO commissioned ICM in June 2004 to test the clarity of its Guide to the EU before publication at a cost of approximately £10,000.

Gibraltar: EU Action

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on the EU's position on Gibraltar in relation to the proposed Race Directive. [177067]

Mr. Jim Murphy: While the UK is the member state responsible for Gibraltar within the European Union, the government of Gibraltar is responsible for implementing European legislation within Gibraltar. The Race Directive (2000/43 EC) has been transposed by the government of Gibraltar through Gibraltar's Equal Opportunities Act 2006 which came into force on 1 March 2007.

International Cooperation: Mining

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken to assist other governments to make mining practices safer and to reduce numbers of preventable accidents since 1997. [173422]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

The principal way in which the UK has assisted other Governments to make mining practices safer has, since 2004, been through its membership of the European Commission's Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work's Standing Working Party (SWP) for the Mining and other Extractive Industries. Before 2004 this was done through the SWP's predecessor, the Safety and Health

Commission for the Mining and Other Extractive Industries (SHCMOEI). The UK Government have been represented on these bodies by HM Chief Inspector of Mines.

Since the expansion of the European Union (EU) in 2004, one of the specific tasks of the SWP has been the promotion of the exchange of information with EU Member States on aspects of health and safety in mining. The mandate of the SWP has recently been expanded to include the provision of advice to the EC on cooperation with other countries, in particular with China, in respect to health and safety in the mining and the extractive industries sector.

Kenya: Overseas Residence

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British ex-patriates are living in Kenya; and what provisional plans the Government have to repatriate them. [177309]

Meg Munn: There are currently approximately 11,500 British citizens registered with our High Commission in Nairobi.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has emergency and contingency plans for Kenya, which are constantly being reviewed and updated to ensure preparedness for a range of eventualities.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he will reply to the letter dated 28 November, from the right hon. Member for Manchester Gorton, regarding Mrs H. Malik. [177545]

David Miliband: I replied to my right hon. Friend on 8 January.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he will reply to the letter, dated 21 November, from the right hon. Member for Manchester Gorton, regarding Mr I. Rigby. [177549]

David Miliband: I replied to my right hon. Friend on 20 December 2007.

Pakistan: Politics and Government

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Pakistan. [175141]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the statement on Pakistan and Kenya made by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary to the House on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 21-24.

The world has been shocked and outraged by Ms Bhutto's tragic assassination on 27 December 2007. This senseless attack must not be allowed to undermine the move towards democracy in Pakistan. The priority now must be to ensure the democratic process remains on track.

Palestinians: EU Aid

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take to ensure that EU aid to the Occupied Palestinian Territories is used for legal and legitimate purposes. [177305]

Meg Munn: The European Commission takes fiduciary risk management very seriously. Most projects are managed internally and therefore the European Commission is able to ensure that it has complete control over all funds. The EU also funds the UN Refugee and Works Agency, which delivers support to Palestinians in Gaza, this funding is managed by strict UN controls. Other EU assistance to the Occupied Palestinian Territories is provided through the EU's Temporary International Mechanism. This provides allowances for public sector workers, including teachers, and for the poorest Palestinians. It also pays for basic services such as healthcare and provides fuel for electricity supplies. The Temporary International Mechanism is organised so that funds pass directly to beneficiaries and suppliers of goods and services. Either the World Bank or the European Commission approves all expenditure and all Palestinians paid under the Temporary International Mechanism are vetted against five different internationally recognised terrorist lists.

Palestinians: EU Aid

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the reported seizure in the Occupied Palestinian Territories of potassium nitrate disguised in sugar bags that were marked as being part of the humanitarian aid provided by the European Union. [177306]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed this with his EU counterparts. The UK welcomes the European Commission's statement on this issue on 30 December 2007 that:

"Based on the information received, it appears that these bags cannot be confused with any kind of European Union humanitarian aid. We would consider it an isolated criminal act and we condemn it."

The EU distributes its food aid through United Nations agencies, rather than directly, and does not export any sugar to Gaza.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Free School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his latest estimate is of the proportion of children known to be eligible for free school meals in each academy and its predecessor school for each year from 2000-01 to 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [163311]

Jim Knight: The proportion of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals in each open academy and in their predecessor school(s) is given in the following table:

School name	Percentage FSM for whole school						
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
The Business Academy Bexley			41.9	37.0	38.2	38.5	39.2
Abbey Primary School	32.1	37.8	38.2	44.5			
Southlake Primary School	46.9	42.3	44.1	40.7			
Thamesmead Community College	48.8	46.1					
Greig City Academy			43.5	46.5	44.6	37.7	37.4
St David and St Katharine CofE Secondary School	32.1	40.5					
Unity City Academy			49.1	49.6	48.6	44.1	45.0
Langbaurgh School	56.2	56.2					
Keldholme School	57.1	46.8					
City of London Academy (Southwark)				24.9	27.4	35.4	36.5
The Academy at Peckham				60.0	65.8	63.9	50.8
Warwick Park School	82.8	66.3	63.5				
Capital City Academy				40.7	34.4	34.2	34.9
Willesden High School	38.9	42.5	43.4				
West London Academy				43.5	45.1	43.3	40.6
Northolt Primary School	34.7	31.7	39.0	37.7			
The Compton High School and Sports College	44.9	40.3	42.6	n/a			
Walsall Academy				27.1	18.4	13.7	12.0
T P Riley Community School	53.7	53.0	52.2				
Manchester Academy				50.7	61.8	60.5	51.2
Dude High School	76.9	71.7	63.0				
The City Academy Bristol				39.3	41.2	46.1	39.7
St George Community College	37.1	33.4	37.8				
The King's Academy				37.5	33.2	29.7	26.3
Coulby Newham School	33.6	33.1	32.6				
Brackenhoe School	55.7	53.7	56.4				
Djanogly City Academy Nottingham				33.3	34.2	29.4	32.7
Forest Comprehensive School	60.1	59.4	n/a				
Djanogly City Technology College	0.0	30.8	34.5				
Mossbourne Community Academy					37.6	45.6	40.6
Lambeth Academy					n/a	n/a	43.0
London Academy					44.5	44.2	43.0
The Edgware School	45.2	41.3	39.8	39.1			
Stockley Academy					44.2	44.4	40.8
Evelyns School	37.7	33.2	44.9	42.4			
Northampton Academy					20.5	17.9	16.3
Lings Upper School	27.6	30.3	35.1	28.5			
St Pauls Academy						25.0	25.6
St Paul's Catholic School	25.1	24.4	27.7	24.2	26.3		
Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College						15.1	17.5
Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College	18.8	15.7	12.9	12.0	14.1		
Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy						44.9	44.1
Malory School	57.8	57.5	50.2	55.5	53.7		
The Hartfield Academy						20.4	17.4
John Penrose School	18.5	22.3	17.8	18.9	21.2		
The Academy of St Francis of Assisi						47.4	47.2
Our Lady's Catholic High School	66.1	64.6	62.4	55.9	55.2		
Salford City Academy						29.3	18.0
Canon Williamson CofE High School	35.1	31.1	29.9	31.2	29.5		
Trinity Academy						22.0	16.4
Thorne Grammar School	24.5	21.1	20.7	20.5	21.6		
Dixons City Academy						8.4	7.2
Dixons City Technology College	5.9	6.9	6.4	6.6	8.0		
Macmillan Academy						24.8	25.8
Macmillan Academy	23.9	24.5	21.3	18.1	22.6		
The Marlowe Academy						34.6	31.5
The Ramsgate School	36.2	37.1	34.0	31.2	35.7		

School name	Percentage FSM for whole school						
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
The Petchey Academy							47.8
Burlington Danes Academy							20.6
Burlington Danes CofE School	34.8	35.2	38.3	39.2	37.3	37.4	
Harris Academy Bermondsey							60.6
Aylwin Girls' School	51.4	64.8	61.3	62.5	65.5	63.1	
Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich							40.6
Waverley School	56.0	51.0	54.3	50.9	52.2	54.2	
Paddington Academy							54.7
North Westminster Community School	48.8	45.1	47.1	46.9	45.3	42.6	
Westminster Academy							40.7
North Westminster Community School	48.8	45.1	47.1	46.9	45.3	42.6	
Harris Academy Merton							30.0
Tamworth Manor High School	19.7	20.3	20.6	17.7	21.9	24.2	
St. Marks Church of England Academy							27.1
Mitcham Vale School	n/a	n/a	26.1	24.8	26.6	27.0	
Walthamstow Academy							31.7
The McEntee School	42.8	39.4	62.6	56.4	51.6	53.6	
Sandwell Academy							14.4
Grace Academy							29.6
Whitesmore School	31.5	27.4	27.9	30.1	27.4	28.6	
North Liverpool Academy							41.1
Anfield Community Comprehensive School	40.3	40.9	41.4	39.9	41.0	40.4	
Breckfield Community Comprehensive School	60.4	67.1	68.1	56.1	58.9	60.5	
The Barnsley Academy							37.5
The Elmhurst School	52.7	52.6	51.4	50.1	50.3	52.6	
Sheffield Park Academy							36.3
Walthcof School	48.5	47.9	47.8	44.3	40.7	39.8	
Sheffield Springs Academy							34.9
Myrtle Springs School	42.8	40.3	41.9	36.9	31.5	34.9	
David Young Community Academy							42.1
Braun Wood Boys' High School	34.2	39.0	40.2	42.1	39.7	41.7	
Agnes Stewart Church of England High School	42.2	45.0	46.6	45.1	43.7	49.4	
Landau Forte College							11.2
Landau Forte College	7.8	7.8	8.2	8.8	10.0	10.7	
John Madejski Academy							30.4
Thamesbridge College	30.2	36.2	31.8	39.5	34.6	31.0	
The Gateway Academy							36.2
The Gateway Community College				32.3	30.9	35.2	
The Bridge Academy Hackney							
St. Mary Magdalene Academy[1]							
St. Mary Magdalene CofE Primary School	35.1	44.6	39.0	41.0	41.1	36.9	n/a
St. Matthew Academy[1]							
St. Joseph's Academy	39.1	35.6	27.6	32.9	26.7	24.4	n/a
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School	36.3	21.6	18.8	25.9	35.4	26.4	n/a
Walworth Academy[1]							
Walworth School	50.9	42.5	39.4	53.1	48.9	37.3	35.8
St. Michael and All Angels CofE Academy[1]							
Archbishop Michael Ramsey Technology College	63.4	58.3	52.7	56.3	51.0	50.1	n/a
Bacon's[1]							
Bacon's College	33.2	n/a	32.4	25.6	25.8	28.1	31.6
Ashcroft Technology Academy							
ADT College	25.1	24.8	22.8	22.6	23.7	23.9	24.7
King Solomon Academy[1]							
Harris Academy South Norwood[1]							
Stanley Technical High School for Boys	21.0	24.3	27.7	25.1	29.7	28.8	n/a
Harris City Academy Crystal Palace							
Harris City Technology College	20.6	18.7	17.4	17.8	14.8	13.4	11.4
Oasis Academy Enfield[1]							
Shireland Collegiate Academy[1]							
Shireland Language College	38.4	39.2	42.4	43.6	39.8	41.7	40.6
George Salter Collegiate Academy[1]							

School name	Percentage FSM for whole school						
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
George Salter High School	33.4	37.1	35.2	21.1	23.1	27.9	26.9
Belvedere Academy[1]							
The Belvedere School GDST	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
William Hulme's Grammar School[2]							
William Hulme's Grammar School	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
St Anne's Academy[1]							
The Queen Elizabeth School	37.3	39.4	45.9	47.9	42.5	50.5	43.3
Stockport Academy[1]							
Avondale High School	35.3	35.3	34.2	33.4	32.4	31.4	30.3
Bradford Academy[1]							
Bradford Cathedral Community College	47.8	40.2	40.5	44.5	48.9	53.2	n/a
Bristol Brunel Academy[1]							
Speedwell Technology College	21.1	20.7	25.0	22.1	22.0	20.8	21.2
John Cabot Academy[1]							
John Cabot City Technology College	9.6	9.7	10.3	9.2	7.9	7.4	7.5
Oasis Academy Immingham[1]							
The Immingham School	22.9	19.8	21.7	20.0	18.5	17.7	17.4
Oasis Academy Wintringham[1]							
Wintringham School	34.7	37.1	35.9	36.1	39.5	40.0	36.8
Havelock Academy[1]							
Havelock School	40.6	37.3	35.5	35.7	35.3	35.4	29.0
Barnfield West Academy Luton[1]							
Halyard High School	32.0	29.0	27.7	24.7	30.8	30.5	26.0
Barnfield South Academy Luton[1]							
South Luton High School	48.0	46.7	40.7	37.5	32.9	34.5	30.5
Eastbourne Church of England Academy[1]							
Eastbourne Comprehensive School	25.9	26.7	32.0	32.9	28.1	27.5	26.9
The Samworth Enterprise Academy[1]							
Southfields Infant School	68.2	60.1	65.9	61.0	61.5	46.4	51.4
Newry Junior School	62.6	61.2	63.3	61.4	63.7	61.1	53.2
Swindon Academy[1]							
Headlands	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	23.7	25.2
Pinehurst Junior School	35.0	38.2	33.1	33.9	29.8	27.5	33.1
Pinehurst Infants' School	40.7	40.9	40.0	38.8	29.1	31.0	30.7
Thomas Deacon Academy[1]							
Hereward Community College	37.1	39.6	35.3	35.7	38.6	43.6	33.4
Deacon's School	22.8	15.8	14.8	15.7	13.1	13.5	13.9
John Mansfield School	30.6	27.0	23.9	26.9	25.8	27.1	22.7
Folkestone Academy[1]							
The Channel School	40.4	32.0	30.6	29.5	26.9	31.0	25.5
Marsh Academy[1]							
Southlands Community Comprehensive School	15.8	12.8	11.7	10.1	7.5	6.5	8.7
Leigh Technology Academy							
The Leigh City Technology College	6.3	5.3	5.8	5.5	4.8	6.7	6.6
Spires Academy[1]							
Montgomery School	20.7	23.6	21.0	16.8	12.6	14.8	12.8
New Line Learning Academy[1]							
Oldborough Manor Community School	43.6	39.7	38.1	37.9	32.6	33.5	35.9
Senacre Technology College	19.5	18.0	24.0	26.5	26.5	24.8	25.2
Cornwallis Academy[1]							
The Cornwallis School	7.7	4.8	5.0	5.2	4.5	3.6	3.8
Madeley Academy[1]							
Madeley Court School	37.5	37.7	39.2	37.2	33.9	29.8	30.5
North Oxfordshire Academy[1]							
Drayton School	18.7	17.9	20.1	20.1	16.8	17.3	14.7

[1] Academy opened in 2007.
[2] Former Independent day school opened as academy in 2007 – no figures available.

Note:
Information on Academies in italic with predecessor school information given immediately below each relevant academy.

Source:
2007 School Census returns

Departmental Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many reports have been made to his Department's nominated officers under paragraph 16 of the revised Civil Service Code since its publication on 6 June 2006. [162480]

Kevin Brennan: Since the publication of the revised Civil Service Code on 6 June 2006, my Department's nominated officers have received two reports made under paragraph 16.

Extra-curricular Activities

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools in Hendon are offering extended hours; what additional services they are providing in the extended hours; what funding has been made available for those extended hours; and if he will make a statement. [177701]

Beverley Hughes: We want all schools to offer access to extended services by 2010, including providing access to child care and a range of activities, with at least half of all primary and a third of secondary schools doing so by September 2008. The core offer of extended services in and around schools comprises: a varied menu of activities in primary and secondary schools; high quality child care 8 am to 6 pm 48 weeks a year in primary schools; parenting support; swift and easy access to a wide range of specialist support services such as health and social care; and wider community access to ICT, sports and arts facilities.

We do not hold reliable information on individual services within schools but the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) does collect reliable data on schools delivering access to the extended schools full core offer. We encourage schools to work in clusters to help maximise delivery and to provide more joined up services for their local communities. Clusters often cross constituency boundaries, which means that information on extended services at constituency level must be treated with care. The following table shows the extended schools data for Hendon.

LEA: Hendon

	Number/percentage
Total number of schools	39
Total number of schools providing access to the full core offer	18
Percentage of schools providing access to the full core offer	46.2

The following list shows the schools providing access to the full core offer of extended services in the Hendon parliamentary constituency area.

Dollis Junior School
St. Mary's and St. John's CE Primary School
Woodcroft Primary School
Independent Jewish Day School
St. Joseph's RC Junior School
St. Joseph's RC Infant School
St. Vincent's RC School
The Orion Primary School
The Hyde School
Fairway Primary School
Edgware Infant School
Edgware Junior School
Dollis Infant School
Deansbrook Infant School
Bell Lane Primary School
Barnfield Primary School
Parkfield Primary School
Northway School

Month to month variations can occur, resulting in figures going down as well as up in individual parliamentary constituencies, for example as a result of local school reorganisations. There are many other schools which are already providing individual parts of the core offer that are not yet included in these figures.

Funding is not broken down to constituency level. Funding for the extended schools programme for 2008-11 in Barnet is detailed as follows.

Barnet	*Start up and sustainability funding*
2008-09	1,270,074
2009-10	1,466,160
2010-11	1,401,171

We are providing over £1.1 billion for extended schools in England for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Family Fund: Eligibility

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will increase the age limit for recipients of Family Fund grants to enable those between 16 and 18-years-old to qualify; and if he will make a statement. [171230]

Beverley Hughes: As part of the Children's Plan published on 11 December, the Secretary of State announced an additional £8.4 million over the next three years to allow the Family Fund Trust to increase the eligibility age from 16 to 18 in England.

The Department already provides £22.8 million annually to the Family Fund, allowing the fund to distribute 38,857 grants in England in 2006-07, averaging £549 per grant. The additional £8.4 million is equivalent to around 16,000 grants for families with 16 and 17-year-old disabled young people over the next three years.

This renews our commitment to providing low income families with a tailored package of support and is all part of the philosophy of the Children's Plan and part of our drive to end child poverty.

Graduates: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many young people from *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland graduated from higher education in each of the last 10 years. [175992]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

The latest available information is shown in the table. Figures for 2006/07 will be available in January 2008.

Number of young[1] first degree graduates from Cumbria local authority and Copeland parliamentary constituency, English higher education institutions, academic years 1996/97 to 2005/06

	Graduates from Cumbria local authority	Graduates from Copeland parliamentary constituency
1996/97	1,000	135
1997/98	1,110	130
1998/99	1,205	160
1999/2000	1,140	155
2000/01[2]	1,250	160
2001/02	1,310	155
2002/03	1,420	170
2003/04	1,425	175
2004/05	1,480	190
2005/06	1,470	180

[1] Young refers to those students aged under 25.
[2] From 2000/01 students qualifying from a dormant mode of study are included in the figures, they are excluded in all previous years. Incoming exchange students are excluded from the figures from 2000/01 onwards; they were included in all previous years.

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Secondary Education: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of secondary school pupils were taught in schools with more than *(a)* 1,000 pupils, *(b)* 1,500 pupils and *(c)* 2,000 pupils in (i) 1990, (ii) 1995, (iii) 2000, (iv) 2005, (v) 2006 and (vi) 2007. [163182]

Jim Knight: The requested information is given in the following tables.

Maintained secondary schools,city technology colleges and academies[1], number of schools and pupils by size of school[2], position in January each year: 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2006 and 2007, England

	Schools with up to and including 1,000 pupils			Schools with 1,001 to 1,500 pupils			Schools with 1,501 to 2,000 pupils		
	Number of schools	Number of pupils	Percentage of pupils[3]	Number of schools	Number of pupils	Percentage of pupils[3]	Number of schools	Number of pupils	Percentage of pupils[3]
1990	3,244	1,983,150	69.3	677	786,140	27.5	58	94,110	3.3
1995	2,563	1,684,840	56.0	946	1,120,690	37.3	115	190,020	6.3
2000	2,226	1,397,750	46.8	1,146	1,377,020	43.1	186	308,740	9.7
2005	1,839	1,296,690	38.7	1,296	1,572,330	47.0	261	435,420	13.0
2006	1,830	1,292,490	38.6	1,295	1,573,270	47.0	259	433,640	13.0
2007	1,841	1,290,040	38.8	1,270	1,539,480	46.3	266	444,480	13.4

	Schools with more than 2,000			All schools		
	Number of schools	Number of pupils	Percentage of pupils[3]	Number of schools	Number of pupils	Percentage of pupils[3]
1990	0	0	0.0	3,979	2,863,390	100.0
1995	5	10,450	0.3	3,629	3,006,000	100.0
2000	7	14,900	0.5	3,565	3,198,410	100.0
2005	20	43,240	1.3	3,416	3,347,680	100.0
2006	21	45,090	1.3	3,405	3,344,490	100.0
2007	22	47,540	1.4	3,399	3,321,530	100.0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Based on a headcount of pupils. Excludes dually registered pupils.
[3] The number of pupils by size band of schools expressed as a percentage of the total number of pupils in maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies.

Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
School Census.

Young People: Unemployment

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many 16 to 18-year-olds are not in education, training or employment. [177270]

Beverley Hughes: We estimate that 206,000 young people of academic age 16 to 18[1] in England were not in education, employment or training (NEET) at the end of 2006. This represents 10.3 per cent. of all 16 to 18-year-olds.

[1] Academic age is defined as age at the start of the academic year, 31 August.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Cross-disciplinary Research

11. **Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much research council spending has been allocated to cross-disciplinary research over the next comprehensive spending review period; and if he will make a statement. [177258]

Ian Pearson: The science budget allocations which I announced on 11 December, set out funding for four major cross-council interdisciplinary programmes. These four programmes are "Living with Environmental Change",

"Ageing", "Global Threats to Security" and "Energy" and will allocate a total of £1.3 billion to research in these areas. In addition, research councils fund cross disciplinary research in a wide variety of other areas.

Physics Research

12. **Mr. Lilley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department is taking to support physics research in the UK. [177261]

Ian Pearson: The overall science budget will be almost £4 billion per year by 2010-11, taking our support for the UK's research base to its highest level ever.

Our overall expenditure on physics research, postgraduate training and facilities through the Research Councils will exceed £500 million per year by 2010-11.

Our overall expenditure on physics research, postgraduate training and facilities through the research councils will exceed £500 million per year in 2010-11. This includes investments from the Science and Technology Facilities Council, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, Natural Environment Research Council, Medical Research Council and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council.

In addition, UK universities receive funding from the Higher Education Funding.

Leitch Report

13. **Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans he has for implementing the recommendations of the Leitch report. [177262]

Mr. David Lammy: The Government are committed to achieving the ambition articulated by Lord Leitch. We set out in world class skills how we would work with our partners, employers, unions, and individuals to affect a skills revolution in this country.

In November, DWP and DIUS set out in 'Opportunity, Employment and Progression: making skills work', how we will work together so that people can gain the training and support they need to enter and progress in work.

Russell Group

14. **Mr. Chaytor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Russell Group of universities on widening access. [177263]

Bill Rammell: This Government remain fully committed to widening access to higher education for people from disadvantaged backgrounds. I have had many discussions about this important matter with a range of people, including members of the Russell Group of universities.

Apprenticeships

15. **Mr. Clapham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to improve the advice available to young people on apprenticeships; and if he will make a statement. [177264]

Mr. David Lammy: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, published a range of measures to improve information, advice and guidance to young people in his Children's Plan. In addition, the Education and Skills Bill, currently before the House, will ensure that all young people receive good information about all routes post-16, including apprenticeships.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many apprenticeships were offered by (*a*) central Government, (*b*) local government and (*c*) other public bodies in each year since 1997. [175749]

Mr. Lammy: There are over 200 different apprenticeship or advanced apprenticeship frameworks on offer to potential learners across more than 80 industry sectors. However, there exists no definitive classification of frameworks by sector of employer.

Manufacturing Businesses

17. **Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department is taking to ensure that manufacturing businesses benefit from innovations developed in English universities. [177267]

Bill Rammell: In July 2007 we established the Technology Strategy Board to provide innovation and technology support to business. The Technology Strategy Board is a key delivery partner in supporting collaboration between business and universities and also works closely with the Research Councils. In England, the Government's Higher Education Innovation Fund is another way in which we are helping universities increase their capacity for working with businesses.

Train to Gain

18. **Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Train to Gain provision in the west midlands; and if he will make a statement. [177269]

Mr. Lammy: Train to Gain has been successful in the West Midlands with 8,334 employers working with the service to identify and meet their training needs. Since April 2006 42,000 employees have started a learning activity and 12,395 have gained a Level 2 qualification. We remain committed to the expansion of Train to Gain as the Government's premier skills service for employers and expect all regions including the West Midlands to step up their performance.

Advanced Apprenticeships

Mr. Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the availability of advanced apprenticeships; and if he will make a statement. [177266]

Mr. David Lammy: We have announced a major expansion of apprenticeships with Government funding rising to over £1 billion in 2010-11 to boost numbers, including advanced apprenticeships. The balance between advanced apprenticeships and Level 2 apprenticeships reflects employer need. However, the Government will expect to see a significant increase above the current 97,000 advanced apprenticeships in England as we move towards a national entitlement in 2013.

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council: Grants

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much funding the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council provided to the Sustainability of Land Use and Transport in Outer Neighbourhoods project. [176676]

Ian Pearson: The Sustainability of Land Use and Transport in Outer Neighbourhoods, (SOLUTIONS) project received funding of £1.75 million from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) for the period April 2004 to September 2008.

£154,136 was also awarded for a scoping study from April 2003 to March 2004.

Higher Education: Sunderland

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of 18 to 22-year-old people from the City of Sunderland were studying at university *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* at the latest date for which figures are available. [175225]

Bill Rammell: The main measure for tracking progress on increasing participation is currently the higher education initial participation rate (HEIPR). This is the sum of the HE initial participation rates for individual ages between 17 and 30 inclusive. It covers English-domiciled first time entrants to HE courses, which are expected to last for at least six months, at UK higher education institutions and English, Scottish and Welsh further education colleges, and who remain on their course for at least six months. The earliest figure is 39.3 per cent for 1999/2000 and the latest available figure is 42.8 per cent. for 2005/06.

Equivalent figures for the 18-22-year-old age group are 33.4 per cent. for 1999/2000 and 36.2 per cent. for 2005/06.

Figures for 2006/07 will become available in 2008. The HEIPR is not disaggregated below national level.

HEFCE's "Young participation in Higher Education" publication includes the proportion of young people who enter higher education at age 18 or 19 by parliamentary constituency, although this only covers the years up to 2000. Participation rates based on this work are given on the supporting POLAR website (www.hefce.ac.uk/polar). These indicate that, for the cohort reaching 18 in 1997, the proportion of young people from Sunderland who entered higher education at age 18 or 19 was 20 per cent.. For the cohort reaching 18 in 2000, the proportion of young people from Sunderland who entered higher education at age 18 or 19 was 19 per cent.

Overseas Students

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which 50 *(a)* universities and *(b)* further education colleges have the highest numbers of non-European Union students registered for courses; and how many such students each has registered. [170438]

Bill Rammell: The information is as follows:

(a) The latest available information for universities is given in the following table. Figures for 2006/07 will be available in January 2008.

50 higher education institutions in England with the highest number of non-EU enrolments[1], academic year 2005/06

Higher Education Institution	*Non-EU enrolments*
The University of Manchester	5,195
The University of Nottingham	4,830
The University of Warwick	4,500
The University of Oxford	4,195
London School of Economics and Political Science	4,160
Middlesex University	3,825
London Metropolitan University	3,755
The University of Cambridge	3,730
University College London	3,535
The University of Greenwich	3,235
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	3,170
The University of Leeds	3,075
University of the Arts, London	2,980
The University of Birmingham	2,955
The University of Northumbria at Newcastle	2,925
The University of Sheffield	2,790
City University	2,740
The University of Westminster	2,670
University of Hertfordshire	2,600
The University of Sunderland	2,455
The University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne	2,360
The University of Leicester	2,320
King's College London	2,305
Loughborough University	2,305
Queen Mary and Westfield College	2,235
The University of Southampton	2,130
The University of Bath	2,085
The University of Wolverhampton	2,040
Oxford Brookes University	2,040
London South Bank University	2,030
The University of Bradford	1,985
The University of East London	1,975
The University of Bristol	1,960
The University of Essex	1,940

50 higher education institutions in England with the highest number of non-EU enrolments[1], academic year 2005/06

Higher Education Institution	*Non-EU enrolments*
The University of Portsmouth	1,895
University of Durham	1,890
The University of York	1,830
The University of Surrey	1,785
Brunel University	1,725
Kingston University	1,715
Coventry University	1,670
The University of Hull	1,645
The University of Lancaster	1,635
The University of Liverpool	1,610
The Manchester Metropolitan University	1,580
University of Bedfordshire	1,565
Leeds Metropolitan University	1,555
Sheffield Hallam University	1,490
Royal Holloway and Bedford New College	1,470
The University of Kent	1,460
Others	39,410
Total	164,975

[1] Figures cover postgraduate and undergraduate students on full-time and part-time courses.

Note:
Figures are calculated on a snapshot basis as at the 1 December and have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

(*b*) Figures for students participating on further education courses funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) can be derived from the LSC individualised learner record (ILR). The following table shows for 2005/06, the latest year for which full year data are available, the 26 providers delivering LSC funded further education courses with the highest numbers of non-UK students, broken down by whether the students are from the European Union or not. Figures on numbers of non-EU students at providers other than these ones are not readily available.

Providers delivering LSC funded further education courses	*EU*	*Non-EU*	*Total non-UK*
Cambridge Regional College	272	2,518	2,790
Chichester College	1,350	704	2,054
Newcastle College	193	1,353	1,546
Central Sussex College	1,242	299	1,541
Kent County Council	890	599	1,489
South Tyneside College	148	1,305	1,453
Boston College	1,148	220	1,368
Workers' Educational Association	531	819	1,350
Sussex Downs College	628	615	1,243
Gloucestershire College of Arts and Technology	708	392	1,100
Guildford College of Further and Higher Education	553	473	1,026
Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College	507	508	1,015
Brooklands College	671	341	1,012
Croydon London Borough Council	685	326	1,011
Blackpool and the Fylde College	222	755	977
Barnfield College	408	557	965
Richmond Adult Community College	762	202	964
Sheffield College, The	717	235	952
Tresham Institute of Further and Higher Education	804	119	923
West Cheshire College	830	85	915
Liverpool Community College	197	700	897
Bradford College	121	723	844
City College Manchester	48	782	830
The City Literary Institute	679	151	830
Solihull College	574	235	809
Morley College	665	236	801

Source:
ILR July 2006.

Student Loans Company

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many reviews were conducted by his Department and its predecessor into the workings of the Student Loans Company in the last three years; and if he will place the results in the Library. [175710]

Bill Rammell: There have been no reviews solely of the Student Loans Company in the last three years. However an end to end review of student finance delivery in England was commissioned in 2005. The review looked at the arrangements for delivering financial support to students, including the future role of the Student Loans Company. The findings of the review were published on 31 January 2006 and a copy of the report has been placed in the Library. On 3 July 2006, I announced in a statement to the House our response to the review including plans for transforming the student finance service which will be available for new students applying in September 2008 to enter higher education in 2009/10 academic year.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students from each London borough entering higher education applied for loans from the Student Loans Company in each year since 1997. [169231]

Bill Rammell: The available data are given in the table.

Number of students[1] in receipt of student loans. Students domiciled in each of the London boroughs. Academic years 1997/98 to 2006/07

London borough	*1997/98*	*1998/99*	*1999/2000*	*2000/01*	*2001/02*	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07[2]*
Barking and Dagenham	400	900	1,000	1,000	1,200	1,200	1,400	1,600	1,700	2,100
Barnet	2,000	4,300	4,800	5,300	5,800	6,000	5,900	6,100	6,500	6,900
Bexley	800	1,800	1,900	2,200	2,300	2,500	2,600	2,700	2,800	3,000
Brent	1,900	3,700	4,200	4,800	5,200	5,400	5,500	5,500	5,600	5,800
Bromley	1,600	3,300	3,400	3,800	4,100	4,400	4,500	4,600	4,800	5,000
Camden	1,000	2,000	2,000	2,300	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,600	2,700	2,600
Croydon	1,800	3,800	4,200	4,800	5,100	5,300	5,300	5,500	5,900	6,300
Ealing	1,700	3,400	4,100	4,600	5,100	5,400	5,400	5,600	5,900	6,100
Enfield	1,600	3,200	3,500	3,900	4,200	4,500	4,600	4,800	5,100	5,500
Greenwich	1,000	2,000	2,100	2,400	2,600	2,800	3,000	3,100	3,100	3,300
Hackney	1,100	2,300	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,800	2,900	3,000	3,300	3,300
Hammersmith and Fulham	800	1,500	1,500	1,700	1,800	1,800	1,900	1,900	2,000	2,000
Haringey	1,400	2,900	3,000	3,300	3,500	3,600	3,700	3,900	4,100	4,300
Harrow	1,600	3,200	3,800	4,200	4,700	5,000	5,200	5,400	5,500	5,800
Havering	700	1,600	1,700	1,900	2,100	2,100	2,300	2,400	2,600	2,800
Hillingdon	1,000	2,000	2,400	2,800	3,000	3,300	3,400	3,600	3,700	4,000
Hounslow	1,100	2,300	2,500	2,900	3,200	3,200	3,300	3,400	3,600	3,800
Islington	900	2,000	2,000	2,200	2,300	2,400	2,400	2,500	2,700	2,700
Kensington and Chelsea	600	1,300	1,300	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,500	1,500
Kingston upon Thames	800	1,800	1,900	2,100	2,300	2,500	2,500	2,600	2,800	2,900
Lambeth	1,500	3,000	3,100	3,300	3,500	3,700	3,800	4,000	4,300	4,200
Lewisham	1,400	2,700	2,900	3,200	3,400	3,500	3,700	3,800	4,000	4,300
Merton	1,000	1,900	2,100	2,400	2,600	2,700	2,700	2,800	2,900	3,000
Newham	1,300	2,700	3,000	3,600	3,900	4,000	4,300	4,300	4,700	5,100
Redbridge	1,500	3,100	3,400	3,800	4,300	4,700	4,900	4,900	5,200	5,500
Richmond upon Thames	1,100	2,300	2,400	2,600	2,800	2,800	3,000	3,000	3,200	3,300
Southwark	1,400	2,800	2,800	3,100	3,200	3,400	3,600	3,800	4,200	4,100
Sutton	800	1,700	1,900	2,200	2,400	2,500	2,500	2,700	2,800	2,900
Tower Hamlets[3]	600	1,400	1,700	1,900	2,200	2,300	2,400	2,600	2,800	2,800
Waltham Forest	1,100	2,300	2,500	2,900	3,100	3,300	3,500	3,400	3,600	3,900
Wandsworth	1,400	2,800	2,900	3,000	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,300	3,500	3,600
Westminster	800	1,500	1,400	1,500	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,700	1,800	1,900

[1] Student numbers rounded to the nearest hundred
[2] Fee loans are included from their introduction in 2006/07
[3] City of London is not shown separately since their applications are handled by Tower Hamlets

Source:
Student Loans Company (SLC)

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 14 January 2008

OLYMPICS

Look of London

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 919W, on Look of London, who was responsible for drawing up the estimate for the funding allocated to the Look of London while hosting the 2012 Olympic Games; and if she will make a statement. [177946]

Tessa Jowell: An allowance of £40 million for street dressing and cleaning to improve the Look of London was included in the original public sector funding package announced in 2003 and was reported by the Culture, Media and Sport Committee in their Third Report of Session 2002-03 "A London Olympic Bid for 2012" HC 268. The allowance was estimated by DCMS and was based on spending in Manchester on the Commonwealth Games. The allowance was revised downwards to £32 million, as a result of the cost review carried out by DCMS after the bid was won, and this amount was included in the revised public sector funding package that I announced on 15 March 2007. The expenditure on Look of London is not programmed until 2011-12 and 2012-13 and the details of how and to what extent the funds from this allowance will be drawn on will be determined before then.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Northern Ireland Certification Officer

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what meetings the Electoral Commission has had with the Northern Ireland Certification Officer since the establishment of the commission. [177707]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has had no meetings with the Northern Ireland Certification Officer.

Political Parties: Donors

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the answer of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 351W, on political parties: donors, on what date the most recent version of the donation and loans guidance was sent to each political party. [177708]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the guidance was published on 1 September 2006. A letter was sent on 8 September 2006 to all registered party treasurers in Great Britain announcing the publication of the guidance and its availability on the commission's website.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 922W, on political parties: finance, on what date the document, "Donations and loans: guidance for political parties in Great Britain" was sent to the Registered Treasurer of each registered political party; and whether the document was emailed or posted. [177706]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the guidance was published on 1 September 2006. A letter was sent by post on 8 September 2006 to all registered party treasurers in Great Britain announcing the publication of the guidance and its availability on the commission's website.

WALES

Departmental Christmas Cards

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on (*a*) Christmas cards and (*b*) postage of Christmas cards in 2007. [176912]

Mr. Hain: My Department spent £710.83 on Christmas cards in 2007.

Postage records are not in a format that allows individual items to be singled out. This could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Contracts

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the (*a*) objective and (*b*) value was of each contract placed with (i) Deloitte and Touche, (ii) Ernst and Young, (iii) KPMG, (iv) PricewaterhouseCoopers and (v) PA Consulting by his Department in each year since 2004-05. [179027]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office has not entered into any contracts, consultancies or other services with the aforementioned companies since 2004-05.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether personal data for which his Department is responsible is (*a*) stored and (*b*) processed overseas; and if he will make a statement. [176011]

Mr. Hain: My Department does not store or process personal data overseas.

Departmental Databases

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what obligations his Department and its agencies place on contractors in relation to the audit of personal data and IT equipment. [176471]

Mr. Hain: Within my Department, contractors have not conducted any audits of personal data.

All IT is provided to my Department under Ministry of Justice (MOJ) PFI contracts. Any audits would meet with regulations issued by MOJ. To date there have been no IT audits.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what audits his Department carried out in relation to personal data and IT equipment in each of the last 10 years. [176486]

Mr. Hain: My Department has not carried out any audits on personal data in the last 10 years.

Since 2004 all IT equipment within my Department has been provided under Ministry of Justice PFI contracts. There have been no audits within that time.

Prior to 2004 IT equipment was provided by the Welsh Assembly Government. The information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether any of his Department's special advisers also work for organisations outside his Department. [178471]

Mr. Hain: Neither of my special advisers work for any outside organisations.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what salary each of his Department's Ministers drew *(a)* in 2006-07 and *(b)* since July 2007. [178956]

Mr. Hain: Ministerial salaries are paid in accordance with the Ministerial and Other Salaries Act 1975. Details of ministerial salaries are available at:

http://www.parliament.uk/documents/upload/m06.pdf

and in the Library of the House.

English Language

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department has spent on English language classes for staff in the last year for which figures are available. [177428]

Mr. Hain: Nil.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Domestic Violence

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what plans the Government has to increase support for families affected by domestic violence. [172807]

Barbara Follett: Action on the National Domestic Violence Plan, including the delivery of support to victims and their families, is monitored through the Inter-departmental Ministerial Group on Domestic Violence, on which I sit.

A lot has been done to improve and increase the support available for families affected by domestic violence:

This year, the Home Office has allocated just under £6 million to tackle domestic violence including £2 million to support and improve local delivery on domestic violence for victims and their children and funding for improved public protection arrangements for domestic violence victims and a matrix of help lines to provide advice and support to victims and their families.

The Ministry of Justice has allocated £3 million for Independent Domestic Violence Advisers whose aim is the safety and support of victims and their children. This is in addition to annual court business costs.

The Every Child Matters: Change for Children programme aims to improve the welfare of all children by putting in place arrangements for earlier and more effective assessment and intervention for vulnerable children, such as those affected by domestic violence.

Communities and Local Government has developed a range of accommodation options for victims including Sanctuary scheme guidance, and £61 million of Supporting People funds were used by local authorities in 2006-07 to provide housing related support for victims of domestic violence and their families.

Guidance available for Jobcentre Plus staff provides advice about domestic violence and its potential impact on victims, explains the sorts of support they may need and provides advice on taking account of their particular circumstances when dealing with a benefit application. The guidance also has contact details of a range of organizations which provide advice and support to domestic violence victims.

Financial support in respect of children, such as child benefit and child tax credits, is paid to the person who is responsible for those children and is often already paid directly to mothers. Where there is any family breakdown, the benefits will, where necessary, normally be transferred to the person with whom the children are residing.

Domestic violence tears apart families and always negatively impacts on children. The Government recognise the strong links between child protection concerns and domestic violence. Victims leaving a violent relationship will often need a range of financial and practical support for themselves and their children. The Inter-departmental Ministerial Group will continue to monitor this aspect of delivery.

Equality

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether a racial impact assessment was carried out on the decision to reform the Women and Equality Unit as the Government Equalities Office. [170587]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 13 December 2007]*: No. The decision to create the Government Equalities Office did not in itself require a race equality impact assessment.

Human Trafficking

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what estimate she has made of the number of trafficked people who arrived in the UK in each of the

last five years, broken down by (*a*) country of origin and (*b*) sex; and how many of these were (i) British and (ii) foreign nationals. [174507]

Barbara Follett: The most up to date estimate suggests that at any one time in 2003 there were approximately 4,000 victims of trafficking for prostitution in the UK.

However, no research has been undertaken which would provide a basis for estimates of the number of trafficked people arriving in the UK in the last five years broken down by (*a*) country of origin or (*b*) sex, or for estimates on how many of these victims were (i) British or (ii) foreign nationals.

We do know that the top four nationalities of victims referred to the Poppy project are Lithuania/Albania/Nigeria and Thailand. The project has found that the largest number of referrals are for women aged between 17-25 years.

Religion: Harassment

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the Government's policy is on the introduction of a religious harassment offence covering insulting or abusive language. [170297]

Barbara Follett: The Government introduced statutory protection from harassment on grounds of religion or belief in employment and vocational training in 2003, as part of the Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations. As a consequence, where an individual is subjected to unwanted conduct in the workplace, which violates their dignity or creates an intimidating, hostile, degrading or offensive environment for them, they have recourse to a civil remedy through employment tribunal.

As part of the Discrimination Law Review, we recently consulted on the possibility of extending similar statutory protection from harassment on grounds of religion or belief in the provision of goods, facilities and services, education in schools, the management or disposal of premises and in the exercise of public functions.

The Government Equalities Office is currently analysing over 4,000 responses which were received as a result of the consultation, and we will carefully consider the views expressed in these responses before any decisions are taken.

The aim of any provisions in this area would be to clarify the existing protection from less favourable treatment because of a person's religion or belief when accessing goods, facilities or services, offered by part 2 (religion or belief) of the Equality Act 2006. If we decided to legislate in this area, it would not affect social interaction between private individuals, or prevent proselytising in the street. As with the employment provisions, harassment provisions in this context would give rise to civil remedies, not create any criminal offences of religious harassment.

The separate, criminal offence of incitement to religious hatred came into force on 1 October 2007. This covers threatening words and behaviour which is intended to stir up religious hatred.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Pay

Mr. Evans: To ask the Leader of the House what the cost of the Senior Salary Review Body's most recent review of hon. Members' and Ministers' pay was. [178054]

Ms Harman: The current cost of the review is £136,296 and covers SSRB Members' fees, and travel and subsistence, and consultancy costs. The cost of publishing the report has not been finalised.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Archaeology: Finance

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport why funding for the Portable Antiquities Scheme was not ring-fenced in the Comprehensive Spending Review; and if he will make a statement. [176798]

James Purnell *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is funded by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) and so any decisions on its funding are a matter for the MLA. The MLA has already committed to maintain current levels of support for the scheme for 2008-09. Since the 2004 spending review, the Department's funding allocation to the MLA has not included ring-fencing for the PAS.

Casinos: Planning Permission

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to bring forward proposals to authorise the development of 16 small and large casinos; and if he will make a statement. [178324]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In July 2007 the Secretary of State wrote to the 16 licensing authorities recommended for the eight large and eight small casinos to see if they still wished to license a casino. Ministers are now considering the next steps.

Culture

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the role of the cultural ambassador for the United Kingdom is; if he will break down the allocated budget by mission statement priorities; and what prior discussions were held with the British Council on respective responsibilities and avoiding duplication. [178216]

Margaret Hodge: The World Collections programme, which will be chaired by Neil MacGregor, director of the British Museum, (acting as a cultural ambassador for the UK), will share the best of British cultural excellence and expertise with museums in Africa and Asia.

The programme will receive £3 million over three years from April 2008. This will be spent on supporting activities agreed by the six partner organisations (British Museum, British Library, Tate, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Natural History Museum and V&A) with further details to be determined.

We have worked closely with the British Council and others in developing this programme, which is fully supported by all involved.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the Winter Supplementary Estimates (HC 29), if he will break down his Department's (*a*) main estimate and (*b*) winter supplementary estimate provision by subhead in (i) near cash and (ii) non-cash terms. [174988]

Margaret Hodge: Near-cash and non-cash are essentially used as Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) budgetary control concepts and are not specifically identified with voted resources in Estimates. However, we have been able to break down net total resources for each section in the Part II: Subhead detail table of our Main and Winter Supplementary Estimates.

Line F, funding for the Royal Parks Agency in RfR1 includes non-cash costs of £2.571 million which did not increase in the Winter Supplementary Estimate. Similarly Line 1, relating to Administration and Research has non-cash costs totalling £5.947 million that have not increased in year. All other provision in the Estimate is near cash.

Domestic Visits

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will list each event attended by the Minister for Sport in an official role since June; and what the cost of facilitating attendance was in each case. [166020]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following table lists each event I have attended in an official role since June 2007:

Date	*Event*
6 July	Langley House Trust Awards Ceremony, Bradford
8 July	British Grand Prix, Silverstone
17 July	Northampton Racecourse Park Changing Facilities Opening Launch
28 July	Bulls vs St. Helens, Challenge Cup Semi Final, Huddersfield
3 August	Grand Prix Athletics, Crystal Palace
4 August	England vs Wales, Twickenham
5 August	Manchester United vs Chelsea (Charity Shield), Wembley
25 August	St. Helens vs Catalan Dragons, Carnegie Challenge Cup Final, Wembley
26 August	UK School Games, Coventry
5 September	Your Game reception, 11 Downing Street
6 September	Visit to Warrington Town FC and Warrington Wolves
7 September	Junior Whitter vs Vivian Harris, Doncaster
12 September	England vs Russia, Wembley Stadium
14 September	England vs South Africa, Stade de France
15 September	Racing at Doncaster
2 October	British Olympic Association Annual Ball, London
8 October	Boston Celtics Reception, Foreign Office
9 October	Gamcare Annual Conference, London
10 October	Boston Celtics vs Minnesota Timberwolves NBA exhibition match, 02 Arena, London
13 October	Super League Grand Final, Old Trafford
15 October	Annual Outstanding Service to Cricket Awards, Lords Cricket Ground
16 October	Visit to English Institute of Sport, Loughborough
17 October	Wheel Appeal Launch, London
20 October	England vs South Africa World Cup final, Paris
22 October	Boxing Writers Club dinner, London
24 October	EU Sports Ministers Conference, Estoril, Portugal
30 October	Responsibility in Gambling Trust Seminar, London
1 November	IT Sports Industry Cocktail Reception, London
2 November	Sport and Recreation Association Moulin Rouge Charity dinner, Bradford
3 November	Joe Calzaghe vs Mikkel Kessler, Millennium Stadium, Cardiff
7 November	Visit to Olympic Park, Stratford
8 November	Visit to Silverstone Circuit
12 November	World Class Coaching Conference dinner, Sutton Coldfield
13 November	Stewards of the National Greyhound Club Dinner, London
14 November	Society and the Value of Sport Conference, London
14 November	Remote Gambling Association AGM, London
14 November	Business in Sport and Leisure Lunch, London
15 November	World Anti-Doping in Sport Conference, Madrid
20 November	Institute of Licensing Conference, Bristol. Visit to Bath University sports facilities
21 November	England vs Croatia, Wembley
22 November	BACTA Convention, London
24 November	Visit to Haydock racecourse
26 November	Visit to Fulham FC training ground, New Malden
28 November	DCLG Living Places Launch, London
28 November	Surf Life Saving Great Britain and rescue 2010 Great Britain reception, London
29 November	Angling Awards Ceremony, London
2 December	PFA Centenary Event, Manchester
3 December	Yorkshire Sports Awards, Brigg
5 December	Launch of Coping Through Football, Emirates Stadium, London
6 December	Queensbury Rugby League Dinner, Bradford
9 December	BBC Sports Personality of the Year, Birmingham
12 December	Sports Journalists Association Award Lunch, London
12 December	Annual UK Coaching Awards, London
15 December	Red card against racism event, Valley Parade, Bradford
19 December	BBC Sports Weeks Lunch

Details of costs for each individual case is not held centrally by the Department. However, details of any expenditure in 2007-08 will be available when the Department's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament.

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers.

Music: Young People

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department has (*a*) taken since 1997 and (*b*) plans to take in each of the next three years to make music studios more accessible to young people; what discussions he has had since June 2007 with representatives of the music industry about this issue; and if he will make a statement. [177320]

Margaret Hodge: The Government recognise the importance of young, developing musicians having access to affordable and professional facilities to rehearse and perform live music. That is why, following a recommendation by the Live Music Forum, we recently asked Feargal Sharkey, the ex-chair of the Forum, to work with local authorities, the music industry and other partners over the next two years to establish a number of pilot music rehearsal spaces across the country. £500,000 has been allocated to assist with the cost of setting up these pilots. In the longer term, we will continue to explore what other funding streams may be available for this purpose, such as our proposed unclaimed assets scheme. As part of this initiative, my officials have spoken to representatives of the British phonographic industry, the Association of Independent Music and Sony BMG Music Entertainment (UK) who have agreed to assist.

Olympic Games 2012: National Lottery

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of National Lottery funding for good causes will be allocated to hosting the London 2012 Olympic Games in each relevant year. [177110]

James Purnell: As announced on 15 March 2007, and subject to parliamentary approval, we intend to transfer £1,085 million from the national lottery distribution fund to the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund. The profile of these transfers by year is as follows:

	£ million
2008-09	73
2009-10	292
2010-11	292
2011-12	292
2012-13	136

In addition, the Sport Lottery distributors will be spending £340 million on Olympic-related projects, the profile of which is at their discretion; and £750 million is being raised from dedicated Olympic Lottery products from 2005-06, the timing of which is dependent on the commercial view of the operator and the regulator.

On current projections, the £2,175 million total contribution to the Olympics represents less than 20 per cent. of expected Lottery income over the eight years from 2005-06 to 2012-13.

Tourism

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on how many occasions (*a*) he and (*b*) the Minister for Tourism has met (i) VisitBritain, (ii) the Tourism Alliance and (iii) other tourism related organisations in the last 12 months. [176898]

Margaret Hodge: Over the last 12 months my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and his predecessor held the following meetings:

	Meeting
22 January 2007	Meeting with Christopher Rodrigues, Chairman, Visit Britain
12 March 2007	Attended the launch British Tourism week
13 March 2007	Attended the British Travel Fair in Birmingham
24 April 2007	Meeting with Christopher Rodrigues, Visit Britain
18 July 2007	Meeting with Christopher Rodrigues and Tom Wright, Visit Britain
7 August 2007	Meeting with the Tourism Industry Emergency Response group (TIER)
14 August 2007	Breakfast meeting with TIER
18 October 2007	Meeting with Christopher Rodrigues and Tom Wright, Visit Britain
15 November 2007	Meeting with Brian Wisdom, People 1st

I and my predecessor held the following meetings:

	Meeting
30 November 2006	Speaking at the Business in Sport and Leisure Conference
17 January 2007	Meeting with the Business Tourism Partnership Forum
24 January 2007	Meeting with the Tourism Management Institute, Destination Performance UK, Tourism Society, Institute of Leisure and Amenities Management and British Resort and Destinations Association
19 January 2007	Meeting with Christopher Rodrigues, VisitBritain
19 January 2007	MAG Meeting
19 January 2007	Meeting with Tom Wright, VisitBritain
7 March 2007	4th Tourism Skills Summit
12 March 2007	Attended the Launch of British Tourism Week
27 March 2007	MAG Meeting
18 April 2007	Meeting with the Tourism Alliance
30 April 2007	Meeting with Grant Hearn, Travelodge Ltd.
2 May 2007	Meeting with Grant Hearn, Travelodge Ltd.
9 May 2007	MAG Meeting
14 May 2007	The British Holiday and Home Parks Association, and Norfolk tourism businesses representatives
8 June 2007	Liverpool tourism business representatives
18 June 2007	Dudley tourism business representatives
21 June 2007	MAG Meeting
11 July 2007	Meeting with TIER
17 July 2007	Meeting with Bob Cotton, British Hospitality Association, and Brigid Simmonds, Business in Sport and Leisure
18 July 2007	Meeting with Ros Pritchard, British Holiday and Home Parks Association and Peter Hampson, British Resort and Destinations
18 July 2007	Meeting with Christopher Rodrigues and Tom Wright, Visit Britain

	Meeting
10 July 2007	Meeting with Hugh Taylor, Hilton Group
25 July 2007	The British Educational Travel Association Summer Reception
11 September 2007	Meeting with the Tourism Alliance
17 September 2007	Launch of the DCMS Tourism Strategy for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games
10 October 2007	Launch of Partners 4 England
16 October 2007	National Visitor Attractions Conference
16 October 2007	Meeting with Destination Performance UK and Tourism Together
18 October 2007	Meeting with Tom Wright and Christopher Rodrigues, VisitBritain
22 October 2007	Land Use Planning and Tourism Regional Seminar
25 October 2007	Meeting with Michael Hirst and Representatives from the Events Sector
12 November 2007	Meeting with Lancashire and Blackpool Tourism Board
15 November 2007	Breakfast Meeting with the Tourism Alliance
26 November 2007	Meeting with Bob Cotton of British Hospitality Association
28 November 2007	Launch of the Good Employer Guide
28 November 2007	National Skills Strategy Monitoring and Implementation Group
29 November 2007	Meeting with Tom Wright and Christopher Rodrigues (CSR)
3 December 2007	Visitor Attractions Forum
5 December 2007	Tourism APPG Dinner
13 December 2007	VisitBritain Board Meeting

Tourist Information: Rural Areas

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many tourism information centres in rural areas have been closed in each of the last five years, broken down by local authority area. [178461]

Margaret Hodge: Figures on an annual basis by local authority area are not available.

Television Licensing

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many pensioners over 75 years in Hendon have free television licences.[177500]

James Purnell: TV Licensing, which administers free television licences for people aged 75 or over as agents for the BBC, is not able to provide geographical breakdowns of the number of free licences issued. However, the number of households with at least one person aged 75 or over claiming the winter fuel payment in the Hendon constituency in 2006-07 was 5,820, according to the records of the Department for Work and Pensions.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Head Teachers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the National Professional Qualification for Headship will be compulsory for all new head teachers of academies, including those changing schools; and if he will make a statement. [177013]

Jim Knight: The National Professional Qualification for Headship is not compulsory for new head teachers of Academies. However, we would expect all Academies to have robust policies in place for the performance management and continuing professional development of all staff.

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many section 7 cases were completed by the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in each of the last five financial years; and what the cost was of such work; [175760]

(2) which Children and Family Court and Advisory Support Service regions will be recruiting additional staff during the 2007-08 financial year; and what estimate he has made of the cost of such additional staff. [175759]

(3) what plans he has to recalculate workload measurements for Children and Family Court and Advisory Support Service staff; and whether this will involve additional expenditure; [175758]

(4) on how many occasions Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service staff were involved in early intervention or dispute resolution during the financial year 2007-08; and what the cost was of such work. [175761]

Kevin Brennan: These are matters for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS). Anthony Douglas, the Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

Letter from Anthony Douglas, dated 9 December 2007:

I am writing to you in response to the four Parliamentary Questions that you tabled recently.

175760 To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how many section 7 cases were completed by the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in each of the last five financial years, and what the cost was of such work.

175759 To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, which Children and family Court Advisory Support Service regions will be recruiting additional staff during the current financial year, and what the estimated cost is of such additional staff.

175758 To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, what plans he has to recalculate workload measurements for children and Family Court and Advisory Support Service staff, and whether this will involve additional expenditure.

Another MP (Ms Julie Morgan, Parliamentary Questions 162332, 162296 and 162297) has asked similar questions for the above three parliamentary questions. A response was sent on 3 December 2007 and a copy can be found in the House Library.

175761 To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, on how many occasions Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service staff were involved in early intervention or dispute resolution during the financial year 2007-08 and what the cost was of such work.

We have provided figures from April 2007 to end of November 2007 in the table below. However, as Unit Costs are calculated at the end of each financial year we have used the Unit Cost figures

from 2006-07, therefore these figures should be considered as indicative only. The cost has been calculated by multiplying the number of hours spent on Dispute Resolution in the year by the Unit Cost[1] (2006-07) for an hour of practitioner activity. Statistics do not currently fully capture all case related support activity and we plan a diary survey in the spring which will enable us to make more accurate calculations and calculate averages in respect of time taken on such work. Related activity in screening cases coming before the courts prior to embarking on Dispute Resolution is also not included in these figures but plays an important part in ensuring appropriate safeguards are in place.

Financial year	Total dispute resolution hours	Unit cost (£ per hour)[2]	Total cost (£)
April 2007 to November 2007 (does not incl. Wales)	47,642	50	2,382,100

[1] Unit costs are calculated at the end of each financial year dividing the total Direct[2] spend for the Organisation by the estimated number of hours spent on Public and Private Law cases completed in the year. As unit costs are not available for the period April to November 2007 we have used the unit cost for 2006/07.

[2] Direct spend only includes costs directly linked to practice e.g. Staff Salary, Training, Travel and Subsistence. It does not include indirect costs e.g. Accommodation, Recruitment and Utilities.

Another MP (Ms Julie Morgan Parliamentary Question 162333) has asked a similar question for the above parliamentary question. A response was sent on 3 December 2007 and a copy can be found in the House Library.

A copy of this reply will be placed in the House Library.

Education: Isle of Wight

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 630W, on education: Isle of Wight, for what reason the recent presentation by his Department's officials on challenges facing schools on the Isle of Wight described schools reorganisation as necessary; and if he will make a statement. [178049]

Jim Knight: The presentation given by DCSF officials on 15 November 2007 was given on the basis of existing proposals, then under consideration. The Department did not recommend the re-organisation of schools on the Isle of Wight but it was stated that re-organisation on its own would probably not be sufficient to raise the standards of attainment in the authority's schools. It was made clear that any decision to reorganise would be entirely for local decision within the Isle of Wight, but that the problems in relation to school under-performance were immediate and re-organisation alone will not be sufficient to resolve them.

Pupils: Assessments

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of school pupils in Hendon achieved *(a)* level 4 or above at key stage 2 and *(b)* level 5 or above at key stage 3 in (i) English, (ii) mathematics, (iii) science and (iv) English, mathematics and science in 2007. [177731]

Jim Knight: The latest available information is set out in the following tables:

Percentage of school pupils achieving level 4 or above at key stage 2, 2007

	Percentage of pupils achieving level 4 plus			
	English	Mathematics	Science	English, mathematics and science
Hendon	85	80	89	75
England	80	77	88	71

Notes

1. Revised data.
2. England figures are based on all schools.

Percentage of school pupils achieving level 5 or above at key stage 3, 2006

	Percentage of pupils achieving level 5 plus			
	English	Mathematics	Science	English, mathematics and science
Hendon	81	82	77	71
England	73	77	72	63

Notes

1. Final data.
2. England figures are based on all schools.

Key stage 3 2007 revised data are scheduled for publication in February 2008.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many appeals were lodged by parents against non-admission of their children to schools in Barnet in the last year for which figures are available; what percentage of appeals were successful; where Barnet ranks in each case in relation to other local education authorities in *(a)* London and *(b)* England; and if he will make a statement. [177496]

Jim Knight: Information from the School Census and Admission Appeals Survey shows that in 2005/06, the latest year for which data is available, there were 66 appeals lodged by parents against non-admission to primary schools in Barnet local authority, 42.9 per cent. of which were successful; and 704 appeals lodged by parents against non-admissions to secondary schools in Barnet local authority, 24.9 per cent. of which were successful.

In terms of the numbers of appeals lodged, Barnet local authority ranks: *(a)* 20th out of 33 at primary and 4th out of 33 at secondary when compared with all London authorities; and *(b)* 50th out of all 150 at primary and 18th out of all 150 at secondary when compared with all local authorities in England, where the authority ranked 1 has the highest number appeals lodged.

In terms of the percentage of successful appeals, Barnet local authority ranks: *(a)* 2nd out of 33 at primary and 4th out of 33 at secondary when compared with all London local authorities; and *(b)* 50th out of 150 at primary and 105th out of 150 at secondary when compared with all local authorities in England, where the authority ranked 1 has the highest percentage of successful appeals.

Schools: Capital Investment

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools in Hendon have received capital funding from the Government since 1997; how much each school received; how much of that funding was for *(a)* new school buildings and *(b)* major repairs; and if he will make a statement. [177729]

Jim Knight: Capital allocations are made by the Department to local authorities and to schools, who prioritise how they are spent in local asset management plans. Departmental allocations may also be supplemented by other resources available locally. The Department does not impose conditions on how resources should be spent and, accordingly, does not keep records of the split between *(a)* new school buildings and *(b)* major repairs.

Total allocations are recorded by the Department on a local authority basis, and Hendon lies within Barnet. Allocations to Barnet and its schools for the period 1997-98 to 2007-08 are set out in the following table:

	£ million
1997-98	1.8
1998-99	5.6
1999-2000	3.9
2000-01	11.9
2001-02	7.5
2002-03	15.9
2003-04	12.0
2004-05	18.5
2005-06	15.1
2006-07	41.4
2007-08	13.6

Large changes in allocations from year to year are due to bid-based projects, and these supplement formulaic allocations. In 2004-05 and 2005-06, £6.8 million and £4.4 million was allocated respectively for Targeted Capital Fund projects. In 2006-07, an additional £28.4 million was allocated in respect of a Building Schools for the Future school pathfinder project.

Schools: Uniforms

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to ensure schools' uniform policies are fair, reasonable and inclusive. [177702]

Jim Knight: The Department published guidance in October 2007 which provides advice to schools on how to formulate fair, reasonable, affordable and inclusive school uniform policies.

In addition, the School Admissions Code makes clear that all governing bodies must take steps to ensure that their policies, including school uniform policies, do not disadvantage certain social groups or discourage some groups of parents from applying for places.

Schools: Wolverhampton

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the merits of proposals to create project-based rather than discipline-based schools in Wolverhampton. [177303]

Jim Knight: I have made no assessment of the merits of these proposals. Schools are required to teach pupils all of the statutory content of the programmes of study for the compulsory subjects specified for each of the Key Stages.

How schools design their curriculum and structure their teaching and learning to ensure that they meet the statutory requirements of the curriculum is entirely a matter for them. Wolverhampton schools will be expected to monitor the effectiveness of their project-based curriculum, while Ofsted will provide an external assessment.

Science: GCE A Levels

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* the academic rigour of and *(b)* the ability level required to study A level (i) physics and (ii) chemistry courses; and if he will make a statement. [177312]

Jim Knight: It is for the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) as the qualifications regulator to ensure maintenance of standards in A level, including the level of what is assessed and the rigour applied in doing so. QCA is robust in ensuring that standards are maintained: with reference to A levels, an OECD Independent Committee on exam standards concluded in late 2004 that:

"No examination system at the school or other level is so tightly or carefully managed".

Last year QCA accredited new A level specifications, including in physics and chemistry, which will be taught from September this year. As these are revised qualifications, QCA has proposed that it will take a more active role in monitoring the setting of the first question papers to ensure that standards are maintained.

Special Educational Needs: Manpower

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many special educational needs co-ordinators there were per pupil in each local authority in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement; [177218]

(2) how many special educational needs co-ordinators were employed in maintained schools in each year since 2001. [177219]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Specialist Diplomas

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools in Hendon will offer the new diplomas from September 2008; what financial assistance they will receive from his Department to do so; and if he will make a statement. [177728]

Jim Knight: Schools, colleges and other providers wishing to offer the new Diplomas need to pass through a Gateway process, which assesses their readiness for doing so. We did not receive a Gateway application from schools in Hendon to offer the new Diplomas from September 2008. We have, however, received an application from a consortium in Barnet aiming to offer the Creative and Media Diploma from September 2009. This consortium includes Copthall School from Hendon. The London Academy is also a partner in a joint application to offer the Construction and Built Environment Diploma from a group of North London boroughs. We plan to announce the results of this year's Gateway exercise by the end of March and financial assistance will depend upon whether these applications are successful.

Local authorities with pupils starting Diplomas in 2009 will receive funding for pupils taking Diplomas at Key Stage 4 through the Diploma grant and through the Dedicated Schools Grant. The Learning and Skills Council will provide funding for 16 to 18-year-olds taking Diplomas in sixth forms and colleges. Other support will also be provided to those who pass through the Gateway in March 2008 to ensure they are fully equipped to deliver from September 2009. This will include a comprehensive package of work force training and support, and a specific Gateway support grant to support Diploma and Functional Skills delivery.

PRIME MINISTER

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister what discussions he has had with Government officials on negotiations with the Taliban in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [178555]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to my statement on Afghanistan on 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 303.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Prime Minister on how many occasions and on what dates when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer he visited British troops deployed abroad. [177116]

The Prime Minister: Since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. Copies of these lists are available in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister whether his predecessor visited the combat stress centres at *(a)* Tyrwhitt House, *(b)* Hollybush House and *(c)* Audley Court between 1 April and 26 June 2007. [179083]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my predecessor (right hon. Tony Blair) to the hon. Member for Forest of Dean (Mr. Harper) on 15 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 2032W.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister whether any of his Department's special advisers also work for organisations outside his Department. [178490]

The Prime Minister: Special advisers are appointed under the terms and conditions set out in the Model Contract and Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

Departmental Redundancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister what the cost was of redundancies in his Office in the 12 months preceding *(a)* 30 June 2004, *(b)* 30 June 2005 and *(c)* 30 June 2006. [175331]

The Prime Minister: I refer to the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron) today.

Lord Ashcroft

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister if he will instruct the Cabinet Secretary to respond to the request of the hon. Member for Pendle, made at the meeting of the Public Administration Select Committee on 15 November 2007, for information on the nature of the undertaking given by Michael Ashcroft in 2000 about his UK residence for tax purposes. [177910]

The Prime Minister: The Cabinet Secretary has replied to my hon. Friend.

Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister what discussions he has had with trade unions officials on a future national policy forum. [178556]

The Prime Minister: My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Antisocial Behaviour Disorders

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many antisocial behaviour orders were issued in each parliamentary constituency in Northern Ireland in 2007. [178492]

Paul Goggins: The relevant authorities have notified the Northern Ireland Office of 60 antisocial behaviour orders being granted in Northern Ireland since they were made available in August 2004. The relevant authorities have reported that nine of these orders were made in 2005, 32 in 2006 and 19 in 2007.

Location of antisocial behaviour orders

Court area	*Total number of ASBOs*
Antrim	2
Ballymena	13

Location of antisocial behaviour orders

Court area	*Total number of ASBOs*
Bangor	2
Belfast	18
Coleraine	3
Craigavon	2
Derry	3
Downpatrick	2
Dungannon	3
Enniskillen	1
Larne	3
Lisburn	1
Magherafelt	1
Newry	3
Newtownards	2
Omagh	1

We do not collect data by parliamentary constituency.

Departmental Christmas Cards

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* postage of Christmas cards in 2007. [176759]

Mr. Woodward: The following table gives a breakdown of the amount spent by the NIO on Christmas cards in 2007.

Christmas cards 2007

	£
Secretary of State's cards	823
Ministers' cards	576
Total	1,399

Departmental Databases

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether personal data for which his Department is responsible is *(a)* stored and *(b)* processed overseas; and if he will make a statement. [176015]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland does not store or process personal data overseas.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether any of his Department's special advisers also work for organisations outside his Department. [178473]

Mr. Woodward: My special advisers do not work for any outside organisations.

Emergency Calls

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many 999 calls were received by the Police Service of Northern Ireland *(a)* in the year before the introduction of their non-emergency 0854 600 8000 number and *(b)* between November 2006 and October 2007. [171785]

Paul Goggins: The PSNI introduced its non-emergency number 0845 600 8000 on 1 November 2005. Between November 2006 and October 2007, more than 173,000 calls were made to this number.

The PSNI receives approximately 300,000 emergency 999 calls per annum.

Complete information on the number of 999 calls received by the PSNI is available from June 2007. For the periods November 2004 to October 2005 and November 2006 to May 2007, information is only available for 999 calls received within PSNI's Urban region. Systems were not in place to collate the number of 999 calls received within Rural region during these periods. Systems were implemented for Rural region from June 2007 with the introduction of enhanced technology and the consolidation of rural control rooms.

The figures do not permit comparisons to be made because of changes to district structures.

The total number of 999 calls received on a monthly basis from June to October 2007 is shown in the following table.

1997	*Total 999 calls received by PSNI*
June	19,457
July	20,788
August	21,022
September	20,124
October	21,004

Fuels: Smuggling

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with police authorities in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland on fuel smuggling; and if he will make a statement. [176849]

Paul Goggins: As Her Majesty's Treasury are the lead Department in respect of revenue fraud, HM Revenue and Customs have primacy in respect of fuel smuggling in Northern Ireland, and have strong and effective links with their counterparts in the Revenue Commissioners in the Republic of Ireland.

I have had recent discussions through the Organised Crime Task Force with the Police Service of Northern Ireland and HM Revenue and Customs in respect of tackling fuel smuggling; law enforcement agencies on both sides of the border work in partnership to disrupt fuel smugglers, confiscate their illegal assets and bring them before the courts.

Immigration Controls

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the Home Department on the Common Travel Area; and if he will make a statement. [176091]

Paul Goggins: There is a review of the operation of the Common Travel Area under way at present. However, there is no question of ending the principle that Common Travel Area nationals are not subject to immigration control on the internal borders.

I have had discussions with the Immigration Minister in the Home Office about the Common Travel Area. These discussions will continue as the review progresses. My officials are also in regular contact with their counterparts in the Home Office on this issue.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Graduates

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to his answer of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1212W, on Police Service of Northern Ireland: graduates, (1) if he will consider including educational qualifications as part of the Police Service of Northern Ireland recruitment process; [174856]

(2) if he will consider including educational qualifications as part of the Police Service of Northern Ireland recruitment process. [174862]

Paul Goggins: The recruiting process for regular constables assesses candidate competency against the role profile for the job. This is consistent with practice across the UK. Competencies tested reflect national standards and measure ability to perform the role. The Police Service of Northern Ireland is content that the recruiting process continues to meet best practice standards, and is confident that the police college student officer programme is comprehensive, robust and fit for purpose.

There are therefore no plans to introduce academic qualifications as pre-entry criteria.

Prisoner Escapes

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many prisoners have escaped custody while on their way to court in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [177870]

Paul Goggins: No prisoners have escaped from the custody of prison staff while on their way to court in Northern Ireland during the last three years. However, a high risk prisoner escaped from the holding cells at Lisburn courthouse on 7 June 2005 while in the custody of Maybin Custodial Services. The escape was fully investigated. Every effort is now made to avoid sending high risk prisoners to Lisburn. If necessary, additional safeguards are put in place.

Prisons: Telephones

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what monitoring is undertaken of telephone calls made by inmates of Northern Ireland prisons. [175796]

Paul Goggins: In accordance with the prison rules, all telephone calls made by inmates in Northern Ireland prisons are recorded; they are randomly monitored for security reasons. The only exception to this is telephone calls to legal advisers and confidential calls to the Samaritans, Prisoner Ombudsman, Crimestoppers and addiction counsellors.

Regulation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for which regulators and inspectorates his Department has had responsibility in each year since 1997; what the budget was of each such body in each year; and what the cost to the public purse was of any restructuring of each such body in each year. [175318]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office has responsibility for the following regulators/inspectorates since 1997.

The cost of the Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland was:

	£
2004-05	833,112
2005-06	1,277,718
2006-07	1,245,910

There were no costs for restructuring.

In addition, the Prisoner Ombudsman has been in existence since 2005 and their budget incorporates a Secretariat function for the Independent Monitoring Board for prisons. This could be disaggregated only at disproportionate cost. There were no costs for restructuring.

Schools

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what procedure was used in selecting Mr. Vivian Thomas as consultant to the Bain Review; what remuneration he receives; and what role there was in the appointment process by his predecessor as Secretary of State, the right hon. Member for Neath. [179053]

Mr. Woodward: The Secretary of State ceased to be in charge of the Northern Ireland Departments on 8 May 2007 when devolution was restored and the Northern Ireland Executive took over responsibility. Papers relating to the appointment of Mr. Vivian Thomas are held by the Department of Education Northern Ireland which has been asked to provide me with the information requested by the hon. Member.

TRANSPORT

A1: Nottinghamshire

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effect of the removal of the final three roundabouts on the A1 in Nottinghamshire on the safety of access to the road. [177850]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency presented a safety assessment for each of the three junction improvements on the A1 in Nottinghamshire at their respective public inquiries. These junctions are three of six roundabouts that will be improved as part of the A1 Peterborough to Blyth grade separated junction improvement scheme.

The assessments indicate that safety will be improved as a result of the scheme. It will remove the existing roundabouts and replace them with new two-level

junctions allowing the A1 traffic to pass straight through the junctions with slip roads providing links to local roads.

It will remove conflicting traffic turning movements between the A1 and the local road network, reducing accidents and congestion.

Airports: Police

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost was to each local authority in London arising from the police service agreements for each designated airport servicing London in the latest period for which figures are available. [177046]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Police service agreements are currently being finalised at the nine designated airports in the UK, including the three serving London Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted. The police costs set out in those agreements will be met by the airport operator and not local authorities.

Aviation: Mobile Phones

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions have taken place between the Civil Aviation Authority and her Department on mobile telephone use in aeroplanes. [177287]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department sought information from the Civil Aviation Authority in July 2007 on the European Aviation Safety Agency certification of airborne global system for mobile communications (GSM), and this was provided.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the policy of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Civil Aviation Authority is on the use of mobile telephones in aeroplanes. [177288]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department's policy is not to object to the use of mobile telephones in aeroplanes, provided that the CAA states that their use is safe. The installation of systems that enable the use of mobile phones is a matter for individual airlines, who will take the views of their passengers into account.

The safety policy of the CAA is set out in the CAA's Aeronautical Information Circular (AIC) No. 1/2004, which is updated as necessary. This deals with the use of portable electronic devices of all kinds, including mobile telephones, in aircraft. It specifies the main categories of such equipment, and imposes a duty on operators to ensure the use of devices does not affect the safety of the aircraft.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent research *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Civil Aviation Authority has undertaken on the effect of mobile telephone use on planes on flight systems. [177289]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The most recent research undertaken on the effects on aircraft flight systems of mobile telephones used by passengers is CAA Paper 2003/03 entitled "Effects of Interference from Cellular Telephones on Aircraft Avionic Equipment", published 30 April 2003 at: www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/CAPA2003_03PDF

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Civil Aviation Authority has undertaken on the effect of the introduction of mobile telephone use on aeroplanes on the incidence of air rage. [177290]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) have not carried out any research on the effect of the introduction of mobile telephone use on aeroplanes on the incidence of air rage. However, the CAA's disruptive database does record incidents where mobile phones have been the subject of a disruptive passenger incident. Typical examples would include passengers refusing to turn off their mobile phones or attempting to use them in flight when asked not to.

Blue Badge Scheme

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the independent strategic review of the blue badge scheme will be published; and if she will place a copy in the Library. [178957]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I can confirm that the independent strategic review will be published shortly and copies will be placed in the House Library.

Blyth Flyover

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects Blyth flyover to be opened on the A1 in Nottinghamshire; and what the contracted date for completion of the flyover is. [177849]

Mr. Tom Harris: The new bridge at Blyth opened to traffic on 19 December 2007. The new A1 passing under the new bridge carrying the local roads is planned to open to traffic in mid-March 2008.

The contractual date of completion of the junction is late April 2008.

British Railways Board: Property

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will place in the Library a list of all property, including railway structures, owned by the British Railways Board (Residuary). [178139]

Mr. Tom Harris: A list of BRB (Residuary) Ltd.'s (BRBR) railway structures was placed in the Library of the House in 2006. I will arrange for an updated list to be placed in the Library shortly. Details of BRBR's non-operational property are available on their website at www.brbr.gov.uk. The company also has leasehold interests in the following buildings.

Birmingham, Axis
Birmingham, Meridian
Crewe, Rail House
Croydon, Southern House
Croydon, Stephenson House
Liverpool, Rail House
London N1, Whittles House
London SE1, Friars Bridge Court

Manchester, Rail House
Nottingham, Furlong House
Orpington, Nightingale House
Southampton, Overline House

Cars: Fuels

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage change there has been in the average fuel efficiency of cars sold in England in each year since 1997. [178134]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The annual changes in grammes-per-kilometre carbon dioxide emissions and litres-per-100-kilometres fuel consumption are as follows:

	Average new car CO_2 (g/km)	*Annual percentage change*	*Cumulative percentage change*	*Fuel consumption (l/100km)*	*Annual percentage change*	*Cumulative percentage change*
1997	190		0.0	7.96		0.0
1998	188	-0.7	-0.7	7.91	-0.6	-0.6
1999	185	-1.8	-2.5	7.78	-1.6	-2.3
2000	181	-2.2	-4.6	7.61	-2.2	-4.4
2001	178	-1.7	-6.2	7.44	-2.2	-6.5
2002	175	-1.8	-7.9	7.26	-2.4	-8.8
2003	173	-1.2	-9.0	7.14	-1.7	-10.3
2004	171	-0.8	-9.7	7.03	-1.5	-11.7
2005	170	-0.9	-10.6	6.93	-1.4	-12.9
2006	168	-1.2	-11.6	6.84	-1.3	-14.1
2007	[1]165	[1]-1.4	[1]-13.1	[1]6.71	[1]-1.9	[1]-15.7

[1] 2007 figures for g/km CO_2 emissions come from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders. Those for fuel consumption in 2007 are extrapolated from the SMMT figures.

Christmas

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* postage of Christmas cards in 2007. [176909]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information is as follows.

Christmas cards 2007

	(a) Cards	£ *(b) Postage*
Central Department	1,737	Not recorded
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)	4,126	Not recorded
Driving Standards Agency	2,200	462
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	No card	
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	No card	
Vehicle Certification Agency	No card	
Government Car and Despatch Agency	No card	
Highways Agency	No card	

Note:
Costs include VAT.

In the central Department and DVLA it is not possible to separate out postage costs from normal mail, but where postage is paid the policy is to mainly use second class.

David Abrahams

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she and her predecessor have met *(a)* Mr. David Abrahams and *(b)* representatives of Mr. Abrahams' companies since 2004. [171168]

Jim Fitzpatrick: My right hon. Friends the Secretary of State and her predecessors have not attended meetings in their official capacity since 2004 with Mr. David Abrahams or representatives of companies registered to Mr Abrahams.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many branded plastic bags her Department has purchased in the last 24 months for which figures are available; and at what cost. [176370]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Two of the Executive agencies—the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and the Maritime Coastguard Agency—have procured plastic bags for use in exhibitions and campaigns. Numbers procured and expenditure in financial year 2005-06 totalled 40,000 bags at a cost of £5,314. Figures for 2006-07, were 95,400 bags at a cost of £14,486.

A further 6,650 bags costing £731 have been procured by the Department over the last three financial years to package posters for the 'Arrive Alive' child road safety campaign.

The Department and Executive Agencies are reviewing their practices on the purchase of bags used to facilitate the dissemination of information in campaigns and at exhibitions, following the Prime Minister's 19 November announcement that we should phase out single-use bags altogether, in favour of long-lasting and more sustainable alternatives.

Departmental Pay

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 788W, on departmental pay, how many of those earning over £100,000 were employed *(a)* as special advisers and *(b)* in a political role in each year since 2003. [177174]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the number of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information, I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 147-50WS.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Winter Supplementary Estimates (HC 29), if she will break down her Department's *(a)* main estimate and *(b)* winter supplementary estimate provision by subhead in (i) near cash and (ii) non-cash terms. [174994]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Near-cash and non-cash are essentially used as departmental expenditure limit (DEL) budgetary control concepts and are not specifically identified with voted resources in estimates. However, we have been able to break down net total resources for each section in the Part II: Subhead detail table of our Main and Winter Supplementary Estimates as follows:

£000

		Main estimate 2007-08			Winter Supplementary 2007-08		
Section	*Section title*	*Near cash*	*Non cash*	*Total*	*Near cash*	*Non cash*	*Total*
A	Ports and shipping services	15,036	1,353	16,389	13,985	1,353	15,338
B	Maritime and Coastguard Agency	113,279	6,828	120,107	113,449	6,828	120,277
C	Aviation services	17,258	4,507	21,765	17,225	4,507	21,732
D	Transport security and royal travel	18,700	0	18,700	26,215	46	26,261
E	Highways Agency	1,364,097	600,038	1,964,135	1,364,097	600,038	1,964,135
F	Publicity and advice	19,997	0	19,997	19,997	0	19,997
G	Research	36,998	1,570	38,568	28,055	2,570	30,625
H	Statistics, censuses and surveys	13,262	216	13,478	11,071	216	11,287
I	Consultancies and other services for roads and local transport	5,799	0	5,799	10,389	0	10,389
J	Mobility and Inclusion Unit	4,902	61	4,963	5,961	61	6,022
K	Strategic Transport Studies	1,500	0	1,500	1,500	0	1,500
L	Railways	3,523,886	12,250	3,536,136	3,865,413	-7,650	3,857,763
M	Commission for Integrated Transport	1,500	0	1,500	1,500	0	1,500
N	Freight Grants	22,608	0	22,608	25,508	0	25,508
O	Bus Service Operator Grant	417,300	0	417,300	413,521	0	413,521
P	Vehicle Excise Duty enforcement	-34,450	0	-34,450	-300	0	-300
Q	Vehicle Certification Agency enforcement	1,300	0	1,300	1,300	0	1,300
R	Vehicle Certification Agency	-248	360	112	-248	360	112
S	Powershift and CleanUp	18,000	0	18,000	18,000	0	18,000
T	Dartford River Crossing	-67,000	0	-67,000	-67,000	0	-67,000
U	Driving Standards Agency trading fund	-540	335	-205	-1,740	935	-805
V	Vehicle and Operator Services Agency trading fund	-2,393	1,152	-1,241	-3,693	2,852	-841
W	Vehicle and Operator Services Agency enforcement	11,421	0	11,421	17,721	0	17,721
X	Central Administration	160,252	20,464	180,716	189,228	20,418	209,646
Y	Trans-European network payments for transport projects (net)	3	0	3	3	0	3
Z	Driver, Vehicle and Operator Group central (including loan pool)	0	0	0	0	0	0
AA	Other River Crossings	-16,001	16,001	0	-16,001	27,001	11,000
AB	Haulage efficiency and modernisation projects	2,000	0	2,000	2,000	0	2,000

£000

		Main estimate 2007-08			Winter Supplementary 2007-08		
Section	Section title	Near cash	Non cash	Total	Near cash	Non cash	Total
AC	Government Car and Despatch Agency	-1,526	1,526	0	-1,526	1,526	0
AD	GLA Transport Grant (resource)	2,375,970	0	2,375,970	2,396,500	0	2,396,500
AI	Other Transport Grants (resource)	567,449	0	567,449	562,284	0	562,284
AI	Other Transport Grants (capital)	1,045,506	0	1,045,506	1,086,183	0	1,086,183
AG	Highways Agency	45,138	3,400,786	3,445,924	45,138	3,400,786	3,445,924
AH	Grant-in-Aid funding of NDPBs and PCs	182,700	0	182,700	182,700	0	182,700
AI	Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (trading fund)	228,508	0	228,508	228,508	0	228,508
	Total	10,092,211	4,067,447	14,159,658	10,556,943	4,061,847	14,618,790

Driving Under Influence: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she plans to lower the legally permitted blood alcohol concentration for driving on public roads. [178333]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We explained in the report of the second three-yearly review of the Road Safety Strategy, published in February 2007, that we will keep the case for a reduction in the legal alcohol limit for drivers under review. Our first priority is to improve the enforcement of the current limit, building on the recent achievements of the police. We believe this has the potential to deliver a substantial further reduction in deaths and serious injuries, so continuing the good progress of recent years.

Driving: Licensing

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Hendon pensioners over 70 years received free driving licence renewals in each of the last three years. [177502]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency does not hold information on the number of renewal transactions for specific geographical areas. All customers who have paid a life licence fee and renewed at the age of 70 (and over) would have been issued with a new licence free of charge.

Electrification

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her policy is on the electrification of the railway network; and what assessment she has made of the effect of the electrification on carbon dioxide emissions. [177348]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Government's position on rail electrification was set out in the rail White Paper "Towards a Sustainable Railway" published in July 2007. This was informed by a Rail Safety and Standards Board report which analysed a range of electrification schemes including their impact on carbon emissions.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the *(a)* cost and *(b)* benefits of the electrification of those non-electrified parts of the rail network between (i) Southampton and Salisbury, (ii) Wokingham and Aldershot South junction and (iii) Basingstoke and Salisbury; and if she will make a statement. [177349]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport has not made such an assessment. The Government's position on rail electrification was set out in the rail White Paper "Towards a Sustainable Railway" published in July 2007.

English Language

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department has spent on English language classes for staff in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [177429]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport reports expenditure of £332 on English language classes for staff in the last 12 months for which figures are available.

First Great Western: Compensation

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate has been made of the potential cost of compensation payable to First Great Western as a result of disruption to its services by the *(a)* construction and *(b)* operation of Crossrail. [178187]

Mr. Tom Harris: Train operators will be properly compensated for the loss of, or disruption to, services during the construction and operation of Crossrail. The Secretary of State's policy is set out in Crossrail Information Paper H2, "Railway Compensation"

(http://bilidocuments.crossrail.co.uk), and discussions are on-going with the rail industry to develop suitable arrangements.

The project cost estimate has taken into account that compensation will be payable to other train operators as a result of the Crossrail works, based on experience elsewhere on the national rail network. However, exactly what compensation might be payable to any given train operator will vary according to the detail of how the Crossrail works are carried out.

Once Crossrail services commence in 2017, they will be subject to the normal industry processes for compensation for disruption. It is not possible to estimate at this time what compensation might be payable between train operators and Network Rail.

International Labour Organisation Maritime Labour Convention

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects the UK to ratify the International Labour Organisation Maritime Labour Convention. [178519]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The UK Government, in line with all other EU member states, are committed to ratifying the Maritime Labour Convention and aim to do so by 2010, or earlier if possible.

Intimidation

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what definition of bullying is used in her Department's human resources policy. [178512]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Bullying is offensive, intimidating, malicious or insulting behaviour, an abuse or misuse of power which undermines, humiliates or injures the person on the receiving end.

Irish Lights

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she plans to take in response to the Review of Funding of the Commissioners of Irish Lights; and if she will make a statement. [176984]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We expect the Irish Lights Study will be completed shortly and are working closely with the Irish Government to ensure a long term funding solution is reached. The study's findings will be published. We will then consider how to take forward any recommendations made.

M1: Motorways

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects work to (*a*) commence and (*b*) be completed in respect of the construction of junction 29A of the M1 motorway, what lane closures are planned to take place during construction, and if she will make a statement. [178017]

Mr. Tom Harris: Work on the new M1 junction 29A started on the 13 August 2007. All the work has been outside the motorway carriageways but has involved the closure of the hard shoulder on the southbound carriageway from mid-September 2007.

To enable the construction of the tie ins of the slip roads to the motorway, sign gantry removal, and installation of safety fencing, it will be necessary to close lane 1, and occasionally lane 2, of each carriageway between 10 pm and 6 am. These lane closures are planned to take place between 25 January and 31 March 2008.

The junction will be completely open for traffic by mid-April 2008.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the expected benefits are of the construction of junction 29A of the M1 motorway, what consultation was undertaken prior to approving the plan, what representations she received, and from whom, in favour of the project, and if she will make a statement. [178025]

Mr. Tom Harris: The new M1 junction 29A would provide good access opportunities with the Markham Employment Growth Zone area, an essential element to the viability of the Markham Vale development.

While the Department for Transport contributed funding towards the Markham Vale Employment Growth Zone, the scheme was led by Derbyshire county council. Therefore, consultation was undertaken by them. Consultation representations would have been made direct to Derbyshire county council.

Marine Accident Investigation Branch: Industrial Health and Safety

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many work-related deaths were investigated in (*a*) Scotland and (*b*) the UK by the Marine Accident Investigation Branch in the last five years. [178253]

Jim Fitzpatrick: From 2003 to 2007 the Marine Accident Investigation Branch carried out on-site investigations into:

(*a*) 16 deaths in Scottish waters (including inland waters);

(*b*) 41 deaths in all UK waters (including Scottish waters);

in which the fatally injured persons were working on commercially operating vessels.

Motor Vehicles: Exhaust Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average amount of carbon dioxide emitted per mile driven was for road traffic in each EU country in the latest year for which figures are available, and if she will make a statement. [178133]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport does not hold this information.

There are figures for total CO_2 emissions from all types of road transport, in million tonnes of carbon dioxide, the most recent year being 2005. These can be found in Table 10.11 of "Transport Statistics Great Britain 2007", at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/tsgb/2007edition/sectionteninternat1849.pdf

Motorways: Lighting

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will ensure that motorway lighting is installed at and in the vicinity of junction 29A of the M1 motorway during construction. [178016]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency has no plans to install lighting at junction 29A of the M1 motorway. The roundabouts which connect the motorway entry and exit slip roads to the local road network will be lit

Network Rail: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will initiate an official inquiry into the performance of contractors employed by Network Rail on projects at (*a*) Liverpool Street station and (*b*) Rugby, and if she will make a statement. [177442]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Office of Rail Regulation has launched an investigation into Network Rail's management of engineering projects including the causes of the engineering over-runs at Liverpool street and Rugby over Christmas and new year and expect to announce their preliminary findings by 29 February 2008. We will not seek to pre-empt the Office of Rail Regulation by speculating on causes before the report is issued.

North Sea SOx Emission Control Area

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects to bring forward legislation to enforce the North Sea SOx Emission Control Area regulations and set penalties for non-compliance. [177820]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Legislation to implement the North Sea SOx Emission Control Area is currently being prepared for public consultation and is planned to be in force by summer of this year. Penalties for non-compliance will be included in this legislation.

Rail Services

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made of the potential extent of disruption of long-distance train services from Paddington to South Wales arising from the (*a*) construction and (*b*) operation of Crossrail. [178188]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Crossrail works are being planned to minimise disruption to existing railway services during construction. The detailed planning of these works, which Network Rail envisages undertaking, will be managed through the normal industry processes nearer to the start of construction. The Crossrail Environmental Statement (ES) contains an assessment of the expected disruption to services on the Great Western Main Line (http://bilddocuments.crossrail.co.uk: ES Volume 1, 2.5.19 and Volume 8a, 6.15-6.16).

Crossrail services will subsume most of the suburban services that use the "slow" lines between Maidenhead and Paddington. Since the Welsh services will continue to use the "fast" lines, no changes are proposed to services to Wales as a result of Crossrail during normal operations (ES, Volume 1, 2.4.9).

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of whether extra rolling stock is required for rail services provided in the North West by (*a*) Northern Rail, (*b*) Merseyrail, (*c*) First TransPennine Express, (*d*) Virgin West Coast and (*e*) Arriva Cross Country franchises. [177859]

Mr. Tom Harris: On 24 July 2007 the Secretary of State announced that around 1,300 extra carriages are to come into service between now and 2014. They will go on routes into London, Birmingham, Cardiff, Leeds, Manchester and Liverpool to provide the capacity to meet growing demand. It is now for the DFT to work with train operating companies and Network Rail to identify how these additional carriages will be distributed across each of the train operating companies.

Railway Network

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria will be used to allocate the additional 1,300 carriages referred to in the rail White Paper across the rail network; and if she will make a statement. [177857]

Mr. Tom Harris: The extra rolling stock will be deployed as necessary to provide the amount of extra capacity at London termini and in other urban areas as set out in tables A4 and A5 of The Railways Act 2005 Statement, subject to value for money.

Railway Stations

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many railway stations have been (*a*) opened and (*b*) re-opened since 1 May 1997. [178141]

Mr. Tom Harris: Since 1 May 1997, 36 stations have opened on the national network, two of which Canning Town and West Ham were resited because of Jubilee line works. Another three have reopened.

Railways: Freight

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the maximum additional (*a*) passenger and (*b*) freight capacity in percentage terms which can be delivered by the existing rail network without the reopening of lines or opening of new lines, and what additional capacity in percentage terms is likely to be delivered by the implementation of all proposals in the Government's Delivering A Sustainable Railway paper. [178181]

Mr. Tom Harris: No estimate has been made of the maximum additional capacity possible on the existing network. This would depend not only on the nature and extent of investment, but on the type, routeing, timetabling and mix of train services operated.

In the July 2007 White Paper 'Delivering a Sustainable Railway', the Government set out the

capacity required to meet forecast passenger demand in England and Wales to 2014, taking into account the needs of freight, and are investing in the railway to meet this growth.

Railways: Norwich

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what percentage of delays to trains on the Norwich to London railway line there were between the hours of *(a)* 6 am and 10 am, *(b)* 10 am and 3 pm and *(c)* 4 pm and 11.30 pm in each direction in 2007. [177329]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department does not receive the information at this level of detail. Data relating to punctuality of train services are collected and processed by Network Rail. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his question.

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London NW1 2EE

Railways: Overcrowding

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of levels of overcrowding on rail journeys taken at *(a)* peak and *(b)* off-peak times between (i) Liverpool and Manchester, (ii) Leeds and Manchester, (iii) Newcastle and York and (iv) Liverpool and Birmingham; and if she will make a statement. [177858]

Mr. Tom Harris: The rail White Paper was published in July 2007. It sets out the resources we intend to make available to the rail industry and the increases in capacity, as well as safety and performance, that we expect the industry to deliver in return.

There are no specific requirements regarding levels of overcrowding on these routes. The Department's general requirements for overcrowding are that passengers should not be expected to stand for more than 20 minutes.

Railways: Radioactive Wastes

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many rail journeys have taken place in which *(a)* spent nuclear fuel and *(b)* nuclear waste was carried through the Channel Tunnel since 2001; and for each such journey what the (i) place of origin, (ii) destination and (iii) volume carried was. [178147]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Eurotunnel does not permit these materials to be transported through the Channel Tunnel.

Roads: Safety

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research she has commissioned on the effect on road traffic casualties of the introduction of 20mph zones in *(a)* Portsmouth, *(b)* Hull, *(c)* Edinburgh, *(d)* Aberdeen and *(e)* London. [175816]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Individual highway authorities monitor the effectiveness of their local road safety schemes, including 20 mph zones.

TRL Report 215 "Review of Traffic Calming Schemes in 20 mph Zones", published in 1996, found that self enforcing 20 mph zones achieved an average 9 mph reduction in vehicle speeds, that accident frequency fell by 60 per cent. and that the number of accidents involving children reduced by 67 per cent.

No specific research has been commissioned by the Department on the effectiveness of 20 mph zones in the areas identified. The Department is intending to commission shortly a review of the implementation of 20 mph zones as part of a wider research project which will develop and deliver a programme of process and outcome evaluation of local road user safety policy and practice. It is likely that the review of 20 mph zones will include some of these areas.

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department has taken to ensure that local authority best practice in road traffic speed management is shared. [175815]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department publishes best practice advice on a wide range of speed management measures in the form of Traffic Advisory Leaflets.

The Department's research project, 'Research to Develop Guidance for Highway Authorities on How to Monitor and Evaluate Speed Management Interventions, Programmes and Strategies', is involving extensive consultation with local authority practitioners, and will include a number of case studies.

The Department is also intending to commission shortly a wider research project which will develop and deliver a programme of process and outcome evaluation of local road user safety policy and practice. This will cover a wide range of road safety initiatives and measures, including speed management.

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will *(a)* monitor and *(b)* assess the effect on road safety of 20 mph zones. [175818]

Jim Fitzpatrick: TRL Report 215 "Review of Traffic Calming Schemes in 20 mph Zones", published in 1996, found that self enforcing 20mph zones achieved an average 9 mph reduction in vehicle speeds, that accident frequency fell by 60 per cent. and that the number of accidents involving children reduced by 67 per cent.

The Department intends to commission shortly a review of the implementation of 20 mph zones as part of a wider research project which will develop and deliver a programme of process and outcome evaluation of local road user safety policy and practice.

Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she authorised the Article 14 directions under the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995, issued by the Highways Agency in relation to the Durham Green Business Park in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2005. [176351]

Mr. Tom Harris: As an Executive agency of the Department for Transport, the Highways Agency has

delegated authority to make the relevant decisions under the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 in the name of the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State was not asked to approve the Highways Agency decisions and had no involvement in any part of the process.

West Coast Railway Line

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she last discussed the West Coast mainline with Network Rail; and if she will make a statement. [177856]

Mr. Tom Harris: While the Government have no power to intervene in Network Rail's operations, the Secretary of State met with Iain Coucher, Chief Executive of Network Rail, on 3 January to discuss the engineering overruns on West Coast mainline. She made it clear that delays such as those faced by passengers over the new year period were completely unacceptable.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Admiralty House: Official Residences

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what changes have been made to the fittings and fixtures of the official Ministerial residence in Admiralty House previously occupied by the right hon. Member for Kingston upon Hull and now occupied by Lord Malloch-Brown in the last 12 months. [176930]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 913W.

Brussels

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on Eurostar tickets to Brussels in each of the last 11 years; and how many first class Eurostar tickets to Brussels his Department purchased in each of the last 11 years. [175436]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office spent a total of £214,373 on Eurostar tickets for official travel to Brussels in the last calendar year (January to December 2007). It would incur disproportionate cost, however, to collate information for previous years. It is also not possible to provide a breakdown of the number of first class Eurostar tickets purchased to Brussels as this information is not held centrally.

Craig Alden

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent efforts have been made by the Government to secure the release of Craig Alden, a British subject imprisoned in Brazil; and if he will make a statement; [178087]

(2) what response the British embassy in Brasilia has made to the recent letter from Mr. Craig Alden, a British subject imprisoned in Brazil, calling for a petition to be made to the Brazilian Supreme Court in relation to his case. [178088]

Meg Munn: We have provided Mr. Alden with full consular assistance since his arrest in July 2002. We supported his application for Presidential Expulsion (equivalent to clemency for foreign nationals) in 2005, but this was rejected by the Brazilian authorities. Most recently we supported Mr. Alden's appeal to the National Justice Council in May 2007, which was rejected in June 2007. Consular staff, from our embassy in Brasilia, propose to meet Mr. Alden and his legal representatives to discuss what further action may be open to Mr. Alden and his legal team. We continue to offer Mr. Alden consular assistance in the most effective way we can.

Cyprus

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 90W, on Cyprus: diplomatic relations, what meetings in the UK have been attended by the hon. Member for Enfield, North in her capacity as the Government's Special Representative to Cyprus. [177843]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Member for Enfield, North (Joan Ryan), in her capacity as my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's Special Representative to Cyprus, provides a link between the Cypriot diaspora in the UK and Ministers, and explores how they can help promote a settlement in Cyprus, while also maintaining an overview of the political situation and UN settlement negotiations in Cyprus. As such, she regularly holds meetings with representatives of both the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities from the UK and Cyprus, other interested parties, Foreign and Commonwealth Office representatives and Ministers.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 90W, on Cyprus: diplomatic relations, when the Government's Special Representative to Cyprus, the hon. Member for Enfield, North, next plans to visit Cyprus; and whom she plans to meet on the visit. [177845]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Member for Enfield, North (Joan Ryan), my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's Special Representative to Cyprus, visited the island in October 2007. There are no plans at present for another visit.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 90W, on Cyprus: diplomatic relations, what meetings were held during the visit to Cyprus by the Government's Special Representative to Cyprus, the hon. Member for Enfield, North, in October 2007; and what the cost of the visit was. [177846]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Member for Enfield, North (Joan Ryan) met the following

representatives from both communities during her visit to Cyprus in October 2007:

UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Michael Moller; UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), Chief of Staff Peter Fraser Hopewell and US Ambassador Ron Schlicher;

UNFICYP Green Line Tour with Peter Fraser Hopewell;

Cyprus House of Representatives President and Progressive Party of the Working People of Cyprus (AKEL) leader, Demetris Christofias;

Ioannis Kasoulides, opposition leader;

Eleni Mavrou, Mayor of Nicosia (AKEL);

Bicommunal civil society groups and the UN Development Programme Action for Co-operation and Trust;

Republic of Cyprus Foreign Minister, Erato Marcoullis;

President of the Republic of Cyprus, Tassos Papadopoulos;

Nicos Anastassiades, leader of opposition party Democratic Rally;

Emine Erk, Turkish Cypriot Human Rights Foundation;

Mehmet Ali Talat, Leader of Turkish Cypriot Community;

Rasit Pertev, former "Under-secretary" to Mehmet Talat;

Tahsin Ertugruloglu;

Oktay Kayalp;

Oya Talat;

Ferdi Sabat Soyer, Republican Turkish Party (CTP) Leader;

Commander British Forces in Cyprus and Sovereign Base Area Administrator, Air Vice Marshall Dick Lacey; and

Chief Officer of Sovereign Base Areas, Peter Draycott

The cost of the visit was £937.60, which was met by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 90W, on Cyprus: diplomatic relations, who accompanied the Government's Special Representative to Cyprus on her visit to that country in October 2007. [178265]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Member for Enfield, North (Joan Ryan), in her capacity as my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's Special Representative to Cyprus, was unaccompanied on her visit to Cyprus in October 2007. However, officials from our high commission in Nicosia accompanied her in meetings.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 828W, on departmental internet, how much equipment to film blog content cost; and whether this equipment is used for other purposes by his Department. [178336]

Meg Munn: The camcorders bought for filming blog content cost £5,612.77. The equipment has also been used for filming videos and pictures that have been loaded on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) website at:

www.fco.gov.uk

as well as on the FCO's channels on YouTube at:

http://uk.Youtube.com/ukforeignoffice

and Flickr at:

http://www.flickr.com/photos/foreignoffice/.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 828W, on departmental internet, what the grade is of each of the staff who deal with the blogging platform. [178408]

Meg Munn: Two members of staff work full-time on updating the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) blogging platform and on its upkeep. One is graded at C5, the other at B3. Other members of staff within the FCO devote a proportion of their time to the blogging platform, covering a range of grades, from the senior management structure to a locally engaged commercial officer.

Departmental Pay

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1036-37W, on departmental pay, how many of those earning over £100,000 were employed as (*a*) special advisers and (*b*) in a political role in each year since 1997. [177185]

Meg Munn: None of the 42 Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff listed in the 2007 FCO Annual Departmental Report as earning over £100,000 were employed as special advisers or in a political role.

Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the number of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 147-150WS.

Before 2003 Ministers provided information on the number and cost of special advisers at regular intervals. This information is available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Plastics

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many FCO-branded plastic bags his Department has procured; and at what cost in the last 24 months for which figures are available. [176355]

Meg Munn: In the last 24 months for which figures are available 11,000 branded plastic bags were procured by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office at a cost of £3,320.

EU Presidency

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to seek the establishment of a procedure to remove the new full-time President of the European Council before their term of office expires if one or a specified number of member states feel this course of action is appropriate. [175784]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government support a full-time President of the European Council, appointed for a mandate of two and a half years, renewable once. He or she will replace the current President of the European Council, who changes every six months. He or she will be chosen by Heads of State and Government by qualified majority, and will be accountable to them. The treaty of Lisbon provides that the European Council can end the President's term of office by a qualified majority in the event of an impediment or serious misconduct.

HMS Sussex

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the Government's policy on the retrieval of bullion from HMS Sussex, with particular reference to Gibraltarian territorial waters. [178225]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg) to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell) on 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1971W, and the reply given by the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Ivor Caplin) to my hon. Friend the Member for Hendon (Mr. Dismore) on 2 February 2005, *Official Report*, column 898W. I also refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the then Minister for Europe (Mr. Douglas Alexander) to the hon. Member for Hereford (Mr. Keetch) on 14 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 1902W, which states that the wreck, which we believe could be the Sussex, lies in the straits of Gibraltar outside British Gibraltar territorial waters in international waters.

Iraq: Politics and Government

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of foreign contractors in Iraq having been arrested by the Iraqi authorities; and whether any UK individuals or companies are involved. [177040]

Meg Munn: We do not receive reports of foreign contractors arrested by the Iraqi authorities. We are aware of one British national working for a private security company having been detained briefly in Iraq since March 2003.

Mahmoud Salehi

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of Iran on *(a)* the medical condition and *(b)* the need for specialist treatment of the imprisoned trade union leader, Mahmoud Salehi. [177367]

Meg Munn: Mahmoud Salehi, former head of the Trade Association of Saqez Bakery Workers and a well-known labour rights activist, has been arrested several times for activities relating to the trade association and mobilising the labour movement in Iran, and has been imprisoned since April 2007. We are deeply concerned by recent reports about his treatment and health in prison. The EU Presidency, with strong UK support, raised concerns about Mr. Salehi's situation in meetings with the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 1 May, 1 September and 10 October last year. More recently, on 5 December 2007, the EU Presidency raised specific concerns that Mr. Salehi had been ill treated in detention and denied access to suitable medical care. We will continue to raise Mr. Salehi's case with the Iranian authorities, and urge Iran to honour its international human rights obligations and its commitments as a member of the International Labour Organisation, by respecting fully the right to freedom of expression and the right to form or join trade unions.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when a reply will be sent to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire's letter, dated 22 November 2007, on behalf of a constituent about the case of Mr. Craig Alden. [179004]

Meg Munn: I replied to the hon. Member on 2 January 2008.

Recycling

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recycling schemes are in operation in each building operated by his Department. [176356]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office operates recycling schemes at its two London buildings, Old Admiralty Building and the Main Building in King Charles Street, and at its Hanslope Park site in Buckinghamshire. At these locations we recycle:

paper and cardboard;
glass;
cans and metal;
wood;
clear plastic cups;
domestic batteries;
toner cartridges;
mobile telephones;
Christmas cards; and
usable old furniture is given to charity for re-use.

Additionally at Hanslope Park we compost food and plant waste and recycle plastic bottles and compact discs.

We maintain no central record of the recycling arrangements for our overseas estate. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Tanzania: Overseas Investment

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps Ministers *(a)* have taken and *(b)* are taking to protect the interests of UK citizens who have invested in business interests in Tanzania. [178322]

Meg Munn: Where UK citizens seek help in protecting investments in Tanzania, our high commission in Dar es Salaam provides support—for example, by providing information, by facilitating contacts with the Tanzanian authorities, or by lobbying on the investors' behalf. Ministers have sometimes lobbied as well.

Zimbabwe: Sanctions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 566W, on Zimbabwe: sanctions to the hon. Member for East Devon, if he will list the Zimbabwean individuals who are not already subject to an EU travel ban and assets freeze that the UK has decided to exclude from the UK; and when these decisions were taken. [168386]

David Miliband: It is not the Government's policy to comment on exclusions unless the individuals concerned have made their own exclusion public. Because he did so, we are able to confirm that Gideon Gono, Governor of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, was excluded from the United Kingdom by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary on 17 August 2007. Prior to this, two other Zimbabwean nationals have been excluded under my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary's powers, but we cannot provide further details as the individuals concerned have chosen not to disclose the matter publicly.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Wastes

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of requiring a restricted time frame to be imposed for spreading of slurry on voluntary agreements to avoid such work on weekends and bank holidays. [175757]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* The proposed closed period for organic manures with high available nitrogen, as set out in the consultation on implementation of the Nitrates Directive in England, reflects long-standing advice contained in Fertiliser Recommendations for Agricultural and Horticultural Crops (RB209) and the Code of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Water. These publications advise that organic manures should be applied in late winter or spring as these are times of maximum crop growth and will optimise the use of nitrogen contained in the manure. This is particularly important for slurry which has a high available nitrogen content.

The Code of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Air advises farmers to avoid spreading at weekends and bank holidays to reduce odour problems but suggests that this practice may be acceptable if a band spreader or an injector is used or the slurry has been treated. We expect farmers to continue following this good practice advice.

Animal Welfare Act 2006

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he intends to produce codes of conduct for *(a)* animal quarantine premises, *(b)* boarding kennels and *(c)* catteries under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. [175011]

Jonathan Shaw: Government have already produced a code of practice for the welfare of dogs and cats in quarantine premises, and do not intend to produce a further code under the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

The Government are committed to repealing the Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963 and replacing it with regulations and a supporting code of practice for dog and cat boarding under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. During the passage of the 2006 Act through Parliament, dog and cat boarding was seen as a lower priority in comparison with other animal welfare matters and we have yet to establish any timescale for the regulations to be introduced.

Bats: Ecology

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of bat ecologists. [177546]

Joan Ruddock: We do not hold numbers on bat ecologists but there are currently just over 800 volunteer bat workers who support Natural England in providing advice on bats.

EU Grants and Loans

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people employed in his Department work on administering EU structural funds; and what the cost of such staff was in 2006-07. [176046]

Jonathan Shaw: In 2006-07, staffing on the DEFRA-administered EU Structural Funds equated to three full-time posts. The total salary costs to the Department were £115,000.

European Fisheries Fund

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1269W, on European Fisheries Fund, what discussions he has had with the European Commission on the UK's Operational Programme for the spending of the European Fisheries Fund; and if he will make a statement; [176128]

(2) what discussions he has had with *(a)* the European Commission and *(b)* his counterparts in EU member states on the possible reduction in the EFF budget for the UK that the Commission could impose for (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008; and if he will make a statement; [176129]

(3) what representations he has made to the European Commission on the possibility of the 2007 European Fisheries Fund monies for the UK being carried over to future years; and if he will make a statement; [176130]

(4) when he expects to know whether the European Commission will permit the UK to carry over the European Fisheries Fund for *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008 until such time that the UK Operational Programme is approved; and if he will make a statement; [176131]

(5) whether he plans to raise the issue of the European Fisheries Fund and the carry over of monies from *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008, at the December Fisheries Council meeting; and if he will make a statement. [176132]

Jonathan Shaw: I have discussed with Commissioner Borg the arrangements and timing for submitting the UK's National Strategic Plan and obtaining approval for the UK's Operational Programme. The National Strategic Plan has now been finalised, and I plan to formally submit this to the Commission later this month. My officials are working with those from the devolved administrations to complete the UK Operational Programme, in order to enable consultation to take place in early 2008. My officials will also be liaising closely with Commission officials to enable approval of the UK Operational Programme to be obtained as quickly as possible following formal submission.

The Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance closed at the end of 2007. To obtain access to the new European Fisheries Fund requires the approval by the European Commission of the UK's Operational Programme. I have made clear to Commissioner Borg the importance I attach to the UK having access to those funds in 2008 and subsequent years.

I have not had any discussions, or made any representations to either the European Commission, or other member states, regarding EFF budget reductions or allocations being carried forward, because it is not yet clear that any reductions will be imposed. I will support any Commission proposal, and seek the necessary EU Council and Parliament agreement, which would result in the 2007 allocation being carried forward.

Floods: Risk Assessment

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to acquire mapping information on surface water flooding from *(a)* the Association of British Insurers and *(b)* local authorities with a view to identifying areas at highest risk of flooding. [175668]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency is investigating the development of maps showing areas at risk from surface water flooding. The agency has been liaising with a number of local authorities to ascertain the feasibility of collating data from a range of sources.

As the Environment Agency develops its proposals it will liaise with a number of other data owners who are expected to include the Association of British Insurers, with a view to incorporating all available appropriate data.

Fly Tipping

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fly-tipping incidents involved household waste were recorded by Flycapture in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07 in each local authority in England. [176172]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 385W.

Fly Tipping: Enforcement

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the Flycapture Enforcement training package, including the module on the Regulation and Investigatory Power Act 2000. [176766]

Joan Ruddock: I am arranging for copies of this training package to be placed in the Library of the House.

Fly Tipping: Lincolnshire

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many incidents of fly-tipping were recorded in *(a)* North East Lincolnshire and *(b)* North Lincolnshire in each of the last five years. [176866]

Joan Ruddock: I have arranged for a table to be placed in the Library of the House showing the number of fly-tipping incidents and prosecutions recorded by each local authority on Flycapture for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07. Data are only available from 2004 onwards.

Following the release of the 2006-07 Flycapture statistics on 9 October 2007, this information has been sent to all MPs and has been placed in the Printed Paper Office.

It is also available to download electronically on DEFRA's Flycapture website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localenv/flytipping/flycapture-data.htm

Fly Tipping: Prosecutions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions were *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* successful in relation to fly-tipping incidents in 2006-07 in (i) absolute terms and (ii) as a percentage of the total number of fly-tipping incidents. [176541]

Joan Ruddock: Prosecution data are taken from Flycapture, the national fly-tipping database. In 2006-07, local authorities and the Environment Agency submitted the data in the following table.

Prosecutions figures are only cases taken through the court system and do not include wider enforcement action.

In 2006-07, local authorities recorded an additional 378,974 enforcement actions, consisting of warning letters, statutory notices, fixed penalty notices, duty of care inspections, vehicle seizures and formal cautions. Excluding Liverpool city council, this figure was 172,042.

	Local authorities	*Environment Agency*
Total incidents	2,633,518	982
Total incidents (excluding Liverpool city council)	1,316,209	n/a
Total prosecutions undertaken	1,371	161
Successful prosecutions	1,289	152

	Local authorities	Environment Agency
Total prosecutions as percentage of total incidents	0.05	16.4
Total prosecutions as percentage of total (excluding Liverpool city council)	0.1	n/a
Successful prosecutions as percentage of total incidents	0.05	15.5
Successful prosecutions as percentage of total incidents (excluding Liverpool city council)	0.1	n/a

Fly Tipping: Romford

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions have been brought against fly tippers in Romford in the last four years. [177644]

Joan Ruddock: Flycapture, the national fly-tipping database records data at the local authority, not district or ward, level. Prosecution data for Romford will therefore be included in the total data for the London borough of Havering.

Data are only available from 2004 onwards.

I have arranged for a table to be placed in the Library of the House showing the number of fly-tipping incidents and prosecutions recorded in each local authority by local authorities on Flycapture for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Following the release of the 2006-07 Flycapture statistics on 9 October 2007, this information has been sent to all MPs.

It is also available to download electronically on DEFRA's Flycapture website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localenv/flytipping/flycapture-data.htm

Game Birds

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1000W, on game birds, what steps he takes to assess the reliability of data from reports by other organisations referred to by him in answers to parliamentary questions. [177424]

Joan Ruddock: It is my understanding that before publication the report referred to in the answer of 17 December 2007 was peer reviewed by Emeritus Professor David Colman of Manchester university, President of the International Association of Agricultural Economists.

In general, scientific data referenced in parliamentary questions are drawn from peer reviewed publications or are reviewed by staff within the Department or its statutory advisers.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people awarded Warm Front grants have been asked to make an excess payment in *(a)* Shropshire, *(b)* West Midlands and *(c)* England. [177001]

Mr. Woolas: Since June 2005 the number of households who have been asked to make excess payment contributions towards their Warm Front measures are shown in the following table.

Total excess payments required (households)

	Number
Shropshire	792
West Midlands	17,072
England	90,789

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of Warm Front grants have been subject to an excess payment in *(a)* Shropshire, *(b)* West Midlands and *(c)* England. [177002]

Mr. Woolas: Since June 2005, the proportion of households which have been asked to make an excess payment contribution towards their Warm Front measures are shown in the following table.

Warm Front grants subject to excess payment

	Percentage
Shropshire	19.25
West Midlands	22.04
England	16.94

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the value of Warm Front grants made in *(a)* Shropshire, *(b)* West Midlands and *(c)* England has been in 2007-08. [177003]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Scheme year 2007-08

	Value of grants (£)
Shropshire	2,269,804.26
West Midlands	46,280,487.56
England	263,548,038.84

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the grant limits for the Warm Front scheme will be reviewed. [177006]

Mr. Woolas: We are currently reviewing the Warm Front grant limits.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will ensure that excess payments for the Warm Front scheme are collected via the scheme's managing agents. [177009]

Mr. Woolas: Clients are asked to pay excess payment contributions directly to the installation company in order that the work can proceed as quickly as possible, and to reduce the administrative costs of another agency handling the payment.

There are no current plans to instruct the Warm Front scheme manager to collect client excess payments.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Heating

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many backboilers have been replaced under the Warm Front scheme; how many such backboilers have been disconnected rather than removed; and how many chimneys have been converted to allow a gas fire to be installed. [177640]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 10 January 2008]:* Since June 2005 7,543 back boiler heating systems have been replaced through Warm Front.

Data on the number of back boilers disconnected but not removed through Warm Front are not held.

No chimneys have been converted to allow a gas fire to be installed through Warm Front.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Standards

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms his Department uses to ensure high standards of workmanship and service by Warm Front contractors. [177007]

Mr. Woolas: To ensure that installation work performed through the Warm Front Scheme meets the required standards, the Scheme Manager of eaga plc, inspects all central heating installations as well as a proportion of other completed work.

All contractors are assessed against a vendor-rating system, which analyses performance against various criteria, including (but not limited to) customer service, professionalism and workmanship. The vendor rating of each contractor determines the amount of work they receive in the future.

Contractors who fall short of these standards are removed from the Warm Front Scheme.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the average waiting time for *(a)* receipt of a quotation and *(b)* completion of work under the Warm Front scheme in the latest period for which figures are available. [177010]

Mr. Woolas: Data on the waiting times for the receipt of a quotation are not collected.

Average waiting times since April 2007 are 65.3 working days for heating measures and 26.7 working days for insulation measures, from the point of the Warm Front assessment survey.

Landfill: Plastics

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the percentage of waste which went to landfill in England that was made up of plastics that could not be recycled in each of the last five years. [175743]

Joan Ruddock: The Government's waste strategy, published last year, includes estimates for quantities of plastic waste and its management based on a published DEFRA-funded research report 'Carbon balances and energy impacts of the management of UK Wastes' by ERM. Based on this, and figures on total waste to landfill, it can be estimated that broadly around 5 per cent. of the total waste to landfill is plastics (dense and film).

Virtually all plastics can be recycled, however, this recyclability is ultimately determined by collection and reprocessing facilities available.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which local authorities received grant funding from the *(a)* Waste Minimisation and Recycling Fund, *(b)* Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant and *(c)* Behavioural Change Local Fund in each year since 2005-06; and what projects received grants in each case. [176564]

Joan Ruddock: Local authorities were able to bid for funding under the Waste Minimisation and Recycling Fund. £135 million was made available across 2004-05 and 2005-06. £20.55 million of this was specifically set aside for local authorities in London. Successful projects funded are listed on DEFRA's website.

The Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant (WPEG) awarded £40 million in 2005-06, £105 million in 2006-07 and £110 million in 2007-08 to all local authorities in England. The grant was allocated by formula and was 'unringfenced', in line with the Government's policy of giving freedom and flexibility to local authorities.

A full list of WPEG allocations to local authorities in 2006-07 and 2007-08 is available on DEFRA's website.

I have arranged for the list of local authorities awarded funding under the Waste and Resources Action Programme's (WRAP) Behavioural Change Local Fund from 2005-06 to be placed in the House Library.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when a reply will be sent to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire's letter to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, dated 23 November 2007, on the future of British Waterways. [178019]

Jonathan Shaw: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 4 January 2008. I apologise for the delay in replying.

Mercury: Health Hazards

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what adverse health reactions arising from exposure to mercury have been reported among those working in the manufacture of mercury barometers in the UK in the last 10 years. [175989]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 7 January 2008]*: Under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 a report must be sent to the enforcing authority where a person at work suffers from mercury poisoning. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is the enforcing authority for all manufacturing activities, including mercury barometer manufacture. HSE statisticians advise that from 1993-94 to 2006-07 (inclusive), there have been five cases of 'poisoning by mercury' reported to HSE. The latest of these were two cases in 1999-2000.

Mercury released from barometers, on breakage or ultimate disposal, will persist in the environment and as such can indirectly lead to risks to human health.

Natural England: Finance

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of how changes in funding for Natural England will affect the Government's 2010 target of halting biodiversity loss; and if he will make a statement. [177562]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 10 January 2008]*: We have started discussions with Natural England on options for its budget for 2008-09 but do not expect to take final decisions until February. It is therefore too early to set out what the implications will be.

Securing a healthy natural environment remains a top priority and is one of my Department's two high level goals alongside tackling climate change. Natural England will be a key contributor to this work. Following decisions on next year's funding settlement, we will be working with Natural England to finalise its next corporate plan, which will set Natural England's priorities and the outcomes to be achieved.

Nature Conservation: Seas and Oceans

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on the establishment of a network of marine conservation zones to protect marine wildlife; what steps he plans to take on better co-ordination of the activities of commercial *(a)* dredging, *(b)* fishing and *(c)* energy production; and if he will make a statement. [174646]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has received representations from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) on the establishment of marine protected areas (MPAs).

Through the Marine Bill, we aim to create a marine planning system that will be a key tool in helping the UK Government deliver their vision for the marine environment in which resources and activities in UK waters are strategically managed and coordinated, integrating conservation, energy and resource needs.

Marine planning will take a strategic view of the way in which all marine activities (including dredging, fishing and energy generation) interact and will address possible conflicts between them more quickly. It will also consider the cumulative impact they have on the marine environment, and guide decisions on licence applications and other issues providing users of the sea with more certainty. Marine plans will also take account of designated marine conservation zones, and the information gathered during planning will help us to ensure that we are properly protecting the areas that need it.

Packaging: Plastics

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress his Department has made on reducing the use of plastic bags; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Irish government's policy on the matter. [177025]

Joan Ruddock: The Government have secured an agreement with retailers to reduce the environmental impact of single use shopping bags (paper and plastic) by 25 per cent. by the end of 2008.

A number of retailers have already implemented initiatives and are working with the Waste and Resources Action Programme on their individual programmes of activity. A review of progress towards the 25 per cent. target will be completed by the end of this year to assess what would be required to make further reductions by 2010.

On 19 November 2007, the Prime Minister announced that the Government would convene a forum of supermarkets, the British Retail Consortium and other interested groups to urgently assess together how, and how quickly, we can eliminate single-use disposable bags altogether, in favour of long-lasting and more sustainable alternatives.

An assessment of the Irish levy on plastic bags has been carried out in the past by HM Treasury. This concluded that a similar tax in this country would not be effective on environmental grounds. The Government have no current plans for a national plastic bags tax, although the Chancellor keeps all taxes under review.

Plastics: Biodegradability

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the Government's policy is on biodegradable plastics; [175741]

(2) what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* officials from his Department have had with third parties on the use of biodegradable plastics. [175753]

Joan Ruddock: The Government fully support the development of new, innovative technologies including some products made from biodegradable materials and particularly the sustainable development of biodegradable plastics from non-fossil sources.

The strategy for non-food crops and uses, (published in November 2004 by DEFRA and the former Department of Trade and Industry), set out a number of actions, aimed at promoting opportunities for biopolymers and other renewable products.

The strategy recognises that polymers derived from renewable materials can have lifecycle advantages over petrochemical based products, provided they are correctly disposed of, usually through composting or, in some circumstances, incineration with energy recovery. The Government are working with industry

and trade organisations to support the development of schemes to increase composting of biodegradable materials and to inform consumers and businesses of the importance of doing this.

Primates: Pets

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he intends to bring forward secondary legislation under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 on keeping primates as pets. [175030]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government intend to introduce a code of practice on the keeping of primates as pets under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 as soon as possible in line with available resources. A working group has already been tasked with producing such a code. This and all other codes issued by the Government will be subject to public consultation and parliamentary approval.

Seabed: Scotland

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 28 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 530W, on Seabed: Scotland, when he next plans to discuss the Marine Bill with the devolved administrations; if he will discuss the control of the seabed to the 200 nautical miles limit around Scotland; whether he intends to use the Marine Bill to give the Scottish Executive control over that seabed; and if he will make a statement. [173026]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA officials and I meet regularly with our counterparts in the devolved administrations to discuss marine issues, including the Marine Bill. Proposals for the draft Marine Bill respect the current devolution settlement with Scotland. It is for the UK Government as a whole to consider any proposals for changes in responsibility for the control of the seabed to the 200 nautical mile limit around the whole of the UK.

Seas and Oceans: Scotland

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what responsibilities *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Scottish Executive have within the (i) six and (ii) 12 nautical mile limit around Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [173027]

Jonathan Shaw: Activities in the marine area out to both six and 12 nautical miles are controlled under a variety of regimes. Responsibilities under these regimes in different parts of our territorial sea are subject to the devolution settlements and other management arrangements agreed with the devolved administrations. As a consequence, DEFRA responsibilities across the marine area vary and some of those responsibilities are shared with other Government Departments and agencies.

Responsibilities within those parts of the territorial sea adjacent to Scotland are defined under the Scotland Act 1998. The Scottish Executive has responsibility in that area for all matters not reserved to the UK Government by virtue of that Act, and for any reserved matters which have been executively devolved to the Scottish Ministers.

Sewers: Urban Areas

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the urban drainage pilot projects to be completed; and if he will publish their conclusions on *(a)* effectiveness, *(b)* cost and benefits and *(c)* contribution to the reduction of flooding. [177103]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA's integrated urban drainage pilots are due to finish in spring 2008, with a final report and guidance produced in autumn 2008. We expect the final report to cover the costs, benefits and effectiveness of an integrated approach to urban drainage, particularly with respect to improved flood risk management.

Stray Dogs

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what expenditure local councils have made on kennels for stray dogs; and, what resources have been given to local councils to enable them to implement the relevant provisions of the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005; [177100]

(2) when the provisions of the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 in relation to stray dogs will be fully implemented.' [177101]

Jonathan Shaw: The commencement of section 68 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 will take place on 6 April 2008, at which point local authorities will become solely responsible for stray dogs functions under sections 149 and 150 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Local authorities will be funded through the Revenue Support Grant arrangements, which will include an additional £4 million a year for authorities in England and Wales.

Local authorities are free to decide how to spend the funding for their services in relation to stray dogs, and DEFRA does not collect data on individual local authorities' expenditure.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding will be made available to local authorities for the 24-hour service for stray dogs in advance of the coming into force of section 68 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005; and whether this money will be ringfenced for this purpose. [177386]

Jonathan Shaw: From 6 April 2008, the police will cease to have responsibility for stray dogs functions under sections 149 and 150 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990; the functions will be the responsibility of local authorities. Local authorities must decide what represents a reasonable service in accordance with local needs. Where practicable, they should provide at least one acceptance point which, where possible, is open around the clock.

£4 million per year for the three years of the revenue support grant period will be paid to local authorities in England and Wales. Future spending reviews will consider funding for the longer-term for all local authority services, including their responsibilities for stray dogs. Local authorities are free to spend the money they receive on the services they feel are appropriate for their area.

Waste and Resources Action Programme: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much central Government funding the Waste and Resources Action programme will receive in each of the next three years in cash terms. [176539]

Joan Ruddock: As a UK-wide programme, funding is provided to the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) from DEFRA, the Scottish Government, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Department of the Environment (Northern Ireland).

No final decisions on budget allocations from this Department have yet been made. The DEFRA financial settlement for 2008-11 increases the budget by 1.4 per cent. and it is important that spending is aligned with wider departmental priorities and gives best value for money. Operating an effective delivery service, combating climate change and protecting the natural environment are three of our key priorities and funding allocations will reflect this.

Waste Disposal: Costs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 42-43W, on waste disposal: costs, what the average cost per household was of collecting household waste in councils with (*a*) weekly rubbish collections and (*b*) alternate weekly collections. [176261]

Joan Ruddock: DEFRA does not hold a list of local authorities operating alternate weekly collections of household waste. However, the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) does hold some information to assist local authorities with support and guidance. This information has been made available in Hansard in response to previous questions on this topic.

No comparative assessment of the variation in costs and frequencies of household waste collection services provided by local authorities in England has been made by DEFRA. Such an assessment would not provide meaningful results as, while we are aware that many local authorities operate household waste collections at frequencies other than weekly, we do not hold specific details on the types of scheme used and the extent of their coverage.

The Government do not believe it is right to prescribe centrally how household waste is collected in different parts of the country. This is a matter for local authorities.

Waste Disposal: Crime

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what new powers have been given to local authorities to (*a*) seize and (*b*) inspect vehicles, in relation to waste offences, in the last 12 months. [176542]

Joan Ruddock: The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 introduced new powers for local authorities to instantly stop, search and seize vehicles involved in fly-tipping related offences. However, these powers have not yet been commenced.

My Department is currently developing the detailed regulations that will give effect to these powers. A consultation is planned for May 2008 with the regulations planned to come into force in April 2009.

Waste Disposal: Domestic Waste

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate the Environment Agency has made of the proportion and volume of household rubbish that is burned by households in their gardens. [176533]

(2) what estimate (*a*) his Department and (*b*) the Environment Agency has made of the number of households who burn household rubbish in their garden. [176568]

(3) what research (*a*) his Department and (*b*) the Environment Agency has undertaken into burning of household waste inside the curtilage of domestic dwellings. [176581]

Joan Ruddock: No specific assessment has been made by my Department or the Environment Agency of the level of burning of domestic waste by households in England.

Complaints about statutory smoke nuisance from domestic bonfires, or the burning of other materials, are made at the local authority level. Statistics are not held centrally by my Department. However, in 2006 DEFRA published a research project to review complaints received by local authorities about bonfire smoke, which advised on the legal and practical remedies available to local authorities and private individuals. It reported that a total of 29,147 complaints were made to local authorities in 2000; and that in a part year survey of 2004 involving 47 local authorities 5,424 complaints were made. The research report did not attempt to analyse the type of burning that was the subject of complaint.

In addition, DEFRA carried out research into emissions of dioxins from the burning of domestic waste in 2006. The review recommended that further work should be done to establish what practical measures could be taken to reduce dioxin emissions from bonfires and domestic combustion and, consequently, exposure to dioxins. Further work in estimating dioxin emissions from domestic burning is currently being undertaken by my Department. Results from the on-going work will be due later this year.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department has given waste collection authorities

on (*a*) closed lid polices and (*b*) no side waste policies in relation to the collection of household waste. [176551]

Joan Ruddock: Following requests by local authorities for clarification of the legislation regarding 'side waste', DEFRA sent a letter in August 2005 to all English waste authorities setting out our interpretation of the legislation. A copy of this letter is available on DEFRA's website.

No advice has been offered by DEFRA on the subject of closed lid policies. However, section 3.11.2 of the waste and resources action programme's (WRAP) revised advice on alternate weekly collections, published on 16 July 2007, includes a short statement on closed lid/no side waste policies. However, the decision on whether to adopt either of these policies is one for each individual local authority to take.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what additional funding is being provided to local authorities undertaking the rubbish tax pilots; [176556]

(2) whether additional funding will be given to local authorities taking part in the pilots for new bin taxes. [176167]

Joan Ruddock: As I said in my written ministerial statement to Parliament of 15 November 2007, DEFRA has committed up to £1.5 million per year over three years to help support the waste incentive pilot schemes.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms will be used to tackle non-payment by residents of the proposed charges for the collection of household waste; and whether the rubbish collection of non-payers will be cancelled for non-payment. [176571]

Joan Ruddock: It is envisaged that local authorities would be able to recover any money owed by residents through the courts as a civil debt.

Local authorities' duty to collect household waste would still apply.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department's definition of revenue neutral for its proposals for new taxes on the collection of household rubbish would include the costs of (*a*) technology to weigh individual bins, (*b*) computer systems to record bin weights and generate invoices, (*c*) administration of customer databases, (*d*) systems for dealing with rented property and houses of multiple occupation, (*e*) systems for dealing with disputes, non-payment and bad debts, (*f*) enforcement, (*g*) publicity and promotion and (*h*) clearing up additional fly-tipping; and whether the householder would be expected to pay for these additional costs via (*i*) the rubbish tax and (ii) council tax. [176574]

Joan Ruddock: Revenue collected through charges under a waste incentive scheme could not be used to cover any costs.

Whether local authorities incur the costs listed here, will depend in large part on how the schemes are designed. In any case, authorities may be able to avoid or limit many of these costs, through effective planning and communication.

Modelling commissioned by my Department suggests that local authorities could make savings more than sufficient to pay for the costs of waste incentive schemes. These savings arise as a result of less waste for the authority to collect and dispose of.

My Department is also providing up to £1.5 million per year for three years to help support the pilots.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which organisations have been contacted to tender for the contract to conduct the evaluations into the pilots for new bin taxes. [176575]

Joan Ruddock: No organisations have been contacted.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the timetable is for introduction of new charges for the collection of household rubbish. [176578]

Joan Ruddock: There is no timetable for the introduction of the five pilot household waste incentive schemes (including those which have a charging element) announced last year. However, as stated during the Communities and Local Government Select Committee's hearing on waste on 17 December 2007, the earliest the pilots are likely to start (including those which have a charging element) is April 2009. The exact timing will be subject to the parliamentary process.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department are developing or researching policy in relation to (*a*) charging for the collection of household waste and (*b*) the frequency at which household waste is collected. [176584]

Joan Ruddock: One full-time and two part-time members of staff are currently working on the proposals announced last year for pilot waste collection schemes to encourage waste reduction and recycling.

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 provides obligations and powers to local authorities for household waste collection. The Government do not believe it is right to centrally prescribe the frequency with which household waste is collected in different parts of the country. That is a matter for local authorities and the Government are not developing or researching policy in this area.

The policy team responsible for existing collection and disposal legislation spends a small proportion of its time responding to queries about frequency of collection.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the starting date for the pilots for the proposed household rubbish collection tax is. [177152]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 9 January 2008]* There is no timetable for the introduction of the five pilot household waste incentive schemes (including those which have a charging element) announced last year. However, as stated during the Communities and Local Government Select Committee's hearing on waste on 17 December 2007, the earliest the pilots are likely to start (including those which have a charging element) is April 2009. The exact timing will be subject to the parliamentary process.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the maximum charge that can be levied per year by waste collection authorities under the new proposed household rubbish collection tax is planned to be. [175434]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 9 January 2008]* Powers provided in the Climate Change Bill allow five local authorities to pilot incentives to encourage household waste minimisation and recycling.

No maximum charge has been set, although the Government retain a reserved power to create a cap on the level of incentive in the future, should this be necessary.

Since local authorities will not be able to keep any revenue which they collect through pilot schemes, they have no incentive to raise the level of the payments beyond what will encourage positive behaviour. Experience in other countries where incentive schemes are in operation also suggests that payments do not need to be high to be effective. For example, variable charges in the region of £30 to £50 have been shown to drive behaviour change overseas.

Waste Management: Northern Ireland

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions and communications *a* his Department and *b* the Waste Resources Action Programme have had with the Northern Ireland Department of the Environment in relation to the Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy 2006-2020 and bringing forward for public consultation proposals to give councils powers to charge for the collection of household waste. [176698]

Joan Ruddock: The Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy 2006-20 contains a commitment to consult publicly on proposals for financial incentive schemes to encourage householder separation of waste. Such schemes would be administered by district councils in Northern Ireland.

We have shared policy thinking on waste management with the Devolved Administrations and have kept them informed about the waste incentive scheme proposals. My Department is in contact with Northern Ireland across the full range of waste regulation issues.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has had no discussions with Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland (DoENI) in relation to financial incentives. However WRAP has had discussions with DoENI about how it might help implement other elements of the strategy.

Water: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average water bill in *a* England and Wales and *b* each water company area was for an unmetered household with (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three and (iv) four bedrooms in the latest period for which figures are available. [176528]

Mr. Woolas: Ofwat is the economic regulator of the water and sewerage industry in England and Wales and sets price limits for each water company at price reviews.

a The average unmetered water bill in England and Wales is £325. The following table shows Ofwat's breakdown of the average unmetered household water and sewerage bill for 2007-08 in England and Wales.

Average unmetered water bill

	£
Water	137
Sewerage	162
Combined	325

b Unmetered charges for water are based on the rateable value of the property not number of bedrooms. Ofwat does not collect specific information on average water bills broken down by number of bedrooms.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research has been conducted by *a* his Department and *b* OFWAT into the relative distributional effects of rateable value for domestic water bills following the publication by his Department of the Cross-Government Review of Water Affordability report in 2004. [176544]

Mr. Woolas: Since publishing the cross Government review of water affordability we have been working closely with water companies and Ofwat on a project looking at the distributional effects of a range of measured and unmeasured tariffs, including under the current regulatory framework. We will be looking at this work in the context of the new DEFRA water strategy which will be published early this year.

Wolves

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions his Department has held on the reintroduction of wild wolves into the UK, and if he will make a statement. [177641]

Joan Ruddock: My Department has held no discussions on the reintroduction of wolves into England and we have no plans for any such reintroduction.

This is a devolved issue and is the responsibility of respective devolved administrations within the UK.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of Taliban members who surrendered to ISAF forces then subsequently returned to join anti-western forces. [162791]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 773W.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of Taliban commanders who surrendered in Afghanistan as a result of (*a*) diplomatic and (*b*) military actions. [162792]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 394W.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many (*a*) commanders and (*b*) foot soldiers surrendered to (i) the International Security Assistance Force and (ii) the Afghan National Army in each month in 2007. [162823]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1444W.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the statement by the Prime Minister of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 304, on Afghanistan, what proportion of helicopter missions by British forces are used for (*a*) military tasks and (*b*) moving routine freight in Regional Command South; and if he will make a statement. [175463]

Des Browne: ISAF records for helicopter usage do not make a distinction between flights for "military tasks" and those for "moving routine freight" because the movement of freight (logistic movement) is a military task. To maximise usage of available aviation capacity, helicopter missions invariably move both personnel and freight. Accordingly we do not hold this information centrally and the question could be answered only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the statement by the Prime Minister of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 310, on Afghanistan, when he expects the eight Chinook helicopters to be ready for service; and whether any will be sent to Afghanistan. [175482]

Des Browne: As I announced on 18 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 106WS, we expect the first aircraft to be available for operations in 2009 and all eight from 2010. Decisions on the operational deployment of these aircraft will be taken closer to the time.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the statement by the Prime Minister of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 312, on Afghanistan, if he will define the phrase, next period of time, as used with reference to the deployment of Sea King, Chinook and Merlin helicopters to Afghanistan. [175483]

Des Browne: The deployment of additional Sea Kings to Afghanistan will be complete by April 2008. As I announced on 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 106WS, we expect the first Chinooks to be available for operations in 2009 and all eight from 2010. Merlin is currently deployed in Iraq; we are currently examining the balance of our helicopter force levels across theatres, and this will include the deployment of Merlin helicopters to Afghanistan in due course, subject to operational requirements.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many medical civic action programmes British forces have conducted in (*a*) Kabul, (*b*) Helmand and (*c*) Kandahar provinces since 2005. [175580]

(2) how many medical civic action programmes British forces have conducted without assistance from the United States military in Afghanistan since 2005. [175593]

Des Browne: UK forces do not undertake medical civic action programmes to provide direct delivery of medical care. UK forces may be involved in providing logistics and security for events carried out by the Government of Afghanistan or other nations and UK military medical personnel may also act as observers during these events in order to identify best practice with regard to the emergency treatment of local nationals.

Armed Forced: Prosthetics

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what meetings (*a*) Ministers and (*b*) officials have had with the Department of Health to discuss the ongoing care of armed forces veterans with C-leg limb prostheses. [175343]

Derek Twigg: The Defence Medical Services attach a high priority to ensuring a smooth and seamless transition of care upon medical discharge, including for those service personnel with prostheses such as C-leg limbs (an advanced lower-leg prosthetic). Officials are currently working with their NHS counterparts and Department of Health officials to address the feasibility of establishing relationships with a small number of NHS facilities that could offer a service to veterans comparable to that provided to serving members by the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court. Two such centres have been visited to date and their response has been very positive. Further visits are planned in the coming months, after which detailed procedures will be drawn up to enable veterans to access these regional centres if they so wish. The Department is also engaged in similar discussions with the devolved administrations.

Armed Forces: Coroners

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of providing legal representation for (*a*) the families of servicemen and women killed on operations which were paid for by his Department and (*b*) his Department at coroners' inquests in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [174665]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive letter from Bob Ainsworth to Bernard Jenkin:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question (174665) on 17 December 2007, (Official Report, column 1023W) about:

"the cost of providing legal representation for the families of servicemen and women killed on operations, the Department and for the Department at coroners' inquests in the last 12 months for which figures are available."

With respect to the funding for the families of Service personnel, the Legal Services Commission is responsible for legal aid. Legal aid is not usually available for representation at inquests because an inquest is a fact-finding process to determine who the deceased was and when, where and how he or she died. It is not adversarial. However, as a result of changes introduced by the Government (under the Access to Justice Act 1999) legal aid can now be granted in cases, such as inquests, where it is not normally available, but only where there are exceptional circumstances. There are published criteria that help determine whether a case is exceptional. Applications for exceptional funding must be made to the Legal Services Commission and where the Commission considers that the criteria have been met the application will be passed to the Ministry of Justice for consideration. Where conditions have been met, legal aid has been provided to service families.

For the majority of inquests, MOD does not have legal representation because they are non-adversarial, fact-finding proceedings. However, on some occasions the MOD, as an "interested person" may engage Counsel to assist the coroner in establishing the relevant facts surrounding the death, particularly in cases which are complex, often involving sensitive matters relating to national security. The presence of Counsel may make the proceedings appear more formal, but it does not change the fact-finding nature of an inquest. The MOD believes that the assistance we can provide to the coroner in these cases, and thus the proceedings more generally, is worthwhile and of benefit to everyone involved. From 1 January 2007 to 14 December 2007, the MOD has been billed for £793,971.66 on legal representation at the inquests of Service personnel and Service related deaths (the majority of which will be for operational deaths).

As mentioned above, legal aid for the families of Service personnel is ultimately the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice and it would therefore not be appropriate for the MOD to fund legal representation. Nonetheless, the MOD takes its responsibilities towards the families of deceased seriously. All casualties and deaths suffered by the UK Armed Forces are a source of profound regret. Nevertheless support to families is part of our debt to those who have given their lives, from the time when the tragic news must be conveyed to the next of kin, through to the potentially difficult experience of a Coroner's inquest and beyond.

The MOD has robust policies and procedures in place to ensure the best possible support is offered to all families. These procedures are continually under review to ensure they reflect the needs and expectations of all those concerned. Support is given to families through visiting officers who are drawn from members of the Services and who have received relevant training. Visiting officers are appointed to act as a liaison, through regular contact, between the bereaved family and the Services. They establish links with the various agencies to provide ongoing support, both financial and emotional, and help the bereaved family to adjust to life without their loved one. Specific financial help is available to the bereaved family to help meet the costs of the funeral, incidental funeral expenses, travel and accommodation and subsistence to attend the repatriation ceremony and the pre-inquest and inquest hearing.

I am placing a copy of this in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Firearms

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* SA-80 assault rifles and *(b)* 9mm Browning pistols were reported (i) lost or missing and later recovered and (ii) lost or missing and not recovered by British armed forces in the United Kingdom in each year since 1997. [177587]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, I am able to provide the total number of MOD owned rifles and pistols lost or stolen from UK based units from 2000 to 2007 which is shown in the following tables. No reliable information is held prior to this period.

	Pistol		Rifle and SA80	
	Lost	Recovered	Lost	Recovered
2000	2	2	0	0
2001	2	1	0	0
2002	1	0	6	5
2003	1	1	1	1
2004	4	1	0	0
2005	2	2	1	1
2006	1	1	1	1
2007	2	0	1	0
Total	15	8	10	8

	Pistol		Rifle and SA80	
	Stolen	Recovered	Stolen	Recovered
2000	28	6	0	0
2001	2	1	2	0
2002	1	0	2	1
2003	2	0	18	4
2004	1	1	7	3
2005	3	0	7	1
2006	3	1	5	0
2007	3	0	3	1
Total	43	9	44	10

Armed Forces: Health Services

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect of the decision to charge nurses employed by his Department £15 for influenza inoculations on the operational effectiveness of the armed forces. [178006]

Derek Twigg: All military and civilian nurses working for the Ministry of Defence are eligible to receive any necessary influenza inoculations free of charge at service medical centres.

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints were made to Modern Housing Solutions in each of the last 12 months. [177540]

Derek Twigg: The number of complaints received in each of the last 12 months is as follows:

	Number
January 2007	651
February 2007	551
March 2007	593
April 2007	460

	Number
May 2007	427
June 2007	401
July 2007	744
August 2007	650
September 2007	641
October 2007	744
November 2007	572
December 2007	488

Armed Forces: Rehabilitation

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what support his Department provides to help rehabilitate servicemen and women on their return from active service in the armed forces. [168864]

Derek Twigg: It is assumed that the question refers to our post-operational stress management policy. This applies to all the Armed Services, although each has its own individual processes that recognise its particular structure and culture. Operational deployments can be very stressful experiences, so wherever possible we look to offer individuals briefing prior to returning to their home base. Where possible a "decompression period" is arranged during which personnel can begin to unwind mentally and physically after their operational tour while having time to talk to colleagues and superiors with whom they have deployed about their experiences. Decompression can take place in a number of locations, for example in theatre while waiting for the return flight, or the Commander can arrange for it to take place in a third location (i.e. not home base and not theatre), such as Cyprus. For seagoing units, including embarked forces, decompression usually occurs as a matter of routine during the return passage to the UK which may include one or more operational standoffs or foreign port visits providing an opportunity for individuals to separate themselves, albeit briefly, from their working environment. Alternatively, Service personnel returning from operations can spend a period of time in their home base location to assist with the winding down period prior to progressing to Post Operational Tour leave. Access to specialised mental healthcare is available if required, both during the decompression period and back in the UK at MOD's regional Departments of Community Mental Health.

The families of returning personnel are also offered presentations and issued with leaflets to alert them to the possible after-affects of an operational deployment. Welfare Officers, Padres, and other associated organisations (such as regimental and other support groups) also provide information and advice to families.

Reservists are treated in a similar fashion where possible, with all having access to the Regular welfare support system or having support delivered through their parent unit. All Reserve units in the Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Royal Air Force have Welfare Officers, while in the Territorial Army the Regimental Operational Support Officer will perform Welfare duties. Their duties will include support to the families of mobilised reserves, including the provision of briefing and leaflets.

Where mobilised Reservists are returning to regular civilian employment, support and advice is available to the civilian employer to help them understand the potential after-effects of an operational deployment on an individual.

Armed Forces: Schools

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the mobility rate was for each service children's education (*a*) primary and (*b*) secondary school in the last academic year. [177594]

Derek Twigg: In order to combine primary and secondary statistics within a single database, Service Children's Education (SCE) is currently revising the Data Collection System employed to monitor pupil mobility rates in SCE schools. I shall write to the hon. Member once this information becomes available.

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many training airborne jumps have been conducted by British service personnel in each year since 2001; and how many of these jumps were made from a (*a*) C-17 Globemaster, (*b*) C-130K Hercules, (*c*) C-130J Hercules, (*d*) other aeroplanes, (*e*) Chinook helicopters and (*f*) other helicopters in each year. [177544]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the total number of annual parachute descents by entitled service personnel conducted between 2001 and 2007 broken down by aircraft type. This includes displays conducted by the RAF Falcons display team, whose descents cannot be broken out from the annual parachute descents.

Year	Total descents	C-17 (Globemaster)[1]	C130	Other aircraft	Chinook	Other helicopters
2001	27,721	0	24,265	3,234	25	197
2002	21,510	0	16,509	4,865	0	136
2003	16,022	0	10,688	5,070	0	264
2004	25,692	0	20,030	5,610	0	52
2005	12,932	0	9,394	3,462	0	76
2006	10,761	0	8,449	2,139	0	173
2007[4]	10,001	0	9,554	203	0	244

[1] Although the C17 Globemaster has a parachute capability it is not used for parachute training as the aircraft have been designated for strategic airlift.
[2] We cannot differentiate between the C130 variants.
[4] Only includes figures to October.

Athena

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much expenditure from the public purse has been spent on European Security and Defence Policy military operations (*a*) under the Athena mechanism and (*b*) not under the Athena mechanism since January 2004, broken down by operation. [177526]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 10 January 2008]:* The amount spent on ESDP military operations since January 2004 under the Athena mechanism is set out as shown.

The amount spent on ESDP military operations since January 2004 not under the Athena mechanism format includes national borne costs which are held theatre wide rather than for NATO/ESDP (for example in the Balkans). Further work is therefore required to determine these costs as accurately as possible. I will write to the hon. Member as soon as this work is complete.

EU operation	Where	When	Under ATHENA (£ million)
ALTHEA	(Bosnia and Herzegovina	Since July 2004	15.177
EUFORDRC	Democratic Republic of Congo	April 2006 to November 2006	1.417
EUFOR CHAD/ CAR	CHAD/ Central African Republic	Yet to deploy	5.902
Total			22.496

Christmas

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's policy is on the selection of *(a)* real and *(b)* artificial Christmas trees for his Department's festive decorations; and how real trees are disposed of. [173530]

Derek Twigg: The Government's timber procurement policy, which requires that all timber and wood-containing products procured by Departments, including the Ministry of Defence, must come from legal, and preferably sustainable, sources, applies to the selection of real Christmas trees. There is no central Departmental policy on the selection of artificial Christmas trees. It is our policy that Christmas trees should be recycled after use.

Defence Aviation Repair Agency: Privatisation

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will visit the Defence Aviation Repair Agency Fleetlands and Almondbank to discuss with staff the reasons for the consideration of the privatisation of the agency and to inspect facilities. [178924]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: My right hon. Friend Baroness Ann Taylor, the Minister for Defence Equipment and Support, has already met with trade union officials at local and national level on this matter.

In addition, MOD officials have and continue to consult with all staff and relevant trade unions on matters concerning the future direction of the businesses.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the *(a)* benefits and *(b)* risks of privatising the Defence Aviation Repair Agency. [178926]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I announced on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 74WS, that, following a robust evaluation of bids from industry, work would continue to assess whether sale offers best overall value for Defence for the remaining Defence Aviation Repair Agency Rotary Wing and Components businesses that would not be merging into the Defence Support Group.

As part of this assessment, officials are currently considering the benefits and risks before a final decision is made.

Defence: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the defence budget was for Northern Ireland in each of the last 30 years at 2007 prices. [176663]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

General Officer Commanding (GOC) Northern Ireland was established as a separate Top Level Budget Holder (TLB) between 1992-93 and 2006-07. However, I provided information on all MOD Budget Holders (Sub Head) allocations for the last seven years in my letter of 30 November 2007, to the hon. Member for West Dorset (Mr. Letwin). A copy of my reply and the relevant information is available in the Library of the House. The HM Treasury website provides information regarding comparative pricing (the GDP deflator) at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/Economic_Data_and_Tools/GDP_Deflators/data_gdp_index.cfm

Defence: Northumberland

Mr. Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Department's grounds for objection to recent wind farm planning applications in Northumberland apply to other proposed wind farm sites in the parts of Northumberland identified in the regional planning strategy as areas of least constraint for wind farm applications; and whether he is proposing any modification of the strategy to meet defence operational requirements. [177446]

Derek Twigg: The decision whether or not to object to a planning application for one or more wind turbines is taken on a case-by-case basis and the decision in one case does not automatically relate to another. The key issues are whether proposed turbines will affect Ministry of Defence (MOD) interests such as operations and safety, and, if they do, whether the predicted effects will be manageable.

The Government office for the north east is in the process of drafting the north east regional spatial strategy and their officials are in discussion with MOD to ensure that MOD interests are adequately represented and protected in all relevant new and revised strategy and guidance documents.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of *(a)* beef, *(b)* lamb, *(c)* pork and *(d)* dairy products used in his departmental headquarters were imported products in the most recent period for which figures are available. [166646]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the data published in the report deposited in the House of Commons Library on 8 November 2007 giving the proportion of UK produce supplied to Government Departments, the NHS and HM Prison Service. A copy of the report is also available on the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative (PSFPI) website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/pdf/govt-food-usage.pdf

Departmental Domestic Visits

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what plans *(a)* he has and *(b)* his ministerial colleagues have to visit wounded service men and women; [167156]

(2) on which occasions *(a)* he and *(b)* his ministerial colleagues visited wounded service men and women in each of the last two years; [167157]

(3) on which occasions *(a)* he and *(b)* his ministerial colleagues attended (i) funerals and (ii) memorial services of service men and women in each of the last two years. [167158]

Derek Twigg: Defence Ministers make, and shall continue to make, frequent visits to wounded service personnel both in the UK and overseas. Since 1 January 2006 a total of 42 visits have been made to visit wounded personnel in hospitals in the UK and overseas, including field hospitals in the operational theatres in Iraq and Afghanistan. The following list gives the visits made by each Minister.

In addition, Ministers meet personnel in the UK once they have returned from operational duty. On some of these occasions Ministers have met with injured personnel and their families.

Secretary of State for Defence (Total 14)

Visit to field hospital at Camp Bastion in Afghanistan between 6 and 10 August 2007;

Visited the Royal Centre of Defence Medicine at Selly Oak on 17 May 2007;

Visited the field hospital at the Basra air station in Iraq on 28 April to 2 May 2007;

Visited the field hospital at Camp Bastion in Afghanistan on 30 March to 2 April 2007;

Visited the field hospital at the Basra air station in Iraq on 29 to 30 January 2007;

Visited the field hospital at Camp Bastion in Afghanistan on 23 to 24 October 2006;

Visited the Royal Centre of Defence Medicine at Selly Oak on 27 September 2006;

Visited the Royal Centre of Defence Medicine at Selly Oak on 15 August 2006;

Visited the Defence Medical and Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court on 15 August 2006;

Visited the field hospital at Shaibah logistics base in Iraq on 18 May 2006;

Visited Afghanistan on 24 to 26 April 2006;

Visited the field hospital at Shaibah logistics base in Iraq on 18 March 2006.

Visited the Defence Medical and Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court on 20 January 2006;

Visited the Royal College of Defence Medicine at Selly Oak on 20 January 2006.

Minister for the Armed Forces (Total 11)

Visited the field hospital at Basra air station in Iraq on 17 to 20 December 2007;

Visited the Royal College of Defence Medicine at Selly Oak on 15 October 2007;

Visited the Defence Medical and Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court on 25 July 2007;

Visited the field hospital at Basra air station in Iraq on 19 to 22 July 2007;

Visited the field hospital at Camp Bastion in Afghanistan on 9 to 12 July 2007;

Visited the Royal College of Defence Medicine at Selly Oak on 1 May 2007;

Visited the field hospital at Camp Bastion in Afghanistan on 20 to 21 December 2006;

Visited the field hospital at Basra air station in Iraq on 28 to 30 September 2006;

Visited the field hospital at Camp Bastion in Afghanistan on 4 to 8 September 2006;

Visited the Defence Medical and Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court on 10 July 2006;

Visited 7th Armoured Brigade in Germany on 8 to 9 May 2006.

Minister for Defence Equipment and Support (formerly Minister for Defence Procurement) (Total 3)

Visited the field hospital at the Basra air station in Iraq on 9 March 2007;

Visited the Defence Medical and Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court on 23 February 2007;

Visited the field hospital at Camp Bastion in Afghanistan on 5 to 7 October 2006.

Under Secretary of State (Total 16)

Visited the Royal College of Defence Medicine at Selly Oak on 20 December 2007;

Visited the Defence Medical and Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court on 19 December 2007;

Visited the Royal Hospital Neurological Department, Putney on 29 November 2007;

Visited the Royal College of Defence Medicine at Selly Oak on 1 October 2007;

Visited the field hospital at Camp Bastion in Afghanistan on 17 September 2007;

Visited the Royal Hospital Neurological Department, Putney on 10 August 2007;

Visited the Defence Medical and Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court on 18 July 2007;

Visited the Royal College of Defence Medicine at Selly Oak on 22 June 2007;

Visited the Defence Medical and Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court on 20 June 2007;

Visited the Royal College of Defence Medicine at Selly Oak on 5 April 2007;

Visited the field hospital at the Basra air station in Iraq on 1 to 2 February 2007;

Visited the field hospital at Camp Bastion in Afghanistan on 29 to 30 January 2007;

Visited the Royal College of Defence Medicine at Selly Oak on 21 December 2006;

Visited the Defence Medical and Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court on 21 November 2006;

Visited the Royal College of Defence Medicine at Selly Oak on 6 October 2006;

Visited Royal College of Defence Medicine at Selly Oak on 16 June 2006.

Funeral services of deceased service personnel are private events and it is for the family of the deceased service person to decide who they wish to attend the funeral. No Defence Minister has been invited to attend any funeral of any service person in the past two years. Ministers have attended services of remembrance when invited.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of Freedom of Information requests received by his Department have given rise to responses that have been published by his Department. [175708]

Derek Twigg: The following table details the number of requests received, and the number and percentage of these which have been published via the online Disclosure Log in each of the last three years since the FOI Act came into force. Figures for 2007 are currently available only up until the end of September of that year.

	RFIs received	*Responses published on the Disclosure Log*	*Percentage of published responses as a proportion of the total of RFIs received*
January to December 2005	4,604	127	2.8
January to December 2006	3,300	63	1.9
January to September 2007	2,287	132	5.8
Total	10,191	322	3.2

The Disclosure Log is available at the MOD's website at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/DisclosureLog

and is easily accessible from the main FOI website, www.foi.mod.uk

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria are used to decide which of his Department's responses to requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 are published on the Department's website; and if he will make a statement. [175715]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* Where responses to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act are judged to be of wider public interest, the Ministry of Defence publishes them through the Department's online Disclosure Log. In determining which responses are of wider public interest, the Ministry of Defence assesses whether responses meet one or more of the following criteria:

response to a request received from parliamentarians, businesses and academics;

response to a request received from the media;

response containing information relating to topical or high-profile subjects or judged to be of interest to the wider public, or that promote the transparency or accountability of MOD;

response to a repeated or common request; and

response to a request that asks for a copy of a response to a previous request.

These criteria are broadly in line with the "Best Practice Guidance on Disclosure Logs" issued by the then Department for Constitutional Affairs in 2005. However, these criteria are neither prescriptive nor exhaustive, and other responses are considered for publication if they are identified as potentially being of wider public interest.

Departmental Pay

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 578W, on departmental pay, how many of those earning over £100,000 were employed *(a)* as special advisers and *(b)* in a political role in each year since 1997. [177179]

Derek Twigg: Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the number of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information, I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 147-51WS.

Information on the number and costs of special advisers prior to 2003 was provided at regular intervals and this information is available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Responsibilities

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which *(a)* reports, *(b)* surveys and *(c)* studies his Department has (i) commissioned, (ii) conducted and (iii) completed in the last six months; and what the purpose was of each. [177542]

Derek Twigg: The Department keeps all its activities, processes and structures under regular review. As a result, a wide range of internal and external reports, surveys and studies are being carried out at any one time. Information on these is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

English Language

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on English language classes for staff in the last year for which figures are available. [177486]

Derek Twigg: Total identified MOD expenditure on English language training support for the financial year 2006-07 was £720,000.

There are no identified costs for English language classes for the Royal Navy, the RAF or MOD civilians. The MOD's requirement for English language training support is primarily for Gurkha and Commonwealth recruits to the Army.

The total cost for Gurkha Language Wing for Financial Year 2006-07 was £678,000. This cost includes both English language training for Gurkha soldiers and the teaching of Nepali to British officers

of the Brigade of Gurkhas and other attached British personnel. Individual costs are not separately identifiable. English language support across the rest of the Army is provided by basic skills development managers.

Iraq: Detainees

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1224-5W, on Iraq: detainees, whether the United States authorities have at any time requested British consent for any individual to be transferred to the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay. [177561]

Des Browne *[holding answer 10 January 2008]*: We have no record of the United States' authorities making any request for our consent to transfer an individual to their detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, and no record of any such individual being transferred without our consent.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by how much UK troop numbers in Iraq were reduced in each of the last six months in net terms; and by how much UK troop numbers are expected to be reduced in each of the next six months, in net terms. [175795]

Des Browne: The following table sets out for each of the last six months the net reduction in the number of established UK military posts in Iraq.

2007	*Net reduction in posts*	*Cumulative total*
July	0	0
August	100	100
September	300	400
October	100	500
November	600	1,100
December	0	1,100

By the end of January 2008, we aim to have reduced the number of posts in Iraq by a further 350. Work continues to plan for future force level reductions, down to around 2,500 in southern Iraq from spring 2008, in line with the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 23. We are unable at present to provide a month-by-month projection of this reduction. Our plans will, of course, be guided by the advice of our military commanders and are subject to conditions on the ground.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1458W, on Iraq: peacekeeping operations, what plans he has to instruct commercial barristers in respect of the Hercules inquest. [177332]

Des Browne: In my answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1458W, to the hon. Member, I confirmed the costs that MOD has incurred in engaging external legal advice and representation in respect of the Hercules inquest. Such representation includes instructing the Treasury Solicitors and Crown Counsel who will represent the Department at the inquest.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 23 November 2007, ref: MC06419/2007. [178020]

Derek Twigg: I replied to the hon. Member on 18 December.

Military Bases: USA

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the Tiger Team report into security at RAF bases occupied by US forces. [178155]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will place a digest of the USAFE Tiger Team report on security at RAF bases provided by the UK for the use of US visiting forces in the Library of the House. This is already in the public domain following a request from a member of the public in 2006. A copy of the digest is enclosed with this answer for ease of reference. The full report has been exempted from publication under Section 31 (Law Enforcement) and Section 38 (Health and Safety) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans there are to change the number of Ministry of Defence police officers. [177585]

Derek Twigg: The forecast for MDP officers in 2008 is currently approximately 3,500. Security at MOD establishments is kept under constant review and future numbers will reflect the needs of the Department.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what roles Ministry of Defence police officers have in supporting the British armed forces. [177589]

Derek Twigg: The main crime and security risks faced by the Ministry of Defence are terrorist attack, disruption and disorder caused by protestors, theft of key assets and major financial fraud. To combat these risks the Ministry of Defence police provides armed security, uniformed policing and the investigation of minor and serious crime.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the recruiting targets for Ministry of Defence police officers were in each year since 1997. [177591]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence police has no set annual targets for recruitment. Instead it keeps recruiting requirements under constant review and recruits sufficient police constables to meet the numbers required to allow the chief constable to discharge his civilian policing function across the Defence Estate.

Netherlands: International Cooperation

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 842W, on the Netherlands: international co-operation, which units form the existing UK/Netherlands Amphibious Landing Force; how many joint training exercises between the UK and the Netherlands were conducted in support of the UK/Netherlands Amphibious Landing Force in each year since its creation; and what percentage of funding for the UK/Netherlands Amphibious Landing Force was paid by *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the Netherlands in each year since its creation. [177733]

Des Browne: The Netherlands Amphibious Landing Force (UK/NL LF) is not a standing force but a framework for long term cooperation between 3 Commando Brigade and the Royal Netherlands Marine Corps that was first conceived in 1973. From 1973-91 two joint training exercises were held annually, one in Norway during the winter and one on Salisbury plain during the summer.

Since 1991 joint training exercises have been less regular, typically taking place as work up training for operational deployment of the UK/NL LF, such as northern Iraq in 1991 and Bosnia in 1995. Joint training exercises took place in 1999, 2000, 2006, 2007 and two joint training exercises of the UK/NL LF are planned for 2008.

As with all NATO activities the principle of funding for the UK/NL LF is that costs lie where they fall; each nation therefore pays its own costs.

Prince William

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what application procedures were followed in respect of Prince William's training to be a pilot; which of the armed forces he will be attached to after training; to which unit; what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of training Prince William as a pilot; and if he will make a statement. [177377]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: His Royal Highness Prince William attended the Officers and Aircrew Selection Centre and a medical board prior to his attachment to the Royal Air Force and he met the standards required to be trained as a pilot. He will continue to be attached to the Royal Air Force once he has completed his flying training, gaining experience with several different units, to familiarise him further with the Royal Air Force, its structure, roles, history and ethos. No specific estimate has been made of the cost of his flying training but it is unlikely to exceed that of equivalent training undertaken by other trainees. After his time with the RAF, Prince William will be attached to the Royal Navy. As with the RAF, he will spend time gaining an understanding of the fullest spectrum of the Royal Navy's capabilities—from submarines to the ships of the surface fleet, including the Royal Marines and Fleet Air Arm.

Princess Royal Barracks

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department has held with local authorities on supplementary planning guidance needed to facilitate the redevelopment of Deepcut Barracks; and if he will make a statement. [178196]

Derek Twigg: There have been preliminary discussions with Surrey Heath borough council. The announcement that part of the site will be released for redevelopment after 2013 was timed to allow the site to be included in the council's core strategy. This will allow potential alternative uses to be discussed within the normal planning process.

RAF Kinloss

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many bedspaces his Department has of each classification on fitness for habitation for personnel based at *(a)* RAF Kinloss and *(b)* RAF Lossiemouth. [178129]

Derek Twigg: At 31 December 2007, the number of single living accommodation bedspaces at RAF Kinloss and RAF Lossiemouth, at each condition grade (Grade 1 being the highest and Grade 4 the lowest), is shown in the following table.

Number of bedspaces

Grade	*RAF Kinloss*	*RAF Lossiemouth*
Grade 1	379	99
Grade 2	388	0
Grade 3	59	770
Grade 4	0	94
Total	826	963

RAF: Training

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much it costs to train a Royal Air Force (RAF) pilot on *(a)* fixed and *(b)* rotary wing aircrafts; what commitment to further service in the RAF is required by applicants for training; what the criteria and application procedures are; how many applicants there were for such training in each of the last three years; and how many were successful. [177376]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Royal Air Force pilots continue to train throughout their careers and new entrants are not considered to have joined the trained strength until they have completed a course at an Operational Conversion Unit (OCU); on starting with an OCU, they incur an obligation to incur a minimum of six years further service following completion of their

OCU tour. For the purposes of the information requested, the end of training has been defined as the point when a pilot moves to an OCU. At this point pilots have learnt to fly and are transferred to front-line aircraft types. The indicative cost to train a Royal Air Force pilot up to transfer to an Operational Conversion Unit is about £3.1 million for Fast Jet, £0.6 million for Multi-Engine and £0.8 million for Rotary Wing aircraft. These costs are for financial year 2007-08 and cover flying training and related activities, for example, recruitment, ground training, aircraft maintenance and training on simulators. They are made up of both direct and indirect costs, and include an allowance for broader MOD overheads.

For a career as a pilot in the Royal Air Force, potential recruits need to be aged between 17 and a half and 23 years of age and have been a British citizen since birth or hold dual British/other nationality. The qualifications required are five GCSEs/SCEs at Grade C/3 minimum (to include English Language and Maths) and two A-levels or three Highers or equivalent. During the application process the aptitude, health and fitness of applicants is tested to ensure that they are ready for a career in the RAF. All applicants have to attend the Officers and Aircrew Selection Centre (OASC) based at Royal Air Force College Cranwell.

The details of the numbers who applied to enter the Royal Air Force as a trainee pilot and the number who progressed into service in each of the last three financial years (rounded to the nearest 10) are as follows:

Financial year	*Number of applicants*	*Number of pilots who progressed into service with the Royal Air Force*
2004-05	1,260	100
2005-06	1,120	120
2006-07	1,160	140

RM Condor

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many bed-spaces his Department has of each classification for fitness for habitation for personnel based at RM Condor in Arbroath. [178128]

Derek Twigg: As at 31 December 2007, the number of single living accommodation bed-spaces at RM Condor in Arbroath, at each condition grade (Grade 1 being the highest and Grade 4 the lowest), is shown in the following table.

Grade	*Number of bed-spaces*
1	383
2	0
3	566
4	72
Total	1,021

Special Boat Squadron: Pay

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when he expects the Special Boat Service personnel serving in Afghanistan to receive their full pay; [169202]

(2) when the Specialist Pay Team last paid the salaries of the Special Boat Service in Afghanistan; [169203]

(3) what steps he has taken with the Specialist Pay Team to ensure the payment of the full salaries of the Special Boat Service in Afghanistan. [169204]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* Problems have been identified with the specialist pay components of total salary for a small number of members of the Special Boat Service. This is very much regretted. I have asked for the issues to be investigated and I will write to the hon. Member when the investigation is complete.

Substantive answer from Derek Twigg to Derek Wyatt:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Questions of 3 December 2007, (Official Report, column 844W), about the problems identified with the specialist pay components of the total salary received by a small number of the Special Boat Service personnel serving in Afghanistan. Clearly, any inconvenience caused to our personnel is very much regretted.

Staff within the Royal Navy and the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA) have completed their investigations and these have revealed that a small number of personnel did not have their employment category, grade scale and payroll type changed successfully on the JPA system on joining the SBS. The principle cause of these omissions has been identified as unfamiliarity with the new JPA processes. I can confirm that the issue was not caused by any problem with the JPA Information Technology system.

In consultation with the SPVA, the Royal Navy Human Resource staff have made the necessary changes to the affected individuals' records. The JPA system has automatically recalculated and paid the relevant personnel their full entitlements in the December pay run, and I can confirm that the correct monies have now been credited to the individuals' bank accounts.

The Royal Navy Human Resource staff have informed the affected personnel that the problem has been identified and remedial action taken. In addition, the Human Resource staff have received additional instructions and guidance to ensure that the error does not reoccur.

In cases where Service personnel experience pay problems arrangements are in place for emergency payments to be made. Individuals have access to duty personnel at their parent units who are able to make arrangements for emergency issues of cash if required or arrange support by other units if, for example, an individual is on leave in the UK when normally based in Germany.

Where problems do arise with the pay of personnel deployed on operations there is a fast track process, that can be instigated by either the individual Service person, or their spouse/partner in the UK, that allows the unit Human Resource staff direct access to the SPVA Customer Complaints Team.

I hope this is helpful.

Vetting

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average cost was to vet a UK citizen to the level of *(a)* developed vetting, *(b)* security check, *(c)* counter terrorism check and *(d)* baseline personal security standard in the latest period for which figures are available. [177548]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Defence Vetting Agency (DVA) is responsible for vetting applicants for security clearance (who need not necessarily be UK citizens) for members of the armed forces, civilians in the Ministry of Defence and Defence Industry and a number of other Government Departments (OGDs) on a repayment basis. The DVA does not undertake work for all OGDs, however, and the costs shown may not apply to clearances undertaken by OGDs on their own behalf.

The Baseline Personnel Security Standard is a pre-employment check, not part of national security vetting, and as such is not carried out by the DVA.

Individual vetting costs incurred by the DVA are as follows:

	£
Counter terrorist check	48.18
Security check	52.88

Developed vetting: £794.30-£928.25 for initial cases and from £611.00-£707.35 for review cases, depending on the depth of the inquiries undertaken.

These costs apply only to the work carried out by the DVA: additional costs are incurred before the application is received in the DVA and post DVA activity. In addition, work undertaken by another agency carrying out checks on the DVA's behalf is not included in the quoted prices. It is not possible to quantify these associated costs.

Warships: Security

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what security measures are taken to ensure the security of Royal Navy ships when in port in the United Kingdom. [177522]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In UK naval ports all Royal Navy ships are protected by the ports' own security arrangements including perimeter walls or fencing, access control, CCTV and armed foot and boat patrols. Each ship also has its own protection teams including armed sentries and an armed response force at short notice. For some vessels further fencing with access control to the jetty/berth, and a water-borne boom to enhance seaward security, is provided.

In commercial UK ports, in addition to the ship's protection teams, bespoke advice is provided as to the security measures that are required. This is dependent on threat analysis and existing security measures in place within the port. It may include water-borne patrols, booms and jetty access control.

World War II: Medals

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Veteran Badges have been issued to residents of Hendon. [177505]

Derek Twigg: Since 18 April 2005 a total of 80 veterans' lapel badges have been issued to residents with a Hendon area postcode.

World War Two: Anniversaries

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what funding is available under the Heroes Return Scheme to (*a*) veterans and (*b*) war widows to visit war graves in 2007-08; and how many (i) veterans and (ii) war widows from (A) Hendon and (B) the UK have received funding since the scheme's inception. [177504]

Derek Twigg: The Heroes Return Scheme, funded by 'the Big Lottery', ran during the years 2004-05. During that period, 18,222 veterans and 1,553 widow(er)s in the UK, together with their carers, were assisted to travel to theatres where they or their spouses had previously served, to visit war graves, and to attend commemorative events surrounding the 60th anniversary of the end of the second world war. This included 31 veterans but no war widow(er)s resident in Hendon.

The Government operate the War Widow(er)s Pilgrimage Scheme to enable war widow(er)s whose service husband or wife died as a result of military service overseas between 1914 and 1967 to make one visit to the grave/memorial, provided they have not done so before at public expense. Since 1967, the next-of-kin of personnel who died during service overseas have been given the option of having the body repatriated or for the burial to take place overseas and relatives to attend the funeral service.

TREASURY

Capital Gains Tax

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter of 9 November 2007 from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on capital gains tax and the loss of indexation allowance. [175489]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 18 December 2007]*: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Child Benefit: Personal Records

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to whom letters of apology have been sent following the recent loss of data by HM Revenue and Customs; how many letters he expects to be sent; and what the cost is expected to be of sending those letters. [169467]

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been spent by HM Revenue and Customs in sending out letters of apology for the loss of the child benefit discs containing confidential personal data. [173821]

Jane Kennedy: For the year April 2006 to March 2007 HMRC handled approximately 300 million pieces of outgoing post at a cost of around £79 million.

The cost of sending letters to the families affected by the recent loss of data by HMRC is estimated at £2.25 million including postage costs.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to how many people HM Revenue and Customs has written to advise them that their personal data were included on the two lost discs; how many families this accounted for; and what the total cost of this correspondence was. [170664]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 6 December 2007]*: For the year April 2006 to March 2007 HMRC handled approximately 300 million pieces of outgoing post at a cost of around £79 million.

The cost of sending letters to the families affected by the recent loss of data by HMRC is estimated at £2.25 million including postage costs.

Child Tax Credit

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what grounds HM Revenue and Customs suspended the provision of information in relation to the chosen frequency of payment of child tax credit in December 2007. [177091]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC regularly review the data used for tax credit publications and it was decided that the information for table 7.1 could more efficiently be extracted from a different data source. Unfortunately this process was not completed in time for the pre-announced December 2007 publication date. The table will be reinstated in the April 2008 publication. The December 2007 publication will be updated at the same time.

Childbirth

Anne Milton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* live births and *(b)* stillbirths there were in each region of England in 2006. [177976]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 14 January 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your request for information on how many live births and stillbirths there were in each region of England in 2006. (177976)

The table below shows the number of live births and stillbirths in England by Government Office Region for 2006.

Live births and stillbirths by Government office region in England, 2006

Government office region of usual residence	*Live births*	*Stillbirths*
North East	29,184	156
North West	84,155	453
Yorkshire and the Humber	62,955	343
East Midlands	50,717	290
West Midlands	67,688	379
East	66,870	307
London	120,898	762
South East	98,566	479
South West	54,715	249
All	635,748	3,418

Conditional Cautions

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of conditional cautions in bringing about the payment of compensation by offenders to victims. [178325]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The conditional cautioning scheme is still in the process of being rolled out across England and Wales, with full coverage due by March 2008. While central collection of data began in 2005, concerns over quality, which we are currently addressing, mean that figures have yet to be published. However, information from the Crown Prosecution Service, made available to practitioners, shows that between 1 April 2005 and 30 November 2007, almost 5,000 conditional cautions were issued. Approximately 63 per cent. of these involved the payment of compensation. Data for the same period show a non-compliance rate for all conditional cautions of just under 6 per cent.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many police forces have exercised their powers to issue conditional cautions since the Criminal Justice Act 2003 came into force; and if he will make a statement. [178440]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Following piloting of the conditional cautioning scheme in 2005, national roll-out commenced in July 2006, and is due to be completed by March 2008. All 43 police forces in England and Wales are now operating a conditional cautioning scheme in at least one of their Basic Command Units and all areas have issued conditional cautions.

Death: Norfolk

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many excess winter deaths were recorded in *(a)* Norwich and *(b)* Norfolk in each of the last five years. [177801]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 14 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many excess winter excess deaths were recorded in (*a*) Norwich and (*b*) Norfolk in each of the last five years. (177801)

Estimates of excess winter deaths relate to a four-month period from December of one year to March of the next year. The table attached provides the number of excess winter deaths in (*a*) Norwich local authority district and (*b*) Norfolk county for the years 2001-02 to 2005-06 (the latest available).

Table 1: Excess winter deaths[1,2]: Norwich local authority district and Norfolk county, 2001-02 to 2005-06

Deaths (persons)

Winter	*Norwich*	*Norfolk*
2001-02	130	790
2002-03	40	430
2003-04	30	480
2004-05	80	630
2005-06	70	520

[1] The estimated number of excess winter deaths is the difference between the number of deaths during the four winter months (December to March) and the average number of deaths during the preceding four months (August to November) and the following four months (April to July). Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
[2] Data are based on deaths occurring in each month.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many letters his Department received from hon. Members and Peers in each session of Parliament since 1997. [174944]

Jane Kennedy: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/Peers correspondence. Information relating to 2007 will be published as soon as it has been collated. The report for 2006 was published on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 101-04WS. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Pay

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 49W, on departmental pay, how many of those earning over £100,000 were employed (*a*) as special advisers and (*b*) in a political role in each year since 1997. [177184]

Angela Eagle: Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the number of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 147-51WS.

Information on the numbers and costs of special advisers prior to 2003 was provided at regular intervals and this information will be available in the Library of the House.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials in (a) his Department and (b) his Department's agencies received bonuses in each year since 2002; and what the total sum paid in bonuses was in each case in each of those years. [178963]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 218-19W.

Departmental Security Officer

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Departmental Security Officer for (*a*) his Department and (*b*) HM Revenue and Customs were appointed. [169735]

Jane Kennedy: The current Departmental Security Officers for HM Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs were appointed on (*a*) 29 October 2007 and (*b*) 2 July 2007 respectively, following the retirement of their predecessors.

Electorate

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the (*a*) number of electors and (*b*) total population is of each United Kingdom parliamentary constituency; [178958]

(2) what the (*a*) total population and (*b*) number of electors in each new United Kingdom parliamentary constituency effective after the next general election is expected to be. [179018]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 14 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your questions asking what the (a) number of electors and (b) total population is of each United Kingdom parliamentary constituency; and what the (a) total population and (b) number of electors in each new United Kingdom parliamentary constituency effective after the next general election is expected to be (178958, 179018).

The latest UK electoral statistics by parliamentary constituency are published on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website. For a qualifying date of 1 December 2006 these can be downloaded from:
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14776&image.x=8&image.y=9. For a qualifying date of 1 May 2007 they can be downloaded from: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk-14963&image.x=16&image.y=7

ONS is currently collecting electoral data for a qualifying date of 1 December 2007 both on the existing boundaries and the new England and Wales parliamentary constituencies that will come into effect after the next general election. Please note that some local authorities are able to supply data on existing boundaries only. This information is due to be published on 28 February 2008 and will be available to download from the 'UK Electoral Statistics—Datasets' link from: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=319

ONS does not currently have population estimates for parliamentary constituencies for the whole of the UK. However mid-2005 estimates for parliamentary constituencies covering England and Wales are due to be published in early 2008, a publication date has not yet been finalised; and mid-2006 estimates for parliamentary constituencies covering Scotland are due to be published on 1 February 2008 and will be available from the General Register Office for Scotland website at: http://www.gro-scotland. gov.uk/statistics/publications-and-data/population-estimates/index.html.

Mid-2006 estimates for parliamentary constituencies covering Northern Ireland are available on the Northern Ireland Statistics

and Research Agency website at: http://www.nisra.gov.uk/demography/default.asp?cmsid=20_21_24&cms=demography_population%20statistics_Mid-year+population+estimates&release=

The changes for new parliamentary constituencies effective after the next general election will result in boundary changes for the parliamentary constituencies in England and Wales only. ONS does not currently have plans to publish population estimates for the new parliamentary constituencies in England and Wales.

Equitable Life

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons publication of the report on Equitable Life has been postponed until summer 2008; and if he will make a statement. [178935]

Angela Eagle: The timetable for the completion of the parliamentary ombudsman's investigation into the prudential regulation of Equitable Life is entirely a matter for her.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue is expected to be received from vehicle licence duty in financial year *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [177878]

Angela Eagle: The details of current receipts from the major tax streams including Vehicle Excise Duty is customarily published bi-annually in the Chancellor's Budget and pre-Budget reports. Table B8 in Annex B of the 2007 pre-Budget report contains the requested information:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pbr_csr/pbr_csr07_index.cfm

Gastrointestinal System: Death

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people died from upper gastrointestinal haemorrhage in the last five years in each region. [178235]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 14 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking how many people died from upper gastrointestinal haemorrhage over the last five years in each region. (178235)

Deaths due to haemorrhage may be certified using a variety of medical terms, depending on the anatomical site and associated health condition. Some of these can be clearly identified as relating to the upper gastrointestinal tract. In other cases, death is certified as being due to a gastrointestinal haemorrhage, but without mention of the exact anatomical site within the gastrointestinal tract. Consequently, the precise number of deaths from upper gastrointestinal haemorrhage is not known.

The table attached provides the number of deaths with an underlying cause of (a) haemorrhage where the site reported was any part of the upper gastrointestinal tract, and (b) gastrointestinal haemorrhage of unspecified site, for each government office region from 2002 to 2006 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths from (a) haemorrhage of the upper gastrointestinal tract, and (b) gastrointestinal haemorrhage of unspecified site: Government Office Regions, 2002-06[1,2]

Deaths (persons)

		North East	North West	Yorkshire and the Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East of England	London	South East	South West
(a) Site specified[3]	2002	107	333	178	147	236	218	254	386	246
	2003	133	280	198	168	241	185	248	361	230
	2004	105	286	194	164	212	247	284	357	224
	2005	100	283	187	138	217	198	241	310	207
	2006	108	251	178	142	253	202	213	317	187
(b) Site unspecified[3]	2002	93	164	156	169	142	158	131	245	161
	2003	82	171	167	163	162	188	140	249	145
	2004	97	168	171	160	132	157	138	200	157
	2005	81	182	155	144	128	124	149	207	155
	2006	98	168	152	158	132	130	124	181	167
Total[3] (a and b)	2002	200	497	334	316	378	376	385	631	407
	2003	215	451	365	331	403	373	388	610	375
	2004	202	454	365	324	344	404	422	557	381
	2005	181	465	342	282	345	322	390	517	362
	2006	206	419	330	300	385	332	337	498	354

[a] Based on boundaries as of 2008.
[b] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[c] Deaths from upper gastrointestinal haemorrhage, site specified as the upper gastrointestinal tract, were defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes I85.0, K22.6, K25.0, K25.2, K25.4, K25.6, K26.0, K26.2, K26.4, K26.6, K27.0, K27.2, K27.4, K27.6, K28.0, K28.2, K28.4, K28.6, K29.0, and K92.0, where any one of these codes was recorded as the underlying cause of death.
[d] Deaths from gastrointestinal haemorrhage, site unspecified, were defined using the ICD-10 code K92.2, where this was recorded as the underlying cause of death.
[e] The total figure is an over-estimate of the number of deaths from upper gastrointestinal haemorrhage, since it includes deaths where the site was unspecified.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what records (*a*) the Valuation Office Agency and (*b*) his Department keep of the number and location of zero carbon homes. [176252]

Jane Kennedy: The stamp duty land tax relief for new zero carbon homes can be claimed using the stamp duty land tax return, which contains a specific code for this tax relief. HM Revenue and Customs is therefore able to monitor the number of claims and the amount of relief given. HM Treasury has access to these data in an aggregated form. The Valuation Office Agency does not collate information in respect of zero carbon homes.

Joint Child Poverty Unit

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his responsibilities are in relation to the Joint Child Poverty Unit, and what arrangements are in place for liaison with other Departments on the work of the Unit. [178427]

Jane Kennedy: The Child Poverty Unit brings together the expertise of officials from both DWP and DCSF. HMT works closely with the Unit and officials are in regular contact. The Child Poverty Unit is a member of the PSA Board chaired by HMT.

The Child Poverty Unit will report to a child poverty board comprised of senior officials from across Whitehall. At ministerial level, this board will report to DA(FCY). The Unit is also currently setting up working groups with officials across a number of Government Departments and Local Government Offices.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Financial Secretary will provide a substantive reply to the letter of 31 October 2007, from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire (acknowledgement 10 October, reference 1/50946/07). [175408]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 18 December 2007]*: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when a reply will be sent to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire's letter of 29 November 2007, about paying VAT on flood defences, PO ref: 1/53090/2007. [178000]

Jane Kennedy: I replied to the hon. Member on 5 January.

Migration

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many estimates of long-term population growth attributable to migration have been made by the Government since 1997; what those estimates have been, including the most recent longest term estimate of population growth attributable to migration and total future population size; what assessment he has made of the environmental and housing implications of these estimates; and what the Government's population policy is. [177459]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 14 January 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question regarding how many estimates of long-term population growth attributable to migration have been made by the Government since 1997, what those estimates have been, including the most recent longest term estimate of population growth attributable to migration and total future population size, what assessment he has made of the environmental and housing implications of these estimates, and what the Government's population policy is (177459).

National population projections, based on a full review of all the underlying assumptions, are normally produced every two years. The most recent set is the 2006-based national projections published in October 2007. In the intervening year between these 'full' projections, special sets of 'interim' national projections may be produced. Two sets of interim projections (2001-based and 2003-based) have been produced in recent years.

The underlying assumptions for the projections are demographic trend based and should not be seen as predictions. If, as in recent years, there is an increase in migration levels then the assumptions are changed to reflect this. The long-term assumptions of annual net migration to the United Kingdom in these recent national population projections have been as follows.

Based projections	
1998	+95,000
2000	+135,000
2001	+100,000
2002	+130,000
2003	+150,000
2004	+145,000
2006	+190,000

Since the 2002-based projections, an analysis has been published of the impact of the assumed level of net migration on population growth in the period to 2031. These analyses are available from the following links:

2002-based projections

http://www.gad.gov.uk/Demography_Data/Population/2002/methodology/mignote.asp

Interim 2003-based projections

http://www.gad.gov.uk/Demography_Data/Population/2003/methodology/mignote.asp

2004-based projections

http://www.gad.gov.uk/Demography_Data/Population/2004/methodology/mignote.asp

2006-based projections

http://www.gad.gov.uk/Demography_Data/Population/2006/methodology/mignote.asp

The Office for National Statistics cannot comment on the policy issues raised in your question.

Money: Northern Ireland

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent estimate he has made of the amount of currency issued annually by Northern Irish banks; [177095]

(2) which Northern Irish banks have the right to issue bank notes; [177096]

(3) what funding reserves are required to back up the issue of currency by Northern Irish banks. [177291]

Angela Eagle: As at 24 November 2007 the total value of banknotes in circulation issued by banks in Northern Ireland was reported to be £1,607 million. The Treasury holds no estimate of the amounts issued annually by banks in Northern Ireland.

Commercial banks in Northern Ireland that currently issue their own banknotes are:

The Bank of Ireland

First Trust Bank

The Northern Bank Ltd

Ulster Bank Ltd

Under the legislation regulating banknotes issued in Northern Ireland, the Bankers (Ireland) Act 1845 and Bankers (Northern Ireland) Act 1928, those commercial banks permitted to issue banknotes are required to ensure that, at the close of business on each Saturday over specified four week periods, the average value of note-covering assets that they hold is not less than the average value of their banknotes that are in circulation (above a small fiduciary level) at the close of business on each Saturday during the same four week periods.

Non-domestic Rates: Microgeneration

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the estimated yearly cost to the public purse is of the proposal in the pre-Budget report 2007 that microgeneration equipment in business premises will only trigger an increased liability for business rates when a property is revalued during the five-yearly revaluation process. [176250]

Jane Kennedy: The cost for not including microgeneration investments in ad hoc reassessments of business rates liability will be published at the Budget.

Office of Government Commerce: Departmental Records

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) on what dates early versions of gateway reviews relating to *(a)* identity cards, *(b)* the NHS IT programme and *(c)* other projects were shredded by the Office of Government Commerce; [178541]

(2) whether the decision to shred early versions of gateway reviews relating to identity cards and the NHS IT programme was taken by Ministers; [178542]

(3) whether all versions prior to the final version of the gateway reviews relating to *(a)* identity cards and *(b)* the NHS IT programme were shredded by the Office of Government Commerce; and on what dates. [178543]

Angela Eagle: Working copies of Gateway reports are destroyed prior to the production of the final Gateway report to the SRO (senior responsible owner) of the project being reviewed. This 'version control' is to ensure that there is no confusion created between notes made during work in progress and the final Gateway report. Two copies of the final Gateway report are held, one by the SRO and another by the OGC, electronically, and kept on file permanently. This procedure is standard practice across all Gateway reviews. Ministers have approved the Gateway process.

Since the working copies of the Gateway reports are destroyed before the production of the final report on the last day of a review, documents will have been destroyed before the last day of the following reviews for the Identity Card Programme and the NHS:

National Programme for IT in the NHS (ID0217)

Gate 0, 24 June 2002 - 28 June 2002

Gate 0a, 25 October 2004 - 29 October 2004

Identity Cards Programme (ID0412)

Gate 0, 23 June 2003 - 25 June 2003

Gate 0a, 26 January 2004 - 29 January 2004

Gate 1, 12 July 2005 - 15 July 2005

Gate 0b, 9 October 2006 - 13 January 2006

Pregnancy: Young People

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the conception rate is for women aged 19 years and under; how many women aged 19 and under had *(a)* a live birth, *(b)* an abortion and *(c)* miscarried in the last year for which figures are available; and what proportion of all live births were to teenage mothers in the last two years. [177195]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 14 January 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the conception rate is for women aged 19 years and under; how many women aged 19 and under had (a) a live birth, (b) an abortion and (c) miscarried in the last year for which figures are available; and what proportion of all live births were to teenage mothers in the last two years. (177195)

The overall number and rate of conceptions for women aged 19 years and under in England and Wales in 2005 (the most recent year for which figures are available) are shown in the

attached table. It is not possible to provide figures on conceptions leading to a live birth only as conception statistics are estimated using maternities (i.e. a pregnancy resulting in one or more live or still births) and notifications of legal abortions. Figures on conceptions leading to a maternity and conceptions leading to an abortion for women aged 19 and under in England and Wales in 2005 (the most recent year for which figures are available) are also shown in the attached table.

Figures for women who miscarried are not collected centrally.

The number and percentage of live births to mothers aged 19 and under for England and Wales in 2005-2006 (the most recent years for which figures are available) are also shown in the attached table.

Conceptions to women aged 19 years and under, England and Wales, 2005

	All conceptions		Conceptions leading to a maternity		Conceptions leading to an abortion	
	Number	Rate[1]	Number	Rate[1]	Number	Rate[1]
2005	102,312	60	61,111	36	41,201	24

[1] Conceptions per 1,000 women aged 15 to 19.

Live births by age of mother, England and Wales, 2005-06

	All ages	19 years and under	
	Number	Number	Percentage
2005	645,835	44,830	7
2006	669,601	45,509	7

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the conception rate is for girls aged 15 years and under; how many women aged 15 and under had *(a)* a live birth, *(b)* an abortion and *(c)* miscarried in the last year for which figures are available; and what proportion of all live births were to mothers aged 15 and under in the last two years. [177196]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 14 January 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the conception rate is for women aged 15 years and under; how many women aged 15 and under had (a) a live birth, (b) an abortion and (c) miscarried in the last year for which figures are available; and what proportion of all live births were to mothers aged 15 and under in the last two years. (177196)

The overall number and rate of conceptions for women aged 15 years and under in England and Wales in 2005 (the most recent year for which figures are available) are shown in the attached table. It is not possible to provide figures on conceptions leading to a live birth only as conception statistics are estimated using maternities (i.e. a pregnancy resulting in one or more live or still births) and notifications of legal abortions. Figures on conceptions leading to a maternity and conceptions leading to an abortion for women aged 15 and under in England and Wales in 2005 (the most recent year for which figures are available) are also shown in the attached table.

Figures for women who miscarried are not collected centrally.

The number and percentage of live births to mothers aged 15 and under for England and Wales in 2005-2006 (the most recent years for which figures are available) are also shown in the attached table.

Conceptions to women aged 15 years and under, England and Wales, 2005

	All conceptions		Conceptions leading to a maternity		Conceptions leading to an abortion	
	Number	Rate[1]	Number	Rate[1]	Number	Rate[1]
2005	7,930	8	3,404	3	4,526	4

[1] Conceptions per 1,000 women aged 13 to 15.

Live births by age of mother, England and Wales, 2005-06

	All ages	15 years and under	
	Number	Number	Percentage
2005	645,835	1,189	0.2
2006	669,601	1,233	0.2

Proof of Concept Pilot Scheme

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what results have been reported from the proof of concept pilot scheme between HM Revenue and Customs, the Department for Work and Pensions and 12 local authorities; and when he plans to publish those results. [178534]

Mr. Plaskitt: I have been asked to reply.

The findings from the joint working proof of concept between Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, the Department for Work and Pensions and 12 local authorities were fed into Sir David Varney's report, "Service Transformation a Better Service for Citizens and Businesses: A Better Deal for the Taxpayer", published in December 2006. This report recommended the establishment of a service that enables a citizen to report a change in circumstance only once starting with birth and bereavement, followed by change of address. The Department for Work and Pensions is taking forward this recommendation on behalf of Government as a whole and will present its business case to Her Majesty's Treasury for a decision on whether or not to begin implementation from April 2009.

Registration of Births Deaths Marriages and Civil Partnerships: Internet

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the introduction of Registration On-line by the General Register Office. [177092]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Registrar General, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 14 January 2008:

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking, what assessment has been made of the introduction of Registration On-line by the General Register Office. (177092)

The introduction of the RON system has encountered some delays. However, all local authorities in England and Wales are using it for registering civil partnerships, and 102 out of 172 are using it for birth, death and stillbirth registrations. Local authorities who are not yet able to use it for births, deaths and stillbirths are able to provide a fully adequate registration service using alternative software.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date he expects the General Register Office to introduce Registration On-line for marriages. [177093]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Registrar General, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 14 January 2008:

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking on what date it is expected the General Register Office will introduce Registration On-line for marriages. (177093)

The Registration On-line marriages module has been tested and is ready for use in a live environment. However, by agreement with the local registration service, it will not be introduced until the births, deaths and stillbirths module has been adopted in all local authority areas and shown to be working satisfactorily. No firm date has yet been set.

Reparation by Offenders

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward measures to grant powers to the police to require an offender to pay compensation to a victim without the need to put the offender before a court. [178439]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The Criminal Justice Act 2003 (as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006) already enables the police and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to offer a caution with conditions attached to an offender where there is sufficient evidence to charge him or her with an offence which is admitted.

Conditions are currently aimed at rehabilitation (addressing the offender's behaviour) and/or reparation (making good the harm the offender has caused including the payment of compensation to a victim) and may include restorative justice processes.

The offender must agree to that caution and the conditions attached. It is for the CPS to decide whether a conditional caution is suitable and to identify appropriate conditions. If the conditions are not complied with, the offender can be prosecuted for the original offence.

The Government have no plans to grant the police powers to require offenders to make reparation by way of compensation.

Revenue and Customs: Cardiff

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion and how many of the staff at HM Revenue and Customs office in Ty-Glas Llanishen, Cardiff were employed *(a)* on permanent contracts, *(b)* on temporary contracts and *(c)* via an employment agency in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [177021]

Jane Kennedy: The headcount data for HMRC staff on *(a)* permanent HMRC contracts and *(b)* non-permanent HMRC contracts, in Ty-Glas Llanishen, Cardiff for each of the last three years and at October 2007 are as follows:

	Permanent	*Non-permanent*	*Total*
1 April 2005	2,458	142	2,600
1 April 2006	2,451	201	2,652
1 April 2007	2,613	225	2,838
1 October 2007	2,567	159	2,726

Data for agency staff are not available.

Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects HM Revenue and Customs to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford of 12 July on his constituent Mrs C. Irvine (Ref: 2007/07/002840). [171774]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs replied to the hon. Member on 30 November 2007.

Revenue and Customs: Tyne and Wear

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion and how many of the staff at HM Revenue and Customs office in Washington, Tyne and Wear were employed *(a)* on permanent contracts, *(b)* on temporary contracts and *(c)* via an employment agency in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [177022]

Jane Kennedy: The headcount data for HMRC staff on *(a)* permanent HMRC contracts and *(b)* non-permanent HMRC contracts, in Washington, Tyne and Wear for each of the last three years and at October 2007 are as follows:

	Permanent	*Non-permanent*	*Total*
1 April 2005	2,832	292	3,124
1 April 2006	2,619	349	2,968
1 April 2007	2,539	272	2,811
1 October 2007	2,498	230	2,728

Data for agency staff are not available.

Stamp Duties

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many homes, according to HM Revenue and Customs stamp duty land tax return records, have claimed the zero rate of stamp duty on zero carbon homes. [176390]

Jane Kennedy: The stamp duty land tax relief for new zero carbon homes has been claimed for three transactions. A stamp duty land tax certificate was issued for these transactions between 1 October 2007, the date from which the relief can be claimed, and the end of November 2007.

HMRC expect the numbers of qualifying transactions to rise as more properties eligible to claim the relief go on the market. The Government are committed to conducting an interim review of the relief in 2010 which will examine the effectiveness of the relief in stimulating the innovation necessary to ensure that by 2016 all new homes are zero-carbon.

Strokes: Finance

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Barnett consequentials have been for Wales of improved funding for stroke services in England in 2007-08. [177623]

Andy Burnham: Funding for the Welsh Assembly Government in 2007-08 was announced as part of the 2004 spending review. The Welsh Assembly Government received Barnett consequentials on the increases in spending for the Department of Health but the Welsh funding is on a block basis rather than disaggregated by specific spending streams such as funding for stroke services.

Tax Havens: British Nationality

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of income foregone by the Exchequer as a result of people of British origin entering tax exile. [177074]

Jane Kennedy: No such estimate is available.

Taxation: Bingo

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons both value added tax and gross profit tax are applied to the bingo industry; and if he will introduce a single tax regime for the industry. [177893]

Angela Eagle: The Government consider all relevant factors when establishing and maintaining fair regimes for the gambling taxes and keep all taxes under review.

Taxation: Northern Ireland

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the introduction of the discrete capital values system of domestic taxation in Northern Ireland on house prices. [176385]

Jane Kennedy: The local domestic taxation system in Northern Ireland is a devolved matter for the Northern Ireland Executive.

Valuation Office: Official Hospitality

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the rules are for staff members of *(a)* the Valuation Office Agency and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs on recording details of entertainment and hospitality received. [176417]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is as follows.

VOA

(a) The rules for staff members of the Valuation Office Agency on recording details of entertainment and hospitality received are set out in Staff Handbook, Section 9.6 which states as follows:

Recording of benefits offered

"You must inform your Group Management, or your line manager for non-Group staff, in writing of any offers of gifts, inducements or hospitality (including invitations to working lunches and dinners) which you accept or, with the agreement of your Group Management, or your line manager for non-Group staff, record them directly in the office hospitality record maintained for that purpose.

You should also report or record any significant (worth 25 or more) or repeated offers which you have declined. If you are in doubt whether an offer you have turned down should be reported, you should seek the advice of your Group Management, or your line manager for non-Group staff."

HMRC

(b) The staff of HMRC are expected to maintain the highest standards of propriety at all times. To avoid any suggestion of impropriety they must not accept benefits of any kind from a third party including customers, suppliers and contractors other than isolated gifts of a trivial nature such as a calendar or diary, or conventional hospitality. HMRC has detailed guidance on gifts and hospitality, an extract of the guidance follows:

HMRC—Recording of benefits offered

"If you have been given permission to accept an offer of a gift or hospitality, for example, invitations to working lunches and dinners, you must record the details in the gifts and hospitality register held in your location. This includes the acceptance of a gift that is trivial in nature, for example, calendars or diaries. Minor refreshments such as tea, coffee and biscuits need not be recorded.

You must also report and record any significant single offer or inducement (worth £25 or more) or repeated offers of inducement that you have declined. If you are in doubt about reporting an offer you have declined, you must ask your manager's manager for advice or contact HR Service Centre."

Welfare Tax Credits: Borders Region

Mr. Moore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk were in receipt of *(a)* child tax credit and *(b)* working tax credit on (i) 30 April 2006, (ii) 31 December 2006, (iii) 30 April 2007 and (iv) 31 December 2007. [178085]

Jane Kennedy: The information is not available for the dates requested. Estimates of the number of recipient families with tax credits, by each parliamentary constituency, at 3 April 2006, 2 December 2006, 3 April 2007 and 4 December 2007, are available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical Analyses" for each relevant date. This is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

We do not produce statistics separately for child tax credit and working tax credit.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many requests to pay back overpaid tax credits (forms TC610) were issued by HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessor organisation in each month since April 2002; and if he will make a statement. [172774]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) started issuing TC610 notices to pay in October 2004. The number of requests to pay back overpaid tax credits (forms TC610) issued by HMRC in each month from October 2004 to October 2006 inclusive was:

Month	*Thousand Forms TC610 issued*
2004-05	
October 2004	9
November 2004	10
December 2004	184
January 2005	325
February 2005	284
March 2005	201
2005-06	
April 2005	43
May 2005	56
June 2005	98
July 2005	85
August 2005	99
September 2005	110
October 2005	175
November 2005	260
December 2005	239
January 2006	312
February 2006	91
March 2006	81
2006-07	
April 2006	96
May 2006	88
June 2006	82
July 2006	136
August 2006	125
September 2006	210
October 2006	495

For the period November 2006 to October 2007 inclusive I refer to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 4 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1206W.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Admiralty House

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster for how many months the official ministerial residences in Admiralty House previously occupied by the *(a)* right hon. Member for Ashfield and *(b)* right hon. Member for Derby, South have remained empty. [176344]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1080W.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 352W, on Admiralty House, what payments were made by other Departments to his Department for *(a)* repairs and *(b)* furnishing or refurbishing of official ministerial residences in each of the last three years; and of what value. [176762]

Gillian Merron: Occupying Departments are responsible for the relevant costs associated with the ministerial residencies in Admiralty House. Information on costs is not held centrally.

Charities

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what plans he has to bring forward proposals for *(a)* primary legislation, *(b)* secondary legislation and *(c)* guidance on allowing charities greater freedom to campaign on changes to legislation; and what plans he has to issue a consultation paper on this matter. [175175]

Gillian Merron: The Government have no plans to consult or bring forward legislation to change the law in relation to campaigning or political activities by charities. In response to calls from charities for clearer guidance, the Charity Commission has agreed to revise its guidance on campaigning and political activities, which is expected to be published early in 2008.

Chequers

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the Government's policy is on civil servants staying overnight at Chequers when the Prime Minister is not resident. [176512]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 825W.

Civil Contingencies Act 2004

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what Government funding has been made available to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* fire authorities to meet obligations under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004; and if he will make a statement. [177448]

Gillian Merron: Government funding for local authorities, including fire authorities to fulfil their duties under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 was taken into account in the spending plans for formula grant (Revenue Support Grant and National Non Domestic Rates) announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007. The Government's proposals for funding local authority services for the three years 2008-09 to 2010-11, will see increases in total grant (formula grant, area-based grant and specific grants) of 4.0 per cent., 4.4 per cent. and 4.3 per cent. respectively.

In London, in addition to the grant paid to London boroughs, a separate grant is made to the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) to support London authorities in discharging their duties under the Civil Contingencies Act, including provision of a secretariat for London's Local Resilience Forums and other discrete emergency planning activities.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Walker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Cabinet Office's information technology and data management systems are BS7799 compliant. [168755]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. On 17 December, *Official Report*, column 98WS, the Cabinet Office published an interim progress report, which was laid before the House by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. A further report is expected in spring 2008.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much has been spent by his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by his Department for this purpose. [173820]

Gillian Merron: Diversity is integrated into all of the Cabinet Office's policy and operational functions, and as such, it is not possible to isolate the total costs associated with this work.

Departmental Legal Opinion

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much has been spent by *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* the Prime Minister's Office on legal advice in relation to police investigations in each of the last 12 months. [178564]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for the Cabinet Office my right hon. Friend the Member for Doncaster, North (Edward Miliband) to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) and the right hon. Member for North Norfolk (Norman Lamb) on 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 755-56W.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cost to the public purse was of external legal advice provided to *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in relation to the police investigation into allegations of cash for peerages. [179329]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Edward Miliband) to the hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) and the hon. Member for North Norfolk (Norman Lamb) on 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 755-56W.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many receptions were held by the Cabinet Office between 1 and 14 October 2007; on what dates they were held; at which venues; what the purpose was of each; who *(a)* hosted and *(b)* paid for each; what the estimated attendance was of each; and what each cost his Office. [165085]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 19 November 2007]*: The Cabinet Office held two receptions between 1 and 14 October 2007. Details of each event are as follows:

Date	*Venue*	*Host*	*Estimated attendance*
9 October 2007	Admiralty House, Whitehall, London	e-Delivery Team Transformational Government	52
10 October 2007	Church House, Westminster, London	e-Delivery Team Transformational Government	100

The purpose of both events was the promotion of Government Gateway, a website for individuals and organisations to access online Government services.

Both events were funded by enGage, the managed service supplier for the Government Gateway. The service charges for the delivery of the Government Gateway, by enGage, are broken down and audited, and neither of these receptions formed part of these service charges.

Information on official and charity receptions held at No. 10 Downing street will be published in the usual way following the end of the financial year

Departmental Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff work in his Department's parliamentary branch; and what proportion of their time is spent on dealing with *(a)* Parliamentary Questions and *(b)* correspondence from hon. Members and Peers. [174951]

Gillian Merron: The Department's parliamentary branch has three members of staff who work on a range of matters connected with parliamentary business, including parliamentary questions (PQs) and legislation. It is not possible to distinguish the time the team spends on PQs from that of other parliamentary branch duties.

The parliamentary branch does not deal with Members' or peers' correspondence.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much *(a)* his Department and its agencies, *(b)* the Prime Minister's office and *(c)* the Leader of the House's office spent on end-of-year bonus payments in each of the last five years. [171549]

Gillian Merron: The Prime Minister's Office and the Leader of the House's Office are an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

For 2003, the cost of end year bonuses paid is not held centrally and therefore only available at disproportionate cost. For details of the cost of end-of-year bonuses in 2004-06 I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 2 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 901W, to the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson). The cost of end year bonuses paid in 2007 will be available only when the Department's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament. This is expected to be before the 2008 summer recess.

Departmental Property

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what the total cost of repairs to facilities and items in Number 10 Downing Street and the Prime Minister's Offices has been since 27 June: [173135]

(2) how many *(a)* telephones, *(b)* computers and *(c)* doors in (i) Number 10 Downing Street and (ii) the Prime Minister's Offices have been replaced due to malfunction or damage since 27 June; [173136]

(3) on how many occasions repairs have been made to *(a)* telephones, *(b)* computers and *(c)* doors in (i) Number 10 Downing Street and (ii) the Prime Minister's Offices since 27 June. [173137]

Gillian Merron: Figures for the financial year 2007-08 will be available after the end of the financial year.

The Government maintain the Downing street complex to standards appropriate to its grade 1/2 listed status. Repairs to buildings and equipment are carried out as and when required to ensure continuity of business.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much has been spent by the Prime Minister's Office on renovation and refurbishment of its property in each of the last five years. [164367]

Gillian Merron: The Government are legally required to maintain the Downing Street complex to standards appropriate to its Grade 1/2 listed status in consultation with English Heritage. In addition to providing office accommodation the building also fulfils an important representational role.

No significant refurbishment works have been undertaken at the Downing street complex since the large scale rebuilding works that took place between 1960 and 1963. As a result much of the infrastructure now needs to be renewed or upgraded. It has therefore been recommended that essential improvements are undertaken through on-going annual maintenance works.

For details of the total costs of refurbishment, maintenance and structural improvements between 2002-03 and 2004-05, I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Prime Minister gave the hon. Member for Bridgwater (Mr. Liddell-Grainger) on 16 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 2393W. For details of the total costs of refurbishment and maintenance for 2005-06, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for North-West Durham, then Minister for the Cabinet Office (Hilary Armstrong), to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 97W.

For 2006-07 work commenced on replacing the failed cooling and heating systems, part of a rolling programme of refurbishment that will take several years to complete. The cost in 2006-07 was £734,631. The cost of refurbishment, maintenance and other structural improvements in 2006-07 was £648,614. This expenditure was funded out of existing budgets to maintain the fixed assets, plant and machinery, the fabric of the building, floors, walls and ceilings and the upkeep and repair of heritage assets, and to ensure a safe working environment for staff and visitors.

Departmental Redundancies

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cost was of redundancies in his Department in the 12 months preceding *(a)* 30 June 2004, *(b)* 30 June 2005 and *(c)* 30 June 2006. [175325]

Gillian Merron: In the 12 months preceding 30 June 2006, the redundancy cost to the Cabinet Office was £72,199 arising from voluntary departure.

There were no redundancy costs in the 12 months preceding 2005.

The Cabinet Office is unable to provide costs for redundancy in the 12 months preceding 30 June 2004 as the relevant figures are not separately identified.

Disclosure of Information: Public Sector

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the terms of reference are of the review into data sharing in the public sector. [176335]

Mr. Wills: I have been asked to reply.

The terms of reference for the independent data sharing review being led by Richard Thomas and Doctor Mark Walport are:

The review will consider whether there should be any changes to the way the Data Protection Act 1998 operates in the UK and the options for implementing any such changes. It will include recommendations on the powers and sanctions available to the regulator and courts in the legislation governing data sharing and data protection. It will also make recommendations on how data sharing policy should be developed in a way that ensures proper transparency, scrutiny and accountability. To inform its recommendations, the review panel will consult with:

(a) the devolved administrations;

(b) the European Commission;

(c) the academic and legal community and the media;

(d) representatives of the IT community and the private sector;

(e) a representative sample of Government Departments and agencies with an interest in data sharing and privacy;

(f) other parties identified by the review team.

The recommendations will seek to take account of technological advances and strike a balance that ensures appropriate privacy and other safeguards for

individuals and society, while enabling sharing information to protect the public, increasing transparency enhancing public service delivery as well as the need to minimise the burden on business.

English Language

Damian Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much his Department has spent on English language classes for staff in the last year for which figures are available. [177432]

Gillian Merron: The Department does not centrally run English language classes. Information on whether individual management units have supported staff to attend any English language classes is not held centrally and therefore can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Labour Turnover

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many civil servants have left the *(a)* Prime Minister's Office and *(b)* Cabinet Office to work elsewhere (i) in and (ii) outside the civil service since 27 June 2007. [173148]

Gillian Merron: The Prime Minister's Office forms part of the Cabinet Office.

There has been a total of 348 staff who have left the Cabinet Office since 27 June 2007. Of these:

194 left to work for another Government Department (of which 112 members of staff transferred in the machinery of government moves of the Better Regulation Executive and Prime Minister's Delivery Unit);

31 members of staff were loaned out to another Government Department (three of which on a machinery of government move);

16 members of staff were seconded to an external organisation;

95 left to work outside the civil service;

12 people retired or were dismissed.

Ministers: Official Residences

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which Ministers of the Crown have *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three or more residences consequent on his or her office. [176514]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him and the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1135W.

National Identity Register

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what plans his Department has to make use of data on the national identity register when it is established; and what the estimated cost to his Department of that use is. [174030]

Gillian Merron: The Cabinet Office will be working with the Home Office prior to the introduction of the national identity scheme to establish how identity information held on the proposed national identity register might be used to provide easier access services for our customers. It is too early in the process to establish the detailed costs and benefits.

Official Hospitality

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what Government policy is on *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants making bets on political events (i) with and (ii) via a commercial organisation. [177380]

Gillian Merron: Ministers and civil servants are required to conduct themselves in accordance with the requirements of the 'Ministerial Code' and the 'Civil Service Code' as appropriate.

Public Participation: Incentives

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1344W, on public participation: incentives, if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the handouts provided to participants at the forum. [174875]

Gillian Merron: The handouts provided to participants at the forum are available on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.hmg.gov.uk/draftlegislativeprogramme/public_engagement/national_workshop/index.asp

A copy has also been placed in the Library.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1344W, on public participation: incentives, what the cost to the public purse of the forum was. [174878]

Gillian Merron: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for North-West Cambridgeshire (Mr. Vara) on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1083W, by the Minister for the Cabinet Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Doncaster, North (Edward Miliband).

Regulation

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster for which regulators and inspectorates his Department has had responsibility in each year since 1997; what the budget was of each such body in each year; and what the cost to the public purse was of any restructuring of each such body in each year. [175316]

Gillian Merron: Details on all Cabinet Office sponsored public bodies, including those with regulatory and inspection functions, are published annually. Information covering the period 1997-2006, including details of expenditure, is available in the "Public Bodies" publication which can be downloaded from the Civil Service website (www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp). More detailed information on expenditure appears in individual bodies' annual reports and accounts.

Information for 2007 will be published on the site in due course.

Social Exclusion Task Force: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the budget of the Social Exclusion Task Force was in *(a)* each of the last five years and *(b)* each year of the 2007 comprehensive spending review period. [173158]

Gillian Merron: The Social Exclusion Task Force was created in 2006.

Details of its budget for 2006-07 can be found in the Cabinet Office resource accounts, a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

Details of its budget for 2007-08 will not be finalised until the spring supplementary report is published in February 2008.

The Social Exclusion Task Force's budget for each year of the 2007 comprehensive spending review period has not yet been agreed. It will be a portion of the overall Cabinet Office budget.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aerials: Health Hazards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent research her Department has commissioned, into the potential effect on health of mobile telephone masts. [176206]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

Research on the potential health effects from mobile phone technology is evaluated by the Health Protection Agency (HPA). The HPA's Advisory Group on Non-ionising Radiation, in its comprehensive scientific review of Health Effects of Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields, concluded that

"exposure levels from living near to mobile phone base stations are extremely low, and the overall evidence indicates that they are unlikely to pose a risk to health".

Further information is available on the HPA's website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/radiation.

Responding to continuing concerns however, the independently managed Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research (MTHR) programme, jointly funded by Government and Industry, has supported a number of studies into the possible health effects of technology relating both to masts (base stations) and hand-held mobile phones. These studies, some in progress and some already published, are described on the MTHR website at www.mthr.org.uk. None of the research published in its 2007 report so far demonstrates that biological or adverse health effects are produced by radiofrequency exposure from mobile phones or base stations.

The HPAs Radiation Protection Division continues to keep the science under review.

Audit Commission: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the running costs were of the Audit Commission in 1996-97; and what the expected costs are in 2007-08. [176161]

John Healey: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Peter Wilkinson, dated 8 January 2008:

Your Parliamentary Question on what the running costs were of the Audit Commission in 1996-97 and what the estimated rate is for 2007-08 has been passed to me for reply in the absence of our Chief Executive, Steve Bundred.

The running costs of the Commission, based on total operating costs, were £93.1m for 1996/97. The estimate for 2007/08 is £216.6m.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

Departmental Responsibilities

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's powers are in respect of *(a)* each of its non-departmental public bodies, *(b)* each of its executive agencies and *(c)* the Government Offices of the Regions to (i) grant and withdraw delegated personnel responsibilities, (ii) oversee and control the exercise of delegated personnel responsibilities, including those for pay, and (iii) ensure compliance with all equality legislation. [178497]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 12 September 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2124-25W.

Eco-Towns

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what *(a)* criteria and *(b)* process will be used to determine the geographical (i) location and (ii) distribution of eco-town sites; and what her policy is on the distribution of such towns across the English regions. [166916]

(2) what the timescale is for decisions on new eco-towns; and what steps she will take to integrate such decisions with local *(a)* core strategies and *(b)* development frameworks. [166918]

Yvette Cooper: Our approach to taking forward eco-towns is set out in the eco-towns prospectus, and as the Prime Minister has indicated we would like to see a spread of schemes across the regions. We expect to publish the proposals for eco-towns shortly, once we have completed an initial assessment of the applications received. There will be considerable opportunity for consultation on the proposals including the local authorities and the public before the process is completed.

Once potential eco-towns have been selected their planning and development can be delivered through the operation of the spatial planning system, which may require the review of existing plans. Where necessary, the Government will commit resources to facilitate the operation of the planning process, so as to minimise delay. As set out in the eco-towns prospectus, there may be circumstances where use of the New Towns Act powers might be used.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proposals she has received for eco-towns situated wholly or partially in Worcestershire. [166920]

Yvette Cooper: We expect to announce proposals shortly, once an individual assessment has taken place. There will be considerable opportunity for consultation before the process is completed.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who will run the citizens' juries for the design of the new eco-towns; what procurement process has been undertaken in the selection of that individual, organisation or company; and how much has been allocated from what budget for such juries. [173339]

Yvette Cooper: On 30 October I confirmed that an ideas competition would be run to develop and set the design standards for 10 new eco-towns. As part of this there will also be an opportunity for public involvement to judge the short-listed eco-towns designs through a citizens' panel. Final details of the competition, being undertaken with CABE, the Prince's Foundation and RIBA, will be announced shortly. We expect to undertake the procurement process to select the organisation to run the citizen's jury shortly.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what planning process will be used for construction of an eco-town that is not *(a)* supported and *(b)* proposed by the relevant local authority. [173873]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 17 December 2007]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him today to questions 166916 and 166918.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to announce the sites which she will take forward to the next stage as possible sites for eco-towns; and what processes will be adopted to ensure the full engagement of *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* the public before final decisions are taken. [174390]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 18 December 2007]*: We are consulting with local authorities in the relevant areas covered by proposed eco-towns in January 2008 as part of an initial assessment of bids and expect to publish proposals shortly. There will be considerable opportunity for consultation and engagement involving local authorities and the public before the process is completed.

Where a planning application for an eco-town is submitted it will be determined in the normal way under the Planning Acts. Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory purchase Act 2004 requires that the application is determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. We will set out the full planning process as part of the announcement, and this may include reviewing the RSS or development plan. As set out in the Eco-towns Prospectus, there may be circumstances where use of the New Towns Act powers might be used.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on the proposed eco-town at Throckmorton; and if she will make a statement. [177311]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 10 January 2008]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him today to questions 166920 and 174390.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what plans she has to designate eco-towns as healthy towns; [165552]

(2) what proportion of the new eco-towns are also expected to be designated as healthy towns. [165554]

Yvette Cooper: The eco-towns prospectus, launched on 23 July alongside the Housing Green paper, sets out the vision and outline criteria for eco-towns. The aim in terms of health is to promote a healthy and sustainable environment through design and planning to deliver physical and mental benefits.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Public Appointments

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what factors she takes into account in appointing commissioners to the Equality and Human Rights Commission; and what assessment she makes of the experience or knowledge of appointees in *(a)* the field of human rights and *(b)* the rights of faith communities. [165827]

Barbara Follett: I have been asked to reply.

Commissioners are appointed on the basis of relevant experience or knowledge of discrimination and human rights and the desirability of the Commissioners together having experience and knowledge relating to the relevant matters.

Individuals with knowledge or expertise in human rights and discrimination on grounds of religion or belief were invited to apply for the post of Commissioner. Applicants were then asked to demonstrate at application and interview an understanding of issues relevant to discrimination on grounds of religion or belief and a commitment to human rights.

Fire Services: Industrial Health and Safety

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many firemen were *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed whilst on duty in each of the last five years. [178933]

Mr. Dhanda: Available information, based on financial years, is shown as follows.

Firefighters injured in England and Wales

	All firefighters injured	Number of fatal injuries
2001-02	6,508	1
2002-03	6,591	3
2003-04	6,907	1
2004-05	5,793	5
2005-06	4,887	0

Source:
Annual returns to Communities and Local Government

Flood Control: Coastal Areas

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effects of flood risk on the development of coastal towns. [165331]

Yvette Cooper: Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25) on development and flood risk aims to avoid and reduce flood risk as far as possible. Some coastal communities are already within areas at risk of flooding. PPS25 is designed to ensure that when proposals come forward for necessary development and regeneration in these areas, they realise opportunities to reduce flood risk to the community and they are safe, less susceptible to flood damage and will not increase flood risk elsewhere. Planning applications will be determined on their individual merits, in the light of local development frameworks, supported by strategic flood risk assessments, and the principles of PPS25.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library the reports of *(a)* the trials of home information packs (HIPs) conducted by her Department and *(b)* research conducted or commissioned by her Department into HIPs. [174307]

Yvette Cooper: A copy of the area trial research report will be placed in the Library of the House once the project has been finalised. Previous research conducted or commissioned by the Department into HIPs including the analysis by Europe Economics has already been placed in the Library of the House or on the departmental website.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether energy performance certificates can be generated without home information packs. [174310]

Yvette Cooper: Householders can choose to commission an energy performance certificate whether or not they are selling a home and need a home information pack.

Homesale Network

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which questions her official, Andrew Lock, *(a)* answered and *(b)* did not answer at the Homesale Network meeting on 9 November. [174309]

Yvette Cooper: The official named attended the event and responded on behalf of the Department to a wide range of issues related to home information packs. A record of every individual question asked was not kept.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria she uses to determine whether a home may be classified as an eco-home. [165537]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* The Government criteria for high environmental standards in housing is set out in the Code for Sustainable Homes which has six levels.

The code is a set of sustainable design principles covering performance of new homes in nine key areas, including Energy and CO_2 Emissions, Water, Materials, Surface Water Run-off, Waste, Pollution, Health and Well-being, Management and Ecology.

New homes that are assessed against the code receive a one to six star rating. A one star home is built to higher sustainability standards than those set out in building regulations while a six star home is a truly sustainable 'zero carbon' home. The criteria on how to achieve each star rating is set out in detail in 'Code for Sustainable Homes: Technical guide' available on the Communities and Local Government's website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/thecode.

The code is based on the Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) for homes 'EcoHomes', which it replaced for new homes in England from April 2007. The code is more robust than 'Ecohomes' as it sets minimum standards for Energy/CO_2, Water, Materials, Surface Water Run-off and Waste.

Housing: Cleethorpes

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of levels of housing overcrowding in Cleethorpes constituency. [176872]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government do not collect data on overcrowding from local authorities. However, within the context of developing their strategic housing role, we would expect local authorities to have an understanding of levels of overcrowding within their area.

Housing: Databases

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the unique property reference number generated by the Register Operator for inclusion in an energy performance certificate is the same unique property reference number used for a property in the National Land and Property Gazetteer. [173225]

Yvette Cooper: The National Land and Property Gazetteer have their own unique reference property numbers, which are not the same as those generated by the Register.

Housing: Fire Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many firefighters have used the key worker housing scheme in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [176901]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 7 January 2008]*: The following table shows the number of firefighters who have used the key worker housing scheme in each of the last three years in London, the south east and east of England.

Firefighters assisted through the KWL scheme

	Number of firefighters
2005	6
2006	93
2007 (as at end of October)	51

Housing: Green Belt

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many dwellings were built within the 1997 designated green belt in (*a*) St. Albans District and (*b*) Hertfordshire in each year between 1997 and 2006. [177024]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not hold information in a format which would enable the number of dwellings built between 1997 and 2006 on designated, or previously designated, Green Belt in either St. Albans or Hertfordshire to be readily identified.

The information could be obtained by the Department but this could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what her Department's internal targets were for the number of completed sales for Social Homebuy in each year since its inception; [171597]

(2) how much of the funding allocation to Social Homebuy for the period between 2006 and 2008 has been spent. [171557]

Yvette Cooper: Social HomeBuy is running as a voluntary pilot scheme until March 2008. The pilot scheme which was launched in April 2006 enables tenants of local authorities and housing associations to purchase a minimum 25 per cent. share in their rented home at a discount. No target has been set for Social HomeBuy pilot sales as final numbers in the pilot programme are dependent on participation of landlords and take up by tenants.

Between April 2006 and October 2007, a total grant of £1.2 million was given to Registered Social Landlords for 111 Social HomeBuy sales in that sector.

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Minister expects to publish her response to the report entitled Ends and Means, the Future of Social Housing by Professor J. Hills; and if she will make a statement. [172962]

Yvette Cooper: The written ministerial statement made on 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 35WS, set out an initial response to the challenges raised by the Hills review of social housing. A copy of the accompanying speech will be placed in the Library of the House. Further work is under way.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes have been built in national parks in each of the last five years; and how many planning applications to build affordable homes in national parks have been refused in each of those years. [178462]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on the number of affordable homes built in national parks, or the number of planning applications to build affordable homes in national parks is not held centrally.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes have been built in each local authority area in England in each of the last five years. [178463]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have placed information on the numbers of affordable homes provided for each local authority area in the Library. These numbers include social rent, intermediate rent, and low cost home ownership, and cover new build and acquisitions.

Housing: Radon Gas

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate her Department has made of the number of homes in England and Wales exposed to significant levels of radon; [176773]

(2) what information is available to the public on radon levels in homes. [176772]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Health Protection Agency (HPA) currently estimates that 100,000 homes in England and Wales exceed the current radon Action Level of 200 Bq m^3 (becquerel per cubic metre of air). Radon gas formation is directly related to the underlying geology and the majority of the affected homes occur in the south-west of England but there are significant numbers in other areas of England and Wales.

The Radiation Protection Division of the HPA maintains a radon information function that includes a dedicated website, www.ukradon.org, as well as a 24 hour-freephone number to obtain a radon information pack, 0800 614529. The Building Research Establishment also maintains a radon section on their website:

www.bre.co.uk/radon

Local Authorities: Elections

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government why her Department's list of councils which have elections in 2008, published by her Department on 10 October lists Bristol as having elections. [176204]

John Healey: The Department's list of councils holding elections in 2008, to be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/360902/electoralarrangements/elections/localgovernmentelections/

has been corrected to reflect that Bristol, anomalously for district councils electing by thirds, does not have elections in 2008. Bristol's cycle of elections, established by The City of Bristol (Electoral Changes) Order 1998 No. 2699, provides for elections in 2007, 2009, 2010, and 2011.

Local Government Finance

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government by what criteria the Working Neighbourhood Fund has been allocated to local authorities; what relative weighting each criterion is given; and if she will make a statement. [178491]

John Healey: Three criteria were used in determining eligibility for the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF):

Any authority that has 20 per cent. or more of its lower super output areas (LSOAs) in the most deprived decile on the employment domain;

Any authority that has 20 per cent. or more of its lower super output areas (LSOAs) in the most deprived decile on the overall Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD); and

Any authority among the top 40 districts on an equally weighted measure of key benefit claim rate and employment rate.

Eligible authorities were required to meet one of the above criteria to qualify for the fund. No weighting was applied to the criteria.

All eligible authorities were allocated a standard amount per head of working age population living in the 10 per cent. most deprived LSOAs on the employment domain.

Authorities that did not qualify for WNF but currently receive a Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) allocation have been awarded transitional payments over 2008-10. Payments of 60 per cent. of the 2007-08 NRF allocation will be paid in 2008-09 and 40 per cent. of the 2008-09 allocation will be paid in 2009-10.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 13 November 2007 on the planning system. [178021]

Mr. Iain Wright: I replied to the hon. Member on 11 January.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when a reply will be sent to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire's letter to the Minister of State, dated 22 November 2007, on the proposed number of new homes planned for building over the next few years. [178022]

Mr. Iain Wright: I replied to the hon. Member on 6 January.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when a reply will be sent to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire's letter of 29 November 2007, addressed to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and transferred to the Department for Communities and Local Government on 12 December (DEFRA reference: 58563/MG). [178999]

Mr. Dhanda: I replied to the hon. Member on 7 January 2008.

Parish Councils: Public Participation

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will bring forward proposals to discourage parish council referenda being held on issues of national interest. [177210]

John Healey: Parish polls may be held on any question arising at a parish meeting, which is a forum for the discussion of parish affairs. We are looking at whether these polls are being used appropriately.

Planning: Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what her Department's definition is of local energy generation in relation to planning policy; [172876]

(2) what assessment her Department has made of the effect on the take-up of *(a)* photovoltaics, *(b)* solar hot water and *(c)* micro wind technologies of the decision to include offsite and local generation in the definition of the Merton planning rule. [172877]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 10 December 2007]:* On 17 December 2007, the Government published a new planning policy statement (PPS) on climate change. The PPS sets out for planning authorities the circumstances where renewable and low carbon technologies, including micro-renewables, should be used to supply new development in their area.

The PPS includes a definition of decentralised energy supply, which makes it clear that this means energy supply from local renewable and low carbon sources (i.e. on-site and near site, but not remote off site) usually on a small scale.

Planning: Renewable Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government under what circumstances the proposed off-site rule under the new Planning Policy Statement on Climate Change for the provision of locally stipulated contributions from renewable energy would apply to new developments. [165246]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* On 17 December 2007, the Government published a new planning policy statement (PPS) on climate change. The PPS sets out for planning authorities the

circumstances where renewable and low carbon technologies, including micro-renewables, should be used to supply new development in their area.

The PPS includes a definition of decentralised energy supply, which makes it clear that this means energy supply from local renewable and low carbon sources (i.e. on-site and near site, but not remote off site) usually on a small scale.

Property: Databases

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the unique property reference number generated by the Register Operator for inclusion in an energy performance certificate is the same unique property reference number used for a property in the National Land and Property Gazetteer. [176752]

Yvette Cooper: The National Land and Property Gazetteer have their own unique reference property numbers, which are not the same as those generated by the Register.

Recycling: Greater London

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the Waste and Recycling Board in London; and what involvement the Mayor of London will have with the Board. [176205]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

The role of the London Waste and Recycling Board is set out in the Greater London Authority Act 2007. Broadly speaking, it will help deliver an increase in the environmental sustainability of waste management in London. To this end, it will manage the London Waste and Recycling Fund and may provide advice to such persons as it sees fit. It will also have to act in accordance with the Mayor's municipal waste management strategy.

The details of the constitution and administration of the Board are currently being considered and an Order setting this out will be laid in the House as soon as possible. It is disappointing that the Mayor has announced his intention not to sit on the Board or contribute to the Fund. However, the Government will continue to seek ways of working together to ensure that the efforts of the Board and the Mayor to improve waste infrastructure in London are mutually reinforcing.

Thames Gateway: Internet

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Thames Gateway news web page was last updated; and what alterations have been made to this web page since 12 July. [165127]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 20 November 2007]*: The Communities and Local Government Thames Gateway website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/thamesgateway

has been regularly updated since 12 July 2007. Additionally, following the Prime Minister's speech and the launch of the delivery plan at the Thames Gateway forum on 28 November 2007, the Thames Gateway executive made significant updates to the site to reflect this announcement.

In addition, Communities and Local Government contributes to the site

www.thamesgateway.gov.uk

which is managed by Thames Gateway South Essex Partnership web developers (Pixelwork) on behalf of all Thames Gateway strategic partners. That site was re-launched at the Thames Gateway forum and will now complement the new Thames Gateway marketing and communications strategy.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the provision of sites for Travellers and Gypsies in Hertfordshire. [178337]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government recognise the need to address the on-going shortfall in permanent and transit sites for Gypsies and Travellers. All local authorities are now required to assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers in their area. The results of these assessments will inform regional spatial strategies, which will set out the number of pitches to be provided in each local planning authority area.

The July 2007 caravan count found a total of 442 caravans in Hertfordshire, 305 of which are on local authority or registered social landlord sites. A further 120 are located on private sites.

The East of England regional assembly are preparing an alteration to the regional spatial strategy for the East of England, which we understand is due to be approved by the assembly on 25 January 2008. This alteration will determine how many pitches will be required for Gypsies and Travellers in the region. The current draft suggests the need for 1,187 pitches by 2011, 176 of which are in Hertfordshire. These figures will be tested at the examination in public under an independent panel before being finalised by the Secretary of State.

Valuation Office: Press Releases

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many press releases the Valuation Office Agency issued in 2006-07. [176391]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

Between 1 January 2006 and 31 December 2007, the Valuation Office Agency issued eight press releases.

Written Questions

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will reply to question 165127, on the Thames Gateway web page tabled by the hon. Member for Thurrock on 13 November 2007. [174343]

Yvette Cooper: I have now replied to my hon. Friend's question.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will provide a substantive answer to Question 174390, on eco-towns, tabled by the hon. Member for Mid Worcestershire on 11 December 2007 for named day answer on 18 December 2007. [178437]

Yvette Cooper: I have now replied to the hon. Member's question.

JUSTICE

Aviation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many air miles were travelled by Ministers in his Department in each year since its establishment, and what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as a result; [172235]

(2) how many miles he and other Ministers in his Department travelled on short haul flights in the last 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as a result of these flights. [172569]

Maria Eagle: Since 1999 the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the current financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. From next year, the list will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code".

All central Government ministerial and official air travel has been offset from 1 April 2006. Departmental aviation emissions are calculated on an annual basis and subsequently offset through payments to a central fund. The fund purchases certified emissions reductions credits from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with sustainable development benefits, located in developing countries.

A list of Government Carbon Offsetting Fund members, their emission figures and what activities they have offset through the fund is available online at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/carbonoffset/government.htm

Chorley Magistrates Court

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what effect staff training on a new computer system is likely to have on the availability of courts at Chorley magistrates court. [177072]

Maria Eagle: South-West Lancashire magistrates courts will be migrating to a new IT system (called Libra) on 9 May 2008. This migration is part of a national roll-out programme to bring a new, improved and consistent IT package to all magistrates courts in the country. An integral element of the implementation will be the training of staff to operate the new system efficiently. To reduce the impact of staff absences, and keep disruption to court users to a minimum, staff training will take place on site at Chorley magistrates court.

To facilitate this, one courtroom at Chorley magistrates court will be closed for six weeks. The work that would ordinarily be accommodated in this court will be allocated to neighbouring courthouses, namely Leyland and Ormskirk (primarily to Leyland). This arrangement will be monitored to ensure it is operating effectively, and to minimise any impact on court services.

Timely roll-out of Libra is particularly important for the Lancashire magistrates courts, as their existing IT systems are coming to the end of their working life, and are becoming increasingly unreliable. Were the existing IT to fail, it is unlikely that the position could be recovered, and court data would be corrupted and/or lost.

Coroners: Diana Princess of Wales

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the total likely costs of the inquests into the death of Diana, Princess of Wales; how such costs will be met; and if he will make a statement. [176978]

Bridget Prentice: The costs of the inquests into Diana, Princess of Wales and Dodi Al Fayed up to 30 November 2007 were posted on the inquests website www.scottbaker-inquests.gov.uk.

Costs up until 2006-07 were met by the relevant funding authorities. Costs since then have been met by central Government. Further estimated costs will be published in the spring parliamentary supply estimates in February.

Courts: Drugs

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish the independent evaluation of the pilots of dedicated drug courts at Leeds and West London; and if he will make a statement. [178185]

Maria Eagle: The independent evaluation of the pilots at Leeds and West London is currently being completed. It is intended that, once quality assurance processes are satisfactorily completed, the report will be published.

Courts: Interpreters

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Lithuanian interpreters were used by the courts in the Greater London area in the last year for which figures are available. [178184]

Maria Eagle: From April 2007 to date, no Lithuanian interpreters have been booked for civil and family cases in the Greater London area. Information on interpreters used in criminal proceedings is not centrally collected and could be provided only at disproportionate cost through the manual searching of individual court files. The routine collection of data relating to interpreters and translation services at court is being considered by Her Majesty's Courts Service as part of wider work on interpreting and translation in the criminal justice system, being led by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign language interpreters were used in the courts in the Greater London area in the most recent year for which figures are available. [178186]

Maria Eagle: From April 2007 to date, the number of foreign language interpreters used in civil and family cases in the Greater London area is 171. Information on interpreters used in criminal proceedings is not centrally collected and could be provided only at disproportionate cost through the manual searching of individual court files. The routine collection of data relating to interpreters and translation services at court is being considered by Her Majesty's Courts Service as part of wider work on interpreting and translation in the criminal justice system, being led by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Courts: Northern Ireland

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what difficulties have been experienced on access to courts in Northern Ireland in the last year; and what improvement works are scheduled for each of the courts used by the Court Service in Northern Ireland during 2008. [177869]

Mr. Hanson: Relatively few access issues were recorded during the past 12 months. The following table summarises those of which the Northern Ireland Court Service is aware.

Venue	*Date*	*Issue*	*Remedy*
Royal Courts of Justice	20 September 2007	A member of the public experienced difficulty using the passenger elevator	Alterations and possible replacement of the lift will be actioned before the end of this financial year
Newry	10 December 2007	A defendant with restricted mobility was unable to gain access to the courtroom as the lift was out of order	The court session was delayed while the necessary repairs were completed
Coleraine	28 February 2007	A court user with restricted mobility encountered difficulty accessing a courtroom	The court video suite was utilised to allow the witness to give evidence
Enniskillen	26 June 2007	A witness who was a wheel chair user could not access the witness box	Arrangements were made for this witness to give evidence from an adjacent area
Limavady	19 December 2007	The Northern Ireland Prison Service, following a risk assessment and consultation with the Court Service, decided not to produce a prisoner at Limavady courthouse	A protocol for the production of prisoners assessed as high risk has been agreed

A programme of maintenance work is being developed for the forthcoming year. In addition a further audit will be commissioned early in the 2008-09 financial year which will focus on the scope for improving access to courtrooms and juror areas.

Crown Courts

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) in what percentage of criminal cases in the Crown courts in England and Wales there was a change of plea to guilty at the start of the trial in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [178100]

(2) what percentage of prosecutions in magistrates courts in England and Wales resulted in dismissal following the Crown offering no evidence at the start of the trial in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [178101]

Maria Eagle: During the 12 month period ending in November 2007 there was a late change of plea to guilty at the start of the trial in 25.9 per cent. of all cases listed for trial (9,662 of 37,266) in the Crown courts in England and Wales. This figure includes all trials where a late guilty plea was entered in respect of the original charge, but not those where the prosecution accepted a guilty plea in respect of an alternative charge.

During the same period, 5.5 per cent. of all trials (10,399 out of 189,138) recorded in the magistrates courts in England and Wales did not proceed owing to the prosecution ending the case because of insufficient evidence.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many outside consultants were employed by his Department to provide *(a)* advice and *(b)* design services for the (i) NOMIS programme, (ii) C-NOMIS, (iii) LIDS, (iv) Data Share, (v) OASys' and (vi) CRAMS; and what the cost of each contract was to his Department. [178311]

Mr. Hanson: The NOMIS programme consists of:

(a) A version of C-NOMIS to be provided to HM Prison Service.

(b) 'Data Share' which will provide a new mechanism for the sharing of information between Prisons and Probation Areas.

(c) A redeveloped OASys system to provide a single offender risk assessment system across Prisons and Probation Areas.

(d) National Probation Service Case Management Systems, with Delius (a system already in use in some Probation Areas) being implemented in others where systems are in urgent need of replacement. Options to address a range of issues associated with CRAMS (the case management system currently in use in most probation areas) are also being considered.

This response considers these, but does not cover legacy systems such as LIDS, existing OASys systems and the existing CRAMS, which are all outside the NOMIS Programme. Advisory and design expenditure around such legacy systems is understandably limited.

The NOMIS programme has so far this financial year employed five firms for providing advice and 15 firms for providing design services. The numbers cover firms directly employed and exclude those engaged through a subcontracting route.

The NOMIS programme is about the development and associated implementation of new systems and so most of the expenditure can be considered as relating to design activity, especially as a full implementation has not yet been commenced for any of its elements. The total amount expensed by the programme with

firms providing just advisory services in the nine months to the end of December 2007 is estimated at £0.6 million.

The cost of each contract is commercially confidential and therefore this information is not provided.

Until recently the focus of the NOMIS Programme has principally been on C-NOMIS and so nearly all the expenditure, and hence numbers of firms employed, are attributable to it. One firm providing limited design services to the redeveloped OASys is not though engaged on the C-NOMIS project. The other parts of the NOMIS Programme have also involved discussions with various potential parties but have not involved the employment of additional advisors or designers.

Departmental Labour Turnover

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the percentage turnover of staff was in (*a*) his Department and (*b*) his Department's agencies in (i) the last 12-month period and (ii) the last 24-month period for which figures are available. [169040]

Maria Eagle: The percentage turnover rate for (i) the last 12 months and (ii) the last 24 months of staff for the Ministry of Justice headquarters and its agencies is detailed in the following tables.

(a) Percentage staff turnover rate for Ministry of Justice headquarters

	(i) Covering 12-month annualised period	Percentage (ii) Covering 24-month annualised period
Ministry of Justice (excluding agencies)	9.01	8.07
Office for Criminal Justice Reform		
National Offender Management Service		

The figures for the National Offender Management Service and Office for Criminal Justice Reform are included in the response to this question from the Home Office.

(b) Percentage staff turnover rate for Ministry of Justice agencies

	(i) Covering 12-month period annualised	Percentage (ii) Covering 24-month period annualised
Her Majesty's Prisons Service	8.20	8.40
Her Majesty's Courts Service	9.00	9.02
Office of the Public Guardian	9.82	9.49
Tribunals Service	8.74	9.64
Scotland Office and offices of Advocate General	11.76	6.67
Wales Office	14.55	19.81
Land Registry	3.57	3.44
National Archives	13.85	14.93

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of his Department's staff are employed within each salary band; what the title and role of each position within each salary band is; and for each salary band what the (*a*) bonus structure, (*b*) retirement provision, (*c*) expenses provision, (*d*) total expenses incurred in each of the last 10 years, (*e*) average age of employee, (*f*) number of (i) women and (ii) men and (*g*) ethnic composition is. [171402]

Maria Eagle: Table A has been collated to show grade bands and job roles; each of the grade bands/job roles command different levels of remuneration dependent on responsibility levels, economic factors and department/agency within the Ministry of Justice.

The narrative provides a response to (*a*) bonus structure (*b*) retirement provision (*c*) expense provision (*d*) total expenses incurred.

Table B sets out the percentage of staff employed within each of the salary bands together with information in respect of (*e*) average age of employee (*f*) number of (i) women and (ii) men and (*g*) ethnic composition.

The Ministry of Justice salary bands are based on responsibility level as detailed in the following table. The precise roles performed by staff within each band is not recorded centrally.

Table A

Former DCA (incl HMCS, Tribunals Service, PGO, HQ and associated offices)	*Former DCA (inc HMCS, Tribunals Service, PGO, HQ and associated offices)*	*Home Office*	*Prison Service*
New Bands	*Examples*	*Examples*	*Examples*
SCS Pay band 1/1A	Deputy Director		
SCS Pay band 2	Director		
SCS Pay band 3	Director-General		
Band A	Senior Manager	Grade 6/7	Medical Officer
	Lawyer		Pharmacist
	Regional HR Business Partner		Senior Manager A
	Regional Manager Estates		Senior Manager B
	Probate Registrar		Senior Manager C

Table A

Former DCA (incl. HMCS, Tribunals Service, PGO, HQ and associated offices) New Bands	*Former DCA (inc HMCS, Tribunals Service, PGO, HQ and associated offices) Examples*	*Home Office Examples*	*Prison Service Examples*
	Regional Manager Performance		Senior Manager D
	Senior Policy Worker		Senior Medical Officer
			Medical Officer PT
Band B	Senior Manager	SEO	Chaplain 1 and 2
	Area HR Business Partner		Manager E
	Court Manager		Manager F
	Policy Officer		Nursing Grades
	Finance Manager		Pharmacist
Band C	Section Leader	HEO	HEO
	Court Manager		Manager G
	Caseworker		Medical Technical Officer Grade 8
	Budget Manager		Nursing Grades
	Project Officer		Pharmacist
Band D	Court Manager	EO	Assistant Chaplain
	1st Line Manager		Catering Manager
	Judges Clerk		EO/TUPE Transfer/IG1
	Project Officer		Farm and Gardens Grades
	Bailiff Manager		Industrial
	Personal Assistant		Instructional Officer
			Medical Technical Officer Grade 5
			Nursing Grades
			Pharmacist/ Pharmacy Technician
			Principal Officer
			Prof and Tech Officer
			Scientific Officer
			Senior Personal Secretary
			Stores Officer C, D
			Trainee Psychologist
			Typing Manager / Senior Officer
Band E	Team Worker 2/Admin Officer	AO	AO
	Bailiff		Catering Manager
	Senior Usher		Industrial
			Medical Technical Officer Grade 4
			Nursing Grades
			Personal Secretary
			Pharmacist
			Prison Officer / HDS
			Psychologist Assistant
			Senior Officer
			Senior Officer HDS
			Support Grade Band 1
			Technical Grade 1 IG 2,3
Band F	Usher	AA	AA
	Cleaner		Assistant Storeperson
	Admin Support		Industrial
	Messenger		Medical Technical Officer

Table A

Former DCA (incl. HMCS, Tribunals Service, PGO, HQ and associated offices)	*Former DCA (inc HMCS, Tribunals Service, PGO, HQ and associated offices)*	*Home Office*	*Prison Service*
New Bands	*Examples*	*Examples*	*Examples*
	Telephonist		Night Patrol
	Paperkeeper		Nursing Grades
	Security		OSG/IG4,5
	Typist		Typist / Support Grade Band 2

(a) Bonus structure. SCS bonuses are allocated by the Departmental Pay Committee in accordance with guidelines issued by Cabinet Office each year following the Senior Salaries Review Body recommendations. Within the former Department for Constitutional Affairs, the Office for Criminal Justice Reform and the National Offender Management Service Performance Bonus is paid to staff who achieve the top performance marking over the appraisal year. The level of bonus payments vary by grade and business unit. There is no defined bonus structure for staff other than senior civil servants in the Prison Service. In addition, the Ministry of Justice' staff have access to a range of in-year bonuses awarded locally under various Recognition and reward schemes. These awards include small gifts or vouchers, small bonuses of up to £100 and special bonuses of £100 or more. Special bonuses provide recognition for outstanding achievements by staff for working on demanding tasks or situations.

(b) Retirement provision. The normal retirement age for staff is 65 although Justices' Clerks have a normal retirement age of 70. The minimum retirement age, irrespective of grade, is 60. Staff who wish to remain employed beyond the normal retirement age may do so provided they meet the normal standards of health, efficiency, conduct, performance and attendance. Requests to work beyond age 70 are allowed only in exceptional circumstances.

(c) Expenses provision. There are numerous types of expenses paid. In the main these are based on standard allowances or reimbursement of expenses within defined guidelines.

(d) It is not possible to provide the total expenses incurred for each grade for each of the last 10 years. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

(e) Figures on the average age of employee, *(f)* number of (i) women and (ii) men and *(g)* ethnic composition are reflected in the following tables. The bands are based on responsibility level as illustrated in Table A. The precise roles performed by staff within each band is not recorded centrally.

The following tables reflect the figures within the Ministry of Justice Headquarters and Agencies as at reference date 30 September 2007.

Table B

Ministry of Justice Headquarters

Salary band	*Full time equivalent of all staff*	*Salary bands as % of all staff*	*Average age of all staff*	*Headcount gender all staff*		*Headcount of permanent on strength ethnicity*				
				M	*F*	*White*	*BME*	*Undeclared*	*Not known*	*Total*
SCS	85.94	3.70	48.59	49	39	57	[redacted]	[redacted]	13	70
Grade 6, 7	465.93	20.20	42.96	231	246	287	24	22	91	424
SEO	371.15	16.10	43.24	183	200	237	40	28	45	350
HEO	522.32	22.70	40.92	231	310	295	94	46	68	503
Fast Streamer	36	1.60	27.47	19	17	12	[redacted]	[redacted]	10	22
EO	418.52	18.20	38.95	176	257	160	117	55	62	394
AO	365.55	15.90	38.09	11	270	137	93	22	71	323
AA	34.87	1.50	40.73	17	19	15	6	[redacted]	6	27
Unknown Band	3	0.10	49.23	0	3	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	0
Grand Totals	2,303.28	100.00	41.13	1,022	1,361	1,200	374	173	366	2113

Her Majesty's Prisons Service

Salary band	*Full time equivalent of all staff*	*Salary bands as % of all staff*	*Average age of all staff*	*Headcount gender all staff*		*Headcount of permanent on strength ethnicity*				
				M	*F*	*White*	*BME*	*Undeclared*	*Not known*	*Total*
SCS	43	0.10	49.4	35	8	35	[redacted]	[redacted]		35
Grade 6, 7	625	1.30	49.4	400	225	550	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	550
SEO	2,731	5.60	45.1	1,663	1,068	2429	182	120	[redacted]	2,731
HEO	735	1.50	43.6	391	344	631	59	45	[redacted]	735

Her Majesty's Prisons Service

Salary band	Full time equivalent of all staff	Salary bands as % of all staff	Average age of all staff	Headcount gender all staff		Headcount of permanent on strength ethnicity				
				M	F	White	BME	Undeclared	Not known	Total
Fast Streamer	0	0.00	0	0	0	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
EO	4,683	9.60	43.8	2,644	2,039	4222	287	174	[redacted]	4,683
AO	3,0891	63.20	42.1	2,1314	9,577	27565	1,673	1,654	[redacted]	30,892
AA	9,197	18.80	44.2	5,473	3,724	8182	612	403	[redacted]	9,197
Grand Totals	48,905	100.00	45	31,920	16,985	43,614	2,813	2,396	[redacted]	48,823

Her Majesty's Courts Service

Salary band	Full time equivalent of all staff	Salary bands as % of all staff	Headcount gender all staff	Headcount of permanent on strength ethnicity		Headcount of permanent on strength ethnicity				
				M	F	White	BME	Undeclared	Not known	Total
SCS	64.98	0.30	49.87	49	18	52	1	1	8	60
Grade 6, 7	832.91	4.20	47.34	459	392	591	35	97	96	819
SEO	1,859.8	9.30	43.82	704	1,307	1,365	191	202	219	1,977
HEO	1,181.13	5.90	44.61	386	828	884	92	142	64	1,182
Fast Streamer	7	0.00	26.46	4	3	1	1	1	1	1
EO	3,614.56	18.00	42.77	1,038	2,811	2,687	300	460	277	3,724
AO	8,834.43	44.10	40.11	2,406	7,330	5,979	900	1,087	1,248	9,214
AA	3,335.72	16.70	51.02	1,556	2,616	2,524	151	614	651	3,940
Unknown Band	302.45	1.50	3,554	99	235	81	11	11	69	172
Grand Totals	200,32.98	100.00	42	6,711	15,540	14,163	1,680	2,613	2,632	21,088

Office Of The Public Guardian

Salary band	Full time equivalent of all staff	Salary bands as % of all staff	Average age of all staff	Headcount gender all staff		Headcount of permanent on strength ethnicity				
				M	F	White	BME	Undeclared	Not known	Total
SCS	2	60	55.26	1	1	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Grade 6, 7	12	3.70	46.92	6	6	8	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	8
SEO	26.83	8.20	46.98	15	12	15	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	15
HEO	40.23	12.30	42.86	19	23	21	8	9	[redacted]	38
Fast Streamer	1	0.30	29.11	0	1	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	0
EO	117.64	36.10	40.09	51	73	29	55	21	15	120
AO	111.4	34.20	37.16	64	53	20	39	9	39	107
AA	15.12	4.60	42.96	8	8	7	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	7
Grand Totals	326.22	100.00	42.6	164	177	100	102	39	54	295

Tribunals Service

Salary band	Full time equivalent of all staff	Salary bands as % of all staff	Headcount gender all staff	Headcount of permanent on strength ethnicity		Headcount of permanent on strength ethnicity				
				M	F	White	BME	Undeclared	Not known	Total
SCS	11	0.40	52.52	7	4	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Grade 6, 7	63.35	2.20	48.62	35	32	39	[redacted]	6	17	62
SEO	57.46	2.00	46.66	28	30	42	5	[redacted]	8	55
HEO	163.72	5.60	43.13	53	115	98	19	20	23	160
Fast Streamer	4	0.10	28.74	1	3	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	0

Tribunals Service

Salary band	Full time equivalent of all staff	Salary bands as % of all staff	Headcount gender all staff	Headcount of permanent on strength ethnicity		Headcount of permanent on strength ethnicity				
				M	F	White	BME	Undeclared	Not known	Total
EO	466.49	16.10	40.1	164	330	256	91	37	83	467
AO	1,847.23	63.60	39.92	712	1,324	919	365	165	382	1,831
AA	291.27	10.00	42.42	143	183	162	44	20	54	280
Unknown Band	0.5	0.00	40.04	0	1	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	0
Grand Totals	2,904.52	100.00	42.8	1,143	2,021	1,516	524	248	567	2,855

Scotland Office and Offices of Advocate-General

Salary band	Full time equivalent of all staff	Salary bands as % of all staff	Headcount gender all staff	Headcount of permanent on strength ethnicity		Headcount of permanent on strength ethnicity				
				M	F	White	BME	Undeclared	Not known	Total
SCS	6	16.70	50.88	5	1	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Grade 6, 7	8	22.20	39.36	4	4	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
SEO	2	5.60	38.87	1	1	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
HEO	4	11.05	32.01	3	1	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Fast Streamer	2	5.60	26.21	1	1	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
EO	1	2.80	28.3	0	1	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
AO	8	22.20	44.95	4	4	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	6	6
AA	4	11.05	53	3	1	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Unknown Band	1	2.80	34.89	0	1	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Grand Totals	35	100.00	39.2	21	14	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	6	6

Wales Office

Salary band	Full time equivalent of all staff	Salary bands as % of all staff	Average age of all staff	Headcount gender all staff		Headcount of permanent on strength ethnicity				
				M	F	White	BME	Undeclared	Not known	Total
SCS	4	7.20	42.93	4	0	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Grade 6, 7	9	16.20	44.55	6	3	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
SEO	8	14.50	38.42	1	7	6	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	6
HEO	10	18.10	37.14	5	5	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Fast Streamer	0	0.0	0	0	0	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
EO	14.67	26.60	36.18	7	8	6	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	6
AO	7.72	13.90	45.51	3	6	6	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	6
AA	2	3.60	6.27	1	1	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Grand Totals	55.39	100.00	44.3	27	30	18	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	18

Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Salary band	Full time equivalent of all staff	Salary bands as % of all staff	Headcount gender all staff	Headcount of permanent on strength ethnicity		Headcount of permanent on strength ethnicity				
				M	F	White	BME	Undeclared	Not known	Total
SCS	14	4.20	47	11	3	[redacted]	[redacted]	10	[redacted]	10
Grade 6, 7	25	7.30	47	18	7	12	[redacted]	13	[redacted]	25
SEO	66.82	19.60	41	34	33	29	[redacted]	37	[redacted]	66
HEO	47.77	14.00	40	34	21	18	[redacted]	31	[redacted]	49
Fast Streamer	49.59	14.6	38	36	27	14	[redacted]	47	[redacted]	61

Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Salary band	Full time equivalent of all staff	Salary bands as % of all staff	Headcount gender all staff	Headcount of permanent on strength ethnicity		Headcount of permanent on strength ethnicity				
				M	F	White	BME	Undeclared	Not known	Total
EO	57.39	16.9	41	35	27	9	13	40	[1]	62
AO	9.23	2.70	41	3	10	[1]	[1]	7	[1]	7
AA	0	0.00	0	0	0	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Unknown Band	70.47	20.70	30	21	23	[1]	[1]	44	[1]	44
Grand Totals	340.27	100.00	40.6	192	151	82	13	229	[1]	324

National Offender Management Service

Salary band	Full time equivalent of all staff	Salary bands as % of all staff	Headcount gender all staff	Headcount of permanent on strength ethnicity		Headcount of permanent on strength ethnicity				
				M	F	White	BME	Undeclared	Not known	Total
SCS	54.88	3.40	51	31	25	23	[1]	33	[1]	56
Grade 6, 7	101.28	6.30	48	81	46	31	[1]	95	[1]	126
SEO	262.28	16.40	42	144	121	82	7	176	[1]	265
HEO	191.85	12.00	41	161	108	69	15	185	[1]	269
Fast Streamer	147.82	9.30	40	76	102	55	26	98	[1]	179
EO	254.63	15.90	40	113	162	58	53	164	[1]	275
AO	219.94	13.70	40	80	177	27	26	203	[1]	256
AA	25.28	1.60	43	13	19	[1]	[1]	26	[1]	26
Unknown Band	343.2	21.4	48	89	19	6	[1]	141	[1]	147
Grand Totals	1,601.16	100.00	43.7	788	779	351	127	1,211	[1]	1,99

[1] Denotes a number below five. Code of practice does not allow figures to be published that would identify individuals.

Note:

Unknown Bands:- Former DCA HQ and HMCS - The unknown grades represent those staff whose option letters are yet to be finalised. NOMS and OCJR – secondees from the Police/Prison Service.

Departmental Pay

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 28 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 480-81W, on departmental pay, how many of those earning over £100,000 were employed *(a)* as special advisers and *(b)* in a political role in each year since 1997. [177181]

Maria Eagle: Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the number of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, 147-51WS.

Information on the numbers and costs of special advisers prior to 2003 was provided at regular intervals and this information will be available in the Library of the House.

Driving Offences: Convictions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to enable motorists held responsible for the deaths of cyclists to be charged with the offence of manslaughter. [178979]

Maria Eagle: The offence of manslaughter (and culpable homicide in Scotland) is already available for bad driving offences that result in death, and would apply to the death of a cyclist in the same way as it would to other victims of road traffic incidents.

It is for the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to decide on the appropriate charge in a particular case and their guidance makes it clear that a manslaughter charge might be appropriate where the driving was so bad, or the risk of death so great, that a prosecution for manslaughter must be brought.

Driving Offences: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* cautions and *(b)* prosecutions for mobile telephone use by (i) motorists and (ii) other road users there have been in each district and unitary council area in Hampshire in each of the last eight quarters for which records are available. [178200]

Maria Eagle: Available information from 2004 to 2005 (latest available) is provided in the following table. 2006 data will be available later this year.

Data are available at police force area level and by calendar year only.

Written warnings[1], fixed penalty notices issued[2] and court proceedings[3] at the magistrates courts for the offence of use of hand held mobile phone while driving[4] within Hampshire police force area, 2004-05

	Number of offences
2004	
Written warnings	0
Fixed penalty notices issued	2,032
Total court proceedings	18
Written warnings	0
2005	
Fixed penalty notices issued	4,078
Total court proceedings	40

[1] Includes formal cautions.
[2] Covers tickets paid where there is no further action.
[3] Includes cases where a fixed penalty notice was originally issued but not paid and subsequently referred to court.
[4] Offences under the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 110 (1), 110 (2) and 110 (3).

Notes:
1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Drugs: Sentencing

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance the Government gives to courts on sentencing in first time class C drug possession cases. [178108]

Maria Eagle: Sentencing for possession of a class C drug is covered by the provisions of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, which set a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment. Within that statutory maximum, it is open to the courts to use their discretion when sentencing in individual cases, subject to any extant guidelines from the Sentencing Guidelines Council (SGC). The Sentencing Guidelines Council—an independent statutory body—is responsible for issuing sentencing guidelines which criminal courts must take into account. Its draft magistrates courts sentencing guidelines, which are currently out for consultation, contain proposed guidelines for possession of a class C drug. The draft guidelines can be viewed at:

www.sentencingguidelines.gov.uk/docs/SGC%20Final.pdf

The definitive guidelines will be finalised and published later this year.

Environment Protection: Fixed Penalties

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 676W, on environment protection: fixed penalties, what the aggregate revenue was from the fines in each year since 1999-2000. [176843]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

The aggregate revenue from the fixed penalty notices is set out in the following table:

Reporting Period	Aggregate Revenue (£)
April 2006 to March 2007	1,997,879
April 2005 to March 2006	1,100,669
April 2004 to March 2005	369,368

Data are not held centrally on revenue prior to April 2004.

Pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 676W, new data have been published on the number of fixed penalty notices issued by local authorities. From April 2006 to March 2007, 54,015 fixed penalty notices were issued, of which 33,255 were paid.

These data are also available on the Defra website.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 676W, on environment protection: fixed penalties, which legislation the fines in 2005-06 were issued under. [176844]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

The fixed penalty notices, to which the answer of 29 November 2007 refer, were issued under the following legislation:

section 88 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 for litter offences;

section 4 of the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 and section 59 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act for dogs-related offences;

section 43 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 for graffiti and fly-posting; and

section 8 of the Noise Act 1996 for noise.

A breakdown of the statistics collected by the Department on local authorities' use of fixed penalty notices is available on the Defra website.

HM Court Service

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the anticipated change in budget to 2010-11 is for HM Courts Service. [174331]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice recently agreed its CSR settlement with HM Treasury and as part of the CSR settlement, we are taking forward an ambitious value for money programme to enable the delivery of cash releasing savings of 3 per cent. per annum. We are in the process of working out the implications of this settlement to HM Courts Service and other business areas within the Ministry.

HM Courts Services 2008-09 allocations will be decided shortly.

Human Trafficking: Compensation

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many women who had been trafficked into the UK have been awarded compensation under Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority guidelines; what the value was of such awards; from which countries those women were trafficked; whether he has made an estimate of any likely future payments; and if he will make a statement. [177916]

Maria Eagle: The Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme pays compensation to blameless victims of violent crime within Great Britain. Compensation is based on the criminal injury sustained not on the criminal act which caused the injury. Victims of trafficking do not therefore receive compensation under the scheme for the fact of being trafficked, but only if they were victims of a violent crime in Great Britain. The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) does not record centrally how many award recipients were also victims of trafficking, since that information is not necessary for the purpose of determining claims. CICA are accordingly unable to supply the information requested.

Interpreters

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance is issued to court services on the provision of *(a)* sign language interpreters and *(b)* lip speakers for hearing-impaired people in the criminal justice system. [177212]

Maria Eagle: In January 2007 the Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR), in conjunction with Criminal Justice Agencies, published a revised National Agreement on Arrangements for the Use of Interpreters, Translators and Language Service Professionals in Investigations and Proceedings within the Criminal Justice System to help ensure that only suitably qualified interpreters and translators are used in criminal proceedings. Sign language and lip speakers fall in the category of interpreters known in the profession as LSPs (Language Service Professionals). In addition, a Good Practice Guide for HMCS staff on the use of interpreters in the criminal courts has been produced to supplement the new National Agreement. I have placed a copy of the National Agreement and the Good Practice Guide for HMCS staff in the Libraries of the House.

National Offender Management Information System

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much money from *(a)* his own Department and *(b)* other public sources has been spent on the NOMIS programme since it was initiated (i) in total and (ii) in each relevant financial year. [178312]

Mr. Hanson: The NOMIS programme has been fully funded by the Ministry of Justice since its formation and prior to that by the Home Office. The total expenditure to the end of December 2007 is estimated at £179 million, of which £56 million was expensed in 2005-06 (including a small proportion incurred in earlier years), £69 million in 2006-07 and £54 million in the first nine months of this financial year. The total spend to date of £155 million previously advised was up until the end of July 2007.

Prison NOMIS will continue the roll-out of C-NOMIS, with a version that builds on the one currently running successfully in three prisons, preserving the financial and business benefit from work completed to date.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the strategic review of the NOMIS programme cost his Department between the date of its announcement in August 2007 and 7 January 2008. [178313]

Mr. Hanson: Strategic review of the NOMIS programme was conducted using already existing project and business resource, the bulk of whom were Crown and civil servants and were available as a result of the moratorium placed on further development of the NOMIS application. Some additional expenditure was employed on a few days of consultancy time to ensure external assurance of some elements of the review.

The NOMIS programme will be in budget for the financial year 2007-08.

Offenders: Foreigners

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals convicted of an offence in the UK had (i) a previous conviction in the UK, (ii) a previous conviction in the UK resulting in a custodial sentence, (iii) more than one previous conviction in the UK and (iv) more than one previous conviction in the UK resulting in a custodial sentence in each year since 1997; [177404]

(2) how many *(a)* foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals convicted of an offence or offences in the UK resulting in a custodial sentence had (i) a previous conviction in the UK, (ii) a previous conviction in the UK resulting in a custodial sentence, (iii) more than one previous conviction in the UK and (iv) more than one previous conviction in the UK resulting in a custodial sentence in each year since 1997. [177405]

Mr. Hanson: The requested information is not available.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many non-UK prisoners of each sex who were returned to serve their sentences in their home countries were serving custodial sentences of *(a)* 12 months or more, *(b)* two years or more and *(c)* four years or more in the last year for which figures are available; and what these figures are as a proportion of (i) foreign prisoners and (ii) foreign prisoners returned to their home countries. [177455]

Mr. Hanson: The final figure for the number of foreign national prisoners who were deported or removed from the UK in 2007 has not yet been finalised. However, in December it was reported that 4,000 foreign national prisoners have been removed or deported from the UK. In addition 111 foreign national prisoners were repatriated to their home countries in 2007 to continue serving their sentences there. Of these, 81 male and 25 female prisoners were serving sentences of four years or more and four male and one female prisoners were serving sentences of two years or more but less than four years. No prisoners serving sentences of less than two years were repatriated in 2007.

As at 30 September 2007, the number of foreign national prisoners held in England and Wales was 11,211.

Peterborough Prison: Drugs

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the failure rate was for mandatory drug

testing at HMP Peterborough in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [178239]

Mr. Hanson: The latest random mandatory drug testing positive rates for HMP Peterborough are set out in the following table:

	2006-07	Percentage 2007-08[1]
Peterborough		
Female	7.8	5.1
Male	21.5	15.5

[1] Financial year to date (April to November 2007).

Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Southend, West of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 594-96W, on the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, what the penalty given to each individual found guilty of an offence under the Act was in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006. [177698]

Mr. Straw: Data on the penalties given for offences under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 are shown for the years 2004, 2005 and 2006 in the following table.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, including penalties given, in England and Wales, 2000 to 2006, broken down by sex[1], year and police force area[2]

	2004[3]			2005				2006	
	Greater Manchester	Sussex	Metropolitan Police	Leicestershire	Staffordshire	Metropolitan Police	West Midlands	Metropolitan Police
Found guilty	2	1	4	1	1	6	2	6
Attendance order—12 hours	1							
Community punishment order—100 hours		1						
Fine								
£50								2
£75			1			2		
£80					1			
£100			1			3		
£120				1				
£7,500								1
Reference to a youth offender panel			1				1	
Conditional discharge								
180 days						1	1	
360 days	1		1					
Imprisonment								
270 days								1
300 days								1
Supervision order—180 days								1

[1] All defendants found guilty were male.
[2] Please see the footnotes to the original PQ (172425) found in *Hansard* on 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 594W.
[3] There were no triable either way offences in 2005.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for a public consultation on reform of political party funding prior to introducing legislation. [177697]

Mr. Straw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 515W.

Prison Service

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and which prison establishments met

the key performance target for sustainability for the year ending March 2007; what steps he is taking to ensure that more establishments meet the target in future; and if he will make a statement. [175199]

Maria Eagle: The Prison Service is committed to making savings by more efficient management of energy and water. This is achieved through local and central initiatives, management information, training, awareness campaigns, and advice.

To ensure the Prison Service is capable of delivering its obligations in respect of energy efficiency, the Energy Efficiency Project Board (EEPB) monitors implementation of an annual work programme. The EEPB reports to the Sustainable Development Working Group, provides quarterly progress reports to the Prison Service Management Board and publishes an annual report.

Prisons calculate and report energy and water consumption monthly. The Prison Service aims to develop a comprehensive, automated reporting, monitoring and targeting system to improve management information. These initiatives will give prisons a greater incentive to achieve their targets. However, 68 establishments passed the carbon dioxide target, 58 establishments passed their water target and 31 passed both in the year ending March 2007. Individual prison performance is detailed in the following table.

Performance of prisons against the sustainability key performance targets

Establishment	*2006-07 carbon dioxide emissions KPT (tonnes/month)*	*Carbon dioxide performance (tonnes/month)*	*Pass or fail*	*2006-07 water use KPT (litres/prisoner/month)*	*Water performance (litres/prisoner/month)*	*Pass or fail*
Acklington	424	441	Fail	11640	10190	Pass
Albany	215	191	Pass	6690	7115	Fail
Ashwell	214	243	Fail	10767	10765	Pass
Askham Grange	53	55	Fail	9253	10442	Fail
Aylesbury	243	232	Pass	6058	4314	Pass
Bedford	124	136	Fail	6729	4775	Pass
Belmarsh	470	482	Fail	8997	8920	Pass
Birmingham	442	471	Fail	7080	7041	Pass
Blakenhurst	356	335	Pass	8520	8366	Pass
Blantyre House	65	64	Pass	9298	7836	Pass
Blundeston	227	158	Pass	7700	8165	Fail
Brinsford	236	247	Fail	8424	8258	Pass
Bristol	214	239	Fail	6199	6415	Fail
Brixton	325	249	Pass	11640	8760	Pass
Brockhill	64	43	Pass	8503	7152	Pass
Buckley Hall	154	146	Pass	7700	8320	Fail
Bullingdon	431	355	Pass	7666	7816	Fail
Bullwood Hall	106	109	Fail	7973	6469	Pass
Camphill	218	145	Pass	4064	3323	Pass
Canterbury	88	61	Pass	7012	8508	Fail
Cardiff	250	203	Pass	8458	8104	Pass
Castington	424	441	Fail	11640	10190	Pass
Channings Wood	250	268	Fail	10040	9863	Pass
Chelmsford	172	196	Fail	10988	20048	Fail
Coldingley	332	351	Fail	8618	14830	Fail
Cookham Wood	78	77	Pass	7700	6915	Pass
Dartmoor	282	316	Fail	7700	7486	Pass
Deerbolt	209	170	Pass	11640	13428	Fail
Dorchester	104	71	Pass	9295	8795	Pass
Dover	122	122	Fail	10696	11434	Fail
Downview	120	153	Fail	7880	7392	Pass
Drake Hall	182	119	Pass	10959	12930	Fail
Durham	274	230	Pass	6547	5979	Pass
East Sutton Park	62	45	Pass	11640	15338	Fail
Eastwood Park	165	122	Pass	7700	7575	Pass
Edmunds Hill	110	129	Fail	11640	10574	Pass
Elmley	272	331	Fail	7641	8343	Fail*
Erlestoke House	134	168	Fail	10705	11879	Fail
Everthorpe	146	212	Fail	6559	8753	Fail
Exeter	160	225	Fail	9501	5696	Pass
Featherstone	260	379	Fail	11640	9737	Pass
Feltham	340	520	Fail	11640	14280	Fail
Ford	242	264	Fail	11640	17432	Fail

Performance of prisons against the sustainability key performance targets

Establishment	*2006-07 carbon dioxide emissions KPT (tonnes/month)*	*Carbon dioxide performance (tonnes/month)*	*Pass or fail*	*2006-07 water use KPT (litres/prisoner/month)*	*Water performance (litres/prisoner/month)*	*Pass or fail*
Foston Hall	118	124	Fail	8320	9462	Fail
Frankland	437	404	Pass	9507	8319	Pass
Full Sutton	442	437	Pass	9506	10049	Fail
Garth	281	514	Fail	9705	13566	Fail
Gartree	210	202	Pass	8347	8697	Fail
Glen Parva	300	302	Fail	8912	11275	Fail
Gloucester	96	87	Pass	6639	7022	Fail
Grendon/Springhill	217	197	Pass	12000	13128	Fail
Guys Marsh	294	90	Pass	8985	15622	Fail
Haslar	64	55	Pass	5355	7827	Fail
Haverigg	241	243	Fail	8897	12089	Fail
Hewell Grange	78	68	Pass	11640	16162	Fail
High Down	330	345	Fail	9751	7614	Pass
Highpoint	251	293	Fail	9864	10055	Fail
Hindley	236	238	Fail	8500	10993	Fail
Hollesley Bay	150	151	Fail	7920	13835	Fail
Holloway	220	246	Fail	9506	11926	Fail
Holme House	335	310	Pass	7696	7818	Fail
Hull	306	283	Pass	4389	4269	Pass
Huntercombe	140	145	Fail	4297	4164	Pass
Portsmouth						
Kingston	95	96	Fail	10274	10019	Pass
Kirkham	375	403	Fail	11640	20782	Fail
Kirklevington Grange	77	75	Pass	7700	7559	Pass
Lancaster	71	86	Fail	7889	8646	Fail
Lancaster Farms	255	545	Fail	7700	8320	Fail
Latchmere House	65	57	Pass	10943	13256	Fail
Leeds	257	423	Fail	7056	6265	Pass
Leicester	164	153	Pass	6475	7463	Fail
Lewes	146	166	Fail	6964	8224	Fail
Leyhill	279	251	Pass	11640	19029	Fail
Lincoln	142	99	Pass	11000	11364	Fail
Lindholme	340	320	Pass	11000	16037	Fail
Littlehey	306	283	Pass	3318	8070	Fail
Liverpool	390	388	Pass	9892	9824	Pass
Long Lartin	290	270	Pass	11640	10728	Pass
Low Newton	136	102	Pass	9818	9845	Fail
Maidstone	257	254	Pass	11468	10777	Pass
Manchester	509	485	Pass	9604	10695	Fail
Moorland	319	378	Fail	8825	8998	Fail
Moorland Open	122	86	Pass	9043	8005	Pass
Morton Hall	150	149	Pass	9537	7970	Pass
The Mount	320	367	Fail	11640	11607	Pass
New Hall	169	182	Fail	9422	11829	Fail
Newbold Revel	152	122	Pass	7700	7538	Pass
North Sea Camp	125	116	Pass	12000	4404	Pass
Northallerton	101	85	Pass	8894	9946	Fail
Norwich	288	425	Fail	8924	10065	Fail
Nottingham	213	196	Pass	8550	6987	Pass
Onley	255	248	Pass	10475	10516	Fail
Parkhurst	286	224	Pass	10470	10266	Pass
Pentonville	350	173	Pass	7511	9077	Fail
Portland	198	162	Pass	9203	15131	Fail
Prescoed	103	89	Pass	10288	11151	Fail
Preston	234	98	Pass	6048	7688	Fail
Ranby	319	348	Fail	8823	7818	Pass
Reading	97	108	Fail	7286	6164	Pass
Risley	451	467	Fail	8002	8828	Fail

Performance of prisons against the sustainability key performance targets

Establishment	*2006-07 carbon dioxide emissions KPT (tonnes/month)*	*Carbon dioxide performance (tonnes/month)*	*Pass or fail*	*2006-07 water use KPT (litres/prisoner/month)*	*Water performance (litres/prisoner/month)*	*Pass or fail*
Rochester	144	206	Fail	11640	11692	Fail
Send	94	89	Pass	11640	13643	Fail
Shepton Mallet	124	113	Pass	6706	6136	Pass
Shrewsbury	97	56	Pass	7062	7422	Fail
Stafford	217	168	Pass	8345	7500	Pass
Standford Hill	167	196	Fail	10430	11475	Fail
Stocken	300	327	Fail	8446	8729	Fail
Stoke Heath	216	241	Fail	9545	8152	Pass
Styal	175	198	Fail	8980	7364	Pass
Sudbury	293	261	Pass	8891	7639	Pass
Swaleside	313	314	Fail	6566	11827	Fail
Swansea	196	105	Pass	7683	6976	Pass
Swinfen Hall	160	210	Fail	9747	6417	Pass
The Verne	250	248	Pass	11640	14924	Fail
Thorn Cross	195	97	Pass	9080	11053	Fail
Usk	91	49	Pass	6129	6083	Pass
Wakefield	391	329	Pass	10871	9621	Pass
Wandsworth	243	599	Fail	10463	4488	Pass
Warren Hill	126	148	Fail	5310	12300	Fail
Wayland	373	389	Fail	10712	10196	Pass
Wealstun	384	331	Pass	9145	9401	Fail
Wellingborough	186	188	Fail	5635	7085	Fail
Werrington House	79	91	Fail	7700	6319	Pass
Wetherby	140	124	Pass	8772	10618	Fail
Whatton	148	144	Pass	8463	6675	Pass
Whitemoor	306	279	Pass	8377	10185	Fail
Winchester	189	211	Fail	9712	11253	Fail
Woodhill	322	337	Fail	9216	10164	Fail
Wormwood Scrubs	440	696	Fail	9840	11033	Fail
Wymott	479	305	Pass	7700	6330	Pass

Prisoners

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which 20 nationalities had the highest number of *(a)* prisoners and *(b)* prisoners without leave to remain in the UK in custody in the UK in (i) 1997 and (ii) the most recent year for which figures are available. [177456]

Mr. Hanson: The available information for England and Wales relates to the numbers of foreign national prisoners, not taking account of their leave to remain status, held in prison establishments in England and Wales at 30 June 1997 and 30 June 2007. This is published in "Prison Statistics England and Wales 1997", table 6.2, and "Population in Custody June 2007" monthly tables available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/population-in-custody-june07.pdf

The following table is derived from these published tables:

	Number
30 June 1997	
Irish Republic	734
Jamaica	651
Pakistan	336
India	272
Nigeria	243
Turkey	155
Netherlands	155
Ghana	114
Columbia	100
Italy	92
USA	81
Algeria	73
Cyprus	67
Bangladesh	75
Germany	78
Somalia	67
South Africa	64
France	63
China	51
Portugal	46
30 June 2007	
Jamaica	1,270
Nigeria	844
Irish Republic	605
Vietnam	391
Pakistan	375
Somalia	334

	Number
China	331
Poland	301
India	279
Iraq	256
Turkey	210
Iran	201
Lithuania	182
Algeria	178
Portugal	178
Ghana	174
Zimbabwe	174
Albania	163
South Africa	158
Bangladesh	157

Information relating to immigration status could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Comparable information for Scotland and Northern Ireland is the responsibility of the Scottish Executive and the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: EC Nationals

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many nationals of other EU member states are in prison in England and Wales. [178114]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is published quarterly for England and Wales, within the regular prison population in custody statistics available from the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

At 30 September 2007 there were 2,491 foreign nationals in prison establishments in England and Wales who were non-British EU nationals. This includes those held under the Immigration Act 1971 (including those in the immigration removal centres of Dover, Haslar and Lindholme) as well as those held on remand or serving custodial sentences.

The following table shows the information requested by nationality, as at 30 September 2007:

	Number
Austria	14
Belgium	40
Bulgaria	33
Cyprus	52
Czech Republic	54
Denmark	9
Estonia	22
Finland	3
France	152
Germany	131
Greece	20
Hungary	22
Irish Republic	651
Italy	95
Latvia	59
Lithuania	203
Luxembourg	0
Malta	6
Netherlands	118
Poland	362
Portugal	192
Romania	140
Slovakia	20
Slovenia	5
Spain	72
Sweden	15
Total	2,491

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Females

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many women have been sent to prison for non-payment of fines for loitering and soliciting since 1983; [177015]

(2) how many women are in prison for non-payment of fines for loitering and soliciting; [177016]

(3) how many women are in prison for non-payment of fines; and how many were in prison in each year since 1983. [177017]

Mr. Hanson: The number of female prisoners received into, and detained within, all prison establishments in England and Wales 1983-2006, excluding police cells, as fine defaulters, can be found in this table:

	Total yearly receptions	Population[1]
1983	1,321	46
1984	1,486	40
1985	1,385	23
1986	1,075	20
1987	919	28
1988	936	27
1989	868	24
1990	845	25
1991	976	12
1992	1,044	23
1993	1,306	24
1994	1,454	23
1995	1,370	26
1996	461	5
1997	372	3
1998	326	1
1999	215	5
2000	149	7
2001	73	2
2002	79	3
2003	76	3
2004	138	4
2005	160	1
2006	148	6

[1] The population figure is as at 30 June every year.

It is not possible to show the circumstances of the original fine without disproportionate cost as the information is not held centrally and it would entail examination of every individual record. Therefore the proportion of these that were for the offences of loitering and soliciting is unknown. At the end of October 2007, the last date for which figures are available, there were eight females held in custody in England and Wales as fine defaulters.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Rehabilitation

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which prisons provide (*a*) therapeutic communities, (*b*) 12 step, (*c*) cognitive behaviour treatment (CBT) and (*d*) shorter duration CBT programmes for offenders. [177086]

Maria Eagle: The following list sets out the information requested about drug programmes.

Prisons which provide therapeutic communities, 12 step, cognitive behaviour treatment, and shorter duration programmes cognitive behavioural therapy programmes

(a) Therapeutic communities

Channings Wood
Drake Hall
Garth
Holme House
Wymott

(b) 12-step

Bullingdon
Dartmoor
Coldingley
Erlestoke
Everthorpe
Lancaster Castle
Littlehey
Norwich
Send
Swaleside
The Mount
Wandsworth

(c) Cognitive behavioural therapy programmes

Acklington
Altcourse
Frankland
Full Sutton
Gartree
Highpoint
Long Lartin
Stocken
Wakefield
Wealstun
Whitemoor

(d) shorter duration cognitive behavioural therapy programmes

P-ASRO

Ashwell
Aylesbury
Blundeston
Brixton
Camp Hill
Cardiff
Chelmsford
Dartmoor
Deerbolt
Durham
Edmunds Hill
Elmley
Everthorpe
Featherstone
Glen Parva
Guys Marsh
Haverigg
Highpoint
Hindley
Kingston
Kirkham
Lancaster Castle
Lewes
Lindholme
Liverpool
Low Newton
Maidstone
Moorland
Onley
Parc
Pentonville
Portland
Ranby
Risley
Rochester
Stafford
Swinfen Hall
Wayland
Wealstun
Wellingborough
Winchester
Wormwood Scrubs

SDP

Altcourse
Bedford
Belmarsh
Birmingham
Blakenhurst
Bristol
Brixton
Bullingdon
Castington
Doncaster
Dorchester
Downview
Eastwood Park

Elmley
Exeter
Ford
Forest Bank
Glen Parva
Gloucester
Highdown
Hollesley Bay
Holloway
Holme House
Hull
Lancaster Farms
Leeds
Leicester
Leyhill
Lincoln
New Hall
North Sea Camp
Northallerton
Nottingham
Pentonville
Peterborough
Preston
Reading
Stoke Heath
Styal
Swansea
Thorn Cross
Wandsworth
Winchester
Wormwood Scrubs

[1] Female establishment. Working towards accreditation

[2] Either FOCUS and/or STOP (Substance Treatment and Offending Programme)

[3] Either SDP (Short Duration Programme) and/or P-ASRO (Prisoners Addressing Substance Related Offending)

In addition, a range of accredited offending behaviour programmes based on cognitive behavioural principles are provided across the prison estate.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which prisons offer treatment for prisoners with *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* crack heroin dependency. [177087]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is as follows.

(a) The following treatment options are available for those with an alcohol problem:

clinical services (alcohol detoxification), available in all local and remand prisons, as well as some Young Offenders Institutes (see list 1);

Alcoholics Anonymous run groups in 67 per cent. of prisons (see list 2);

where alcohol is part of poly-drug misuse, CARATs (Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Throughcare services) are available in all prisons with the exception of HMP Blantyre House;

a 12-Step programme is being piloted at HMP Bullingdon on a rolling basis; and,

the Young Persons Substance Misuse Service for 16 to 18-year-olds provides support for those with both alcohol and drug problems in 18 prisons (see list 3).

(b) A comprehensive drug treatment framework is in place to address the needs of those with drug misuse problems, including crack cocaine and heroin dependency, comprising:

clinical services (detoxification and maintenance prescribing) available in all local and remand prisons (see list 1);

CARAT services;

CARATs take the lead Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) role in prisons, engaging with prison Resettlement teams and Criminal Justice Integrated Teams (CJITs) in the community;

intensive drug rehabilitation programmes, run in 99 prisons (see list 4); and,

an intervention specifically for those with crack cocaine problems is available as part of the Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS) (no records are currently kept of which prisons offer this service).

List 1 prisons offering clinical services for drug/alcohol misuse

Altcourse
Ashfield
Bedford
Belmarsh
Birmingham
Blakenhurst
Brinsford
Bristol
Brixton
Brockhill
Bronzefield
Bullingdon
Cardiff
Castington
Chelmsford
Doncaster
Dorchester
Durham
Eastwood Park
Elmley
Exeter
Feltham
Forest Bank
Foston Hall
Glen Parva
Gloucester
High Down
Holloway
Holme House
Hull
Leeds
Leicester
Lewes
Lincoln
Liverpool
Low Newton
Manchester
New Hall
Norwich
Nottingham
Parc
Parkhurst
Pentonville

Peterborough Female
Peterborough Male
Preston
Reading
Shrewsbury
Stafford
Stoke Heath
Styal
Swansea
Wandsworth
Wetherby
Winchester
Woodhill
Wormwood Scrubs

List 2 prisons holding AA meetings

Acklington
Albany
Askham Grange
Bedford
Belmarsh
Birmingham
Blakenhurst
Blantyre House
Blundeston
Brixton
Brockhill
Bronzefield
Bullingdon
Bulwood Hall
Camp Hill
Canterbury
Cardiff
Channings Wood
Chelmsford
Coldingley
Dartmoor
Deerbolt
Dorchester
Dovegate
Downview
Drake Hall
Durham
Elmley
Everthorpe
Exeter
Featherstone
Feltham
Ford
Foston Hall
Frankland
Full Sutton
Gartree
Guys Marsh
Haverigg
Hewell Grange
High Down
Hollesley Bay
Holloway
Holme House
Hull
Kingston
Kirkland
Lancaster Castle
Latchmere House
Leeds
Lewes
Lincoln
Lindholme
Littlehey
Long Lartin
Low Newton
Manchester
Moorland (open)
Moorland closed)
Morton Hall
Norwich
Onley
Parkhurst
Pentonville
Portland
Ranby
Reading
Risley
Rye Hill
Send
Shepton Mallett
Shrewsbury
Stafford
Standford Hill
Styal
Sudbury
Swaleside
Swansea
Swinfen Hall
The Mount
Thorn Cross
Verne
Wakefield
Wandsworth
Wayland
Wealstun
Wellingborough
Winchester
Wormwood
Wymott

List 3 of establishments offering juvenile substance misuse services

Ashfield
Brinsford
Castington
Cookham Wood
Downview
Eastwood Park
Feltham
Foston Hall
Hindley
Huntercombe
Lancaster Farms

New Hall
Parc
Stoke Heath
Thorn Cross
Warren Hall
Warrington
Wetherby

List 4 intensive drug rehabilitation programmes

Acklington
Aitcourse
Ashwell
Aylesbury
Bedford
Birmingham
Blakenhurst
Blundeston
Bristol
Brixton
Bullingdon
Camp Hill
Castington
Cardiff
Channings Wood
Chelmsford
Coldingley
Dartmoor
Doncaster
Dorchester
Downview
Drake Hall
Deerbolt
Durham
Eastwood Park
Edmunds Hill
Elmley
Erlestoke
Everthorpe
Exeter
Featherstone
Ford
Forest Bank
Full Sutton
Frankland
Gartree
Garth
Glen Parva
Gloucester
Guys Marsh
Haverigg
Highdown
Highpoint
Hindley
Hollesley Bay
Holme House
Holloway
Hull
Kingston
Kirkham
Lancaster Castle
Lancaster Farms
Leeds
Leicester
Leyhill
Lewes
Lincoln
Lindholme
Littlehay
Liverpool
Long Lartin
Low Newton
Maidstone
Manchester
Moorland
New Hall
North Sea Camp
Northallerton
Nottingham
Norwich
Onley
Parc
Pentonville
Portland
Preston
Ranby
Reading
Risley
Rochester
Send
Stafford
Stoke Heath
Stocken
Styal
Swaleside
Swansea
Swinfen Hall
The Mount
The Verne
Thorn Cross
Wakefield
Wandsworth
Wayland
Wealstun
Wellingborough
Whitemoor
Winchester
Wormwood Scrubs
Wymott

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the failure rate for mandatory drug testing in prisons was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [177088]

Mr. Hanson: The random mandatory drug testing positive rate for 2006-07 was 8.8 per cent.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners entered *(a)* detoxification, *(b)* maintenance, *(c)* 12 step, *(d)* cognitive behaviour

therapy (CBT), (e) shorter duration CBT and (f) therapeutic community treatment programmes in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07; and at what cost for each type of programme for each year. [177089]

Mr. Hanson: Figures (rounded to the nearest 10) for the number of prisoners recorded as entering the particular treatment modalities and the associated costs for the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 are given in the following tables:

Entrants into Drug Treatment Services

	2005-06	2006-07
Detoxification/ Maintenance (Clinical Services)[1]	53,770	51,520
12-Step	980	930
Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT)	310	360
Short Duration Programme (SDP)[2]	5,210	5,760
P-ASRO[2, 3]	3,560	3,780
Therapeutic Community Treatment Programmes	370	300

[1] Figures for Detoxification and Maintenance cannot be disaggregated. [2] A shorter duration CBT. [3] Prisons - Addressing Substance Related Offending.

Cost of Drug Treatment Services and Programmes

£ million

	2005-06	2006-07
Detoxification/ Maintenance (Clinical Services)[1, 2, 3]	11.3	23.3
12-Step	2.9	3.0
Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT)	1.7	1.6
Short Duration Programme (SDP)	7.6	7.9
P-ASRO	7.3	7.3
Therapeutic Community Treatment Programmes	1.7	1.7

[1] Funding for clinical services is now managed by the Department of Health.
[2] Figures for Detoxification and Maintenance cannot be disaggregated.
[3] Additional spending review funding.
Note
This figure includes £11.3 million transferred from NOMS to primary care trusts (as in 2005-06) and a £12 million investment by Department of Health into the Integrated Drug Treatment System (iDTS).

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners received treatment for (a) alcohol and (b) drug dependency while in custody in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07. [177090]

Mr. Hanson: (a) This information is not available. Alcohol treatment for those with an alcohol dependency is in the main provided within the wider drug treatment framework. The proportion of prisoners accessing treatment services for alcohol is not disaggregated.

(b) The total numbers of prisoners (rounded to the nearest 10) receiving treatment for drug dependency while in custody in 2005-06 and 2006-07 are indicated in the following table.

Treatment Intervention[1]	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Clinical services (detoxification/ maintenance)	53,770	51,520
CARATs[2] initial assessments	74,720[3]	77,860[3]
Intensive rehabilitation programme entrants	10,740	11,150

[1] Individuals may engage in more than one type of treatment.
[2] Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Throughcare.
[3] CARATs figure includes juvenile substance misuse services.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how the (a) quality and (b) effectiveness of drug treatment in prisons is assessed. [177085]

Mr. Hanson: The drug treatment framework in prisons is modelled on the evidence-based National Treatment Agency's Models of Care and a number of measures are in place to assure quality and consistency of delivery:

the Prison Service Interventions Group conducts annual audits of drug treatment delivery at each establishment;

intensive drug treatment programmes are accredited by the independent Correctional Services Accreditation Panel (CSAP) prior to implementation;

voluntary sector drug treatment providers are quality assessed against detailed service specifications; and

the Prison Service conducts periodic internal audits of each establishment, of which the drug strategy is one element.

Research evidence shows that prison drug treatment, with effective follow-up in the community can reduce the level of re-offending by up to 10 per cent.

Reparation by Offenders

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals for the police to have power to compel an offender to pay compensation to a victim without the precondition of a prosecution for a criminal offence. [178212]

Maria Eagle: The Criminal Justice Act 2003 (as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006) already enables the police and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to offer a caution with conditions attached to an offender where there is sufficient evidence to charge him or her with an offence which is admitted.

Conditions are currently aimed at rehabilitation (addressing the offender's behaviour) and/or reparation (making good the harm the offender has caused including the payment of compensation to a victim) and may include restorative justice processes.

The offender must agree to that caution and the conditions attached. It is for the CPS to decide whether a conditional caution is suitable and to identify appropriate conditions. If the conditions are not complied with, the offender can be prosecuted for the original offence.

The Government have no plans to provide the police with powers to compel offenders to pay compensation.

Swansea Prison

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make a statement on the future role of Swansea prison. [178227]

Maria Eagle: There are no current plans to change the role of HMP Swansea.

Winchester Prison: Pest Control

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the outcome was of the risk assessment required under the EU Biocide Directive into the possibility that rats in the area may become resistant to that rodenticide after the licensed use of Brodificoum in Winchester prison in December 2006. [171838]

Maria Eagle: The Prison Service complies with the regulations set out in the Control of Pesticide Regulations (1986).

The European Biocide Directive has been introduced to develop a common market for pest control products across all member states. The Health and Safety Executive have confirmed that under the directive there is no need to carry out a risk assessment.

There have been no known cases of resistance to Brodificoum. These facts were confirmed by the contractor licensed to use the product. The very short term use of very limited quantities of Brodificoum solved the problem with minimal risk to non target species.

Prolonged and extensive use of rodenticides against populations that seem to be resistant, places non targets at very high risk, in circumstances where this risk could be far better managed by using Brodificoum.

The use of Brodificoum was risk assessed in accordance with current health and safety legislation by the contractor using this product. No consideration was given as to the potential that the rodents could become resistant to the substance as it is such a potent poison. Its use was strictly controlled over a comparatively short period.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what national generation carbon dioxide emissions factor is used by his Department in its calculations of emissions savings. [175695]

Malcolm Wicks: For long-term electricity savings the Government assume that new-build combined-cycle gas turbine (CCGT) generation is displaced. It is currently estimated that new-build CCGT plant emits 0.43 kg carbon dioxide per kWh delivered to the point of consumption. This emissions factor includes distribution losses.

This factor was used in the 2007 Energy White Paper to calculate emissions reductions from those policies which lead to reduced electricity consumption.

Coal Fired Power Stations: Planning Permission

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what applications for new coal-fired power stations he is considering; when he expects to reach a decision on each; whether he plans to consult hon. Members before making his decisions; and if he will make a statement. [179073]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department is considering one application for a coal-fired station at Kingsnorth in Medway. There are no plans to consult hon. Members on individual applications, but that is not to say that hon. Members cannot raise matters with me if they so wish.

Deregulation (Deduction from Pay of Union Subscriptions) Order 1998

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether a Regulatory Impact Assessment was produced to accompany the Deregulation (Deduction from Pay of Union Subscriptions) Order 1998. [177696]

Mr. McFadden: No. The requirement to produce Regulatory Impact Assessments was introduced after this Deregulation Order was made.

Energy: Meters

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will require suppliers of energy to install smart meters in *(a)* new properties and *(b)* existing properties when the meter is (i) faulty and (ii) at the end of its working life; and if he will make a statement. [177366]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government are assessing responses to their recent consultation on metering and billing, and will shortly set out their next steps, including their approach to the delivery of smart meters.

English Language

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department has spent on English language classes for staff in the last year for which figures are available. [177425]

Mr. Thomas: Learning and development budgets are delegated across the Department so no central record is available. Individuals and managers decide in discussion what development is appropriate and pay for it from local budgets.

Export Credit Guarantees: Fossil Fuels

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much funding for investment projects was made available by the Export Credits Guarantee Department

in each of the last five years; and what proportion of this funding was allocated to fossil fuel extraction projects. [170156]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 12 December 2007]*: The following table shows maximum exposure figures arising from ECGD support for the funding of civil projects in each of the last five years including those for two projects that included fossil fuel extraction.

£

	Total support	*Of which fossil fuel extraction projects*
2002-03	643.75 million	127.6 million
2003-04	1.05 billion	
2004-05	803.6 million	62.7 million
2005-06	1.38 billion	
2006-07	892.9 million	

For the sake of clarity the fossil fuel extraction projects listed exclude petrochemical and pipeline projects that did not include extraction responsibilities.

Export Credit Guarantees: Sakhalin Island

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received on compliance with the environmental conditions attached to the proposed Export Credits Guarantee Department funding of the Sakhalin II project; what assessment he has made of these representations; when he expects to make a decision on the application; and if he will make a statement. [170157]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 12 December 2007]*: ECGD has received submissions from a number of interested parties about the environmental impacts of the Sakhalin II project. These will be taken into account in accordance with ECGD's published Case Impact Analysis Process (www.ecgd.gov.uk).

In considering whether to provide support for the project, ECGD will apply its normal underwriting policy and its business principles. Relevant factors include the financial, technical and environmental aspects of the project.

ECGD has not made a decision on support; a note of decision will be published in due course.

Financial Assistance Scheme

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects the Government to make an announcement on whether it will be appealing against the European Commission's recent ruling on the state aid rules infringements by Shetland's trusts as a result of local financial assistance schemes operated by them. [175709]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

Although I have yet to see any grounds for an appeal, I have written to my counterpart in Scotland seeking his views on the matter. Should the Government decide to lodge an appeal, I will write to the hon. Member.

Furniture: Fire Prevention

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make it his policy to seek the amending of EU legislation on fire safety of furnishings in line with UK regulations. [177624]

Mr. Thomas: There is currently no EU legislation which specifically deals with the fire safety of furniture/furnishings. The general product safety directive (GPSD) covers the safety of all products not covered by other legislation. I understand that the GPSD Committee has begun discussions on whether further work should be undertaken on the European furniture/furnishings flammability standard. The UK, at official level, is represented on this Committee.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the likely level of greenhouse gas emissions from the 10 new opencast coal mines in each year that they are expected to operate. [176993]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 9 January 2008]*: As shown by the following table, there is a general balance between surface mines opening and closing in any particular year. The net impact of new mines is therefore broadly neutral.

	Mines closed			*Mines opened*		
	2006	*2007*	*2008 (f/c)*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008 (f/c)*
England	4	3	3	3	4	3
Scotland	4	3	5	3	2	4
Wales	1	1	2	2	1	2
Total	9	7	10	8	7	9

Source:
The Coal Authority

In 2006 coal-fired power stations used 57.3 million tonnes of coal in supplying 37.7 per cent. of UK electricity supplies. UK surface mines contributed 8.6 million tonnes of this coal (down from 10.4 million tonnes in 2005), representing 15 per cent. of total feedstock and around 5.5 per cent. of total UK electricity supply.

Land: Radioactivity

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what it would cost the Government to remediate all land which has been radioactively contaminated to date. [177703]

Malcolm Wicks: Under the various Radioactive Contaminated Land Regulations 2007, covering England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, where civil liability for a nuclear incident is regulated by the Nuclear Installations Act 1965, the Government are liable, in certain circumstances, for the remediation of land outside a nuclear site contaminated above a certain threshold by nuclear matter. We currently know of no such radioactively contaminated land which would trigger these regulations.

In addition, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) has plans in place to decommission and clean-up the nuclear sites in its ownership. This will involve future remediation of areas of land that may be contaminated to much lower levels than the threshold of the above regulations. The NDA strategy for the decommissioning and clean up of the 20 civil public sector nuclear sites designated to the NDA is available to download from the NDA website (NDA Final Strategy 2006). Also available for download are the 2006-07 Lifetime Plan Site Summaries, which outline activities required to take the site from the present to the assumed or agreed site end state.

The above information relates to civil nuclear sites only. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence has responsibility for defence nuclear sites.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the total cost to Government of the identification and remediation of radioactively contaminated land in the UK up to 2020. [177704]

Malcolm Wicks: Under the various Radioactive Contaminated Land Regulations 2007, covering England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, where civil liability for a nuclear incident is regulated by the Nuclear Installations Act 1965, the Government are liable, in certain circumstances, for the remediation of land outside a nuclear site contaminated above a certain threshold by nuclear matter.

We currently know of no such radioactively contaminated land which would trigger these regulations. The likelihood of an event of this nature arising in the future is sufficiently remote and its possible nature so variable, that no advance estimates or advance provisions for it can be made.

In addition, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) has plans in place to decommission and clean-up the nuclear sites in its ownership. This will involve future remediation of areas of land that may be contaminated to much lower levels than the threshold of the above regulations. The NDA strategy for the decommissioning and clean up of the 20 civil public sector nuclear sites designated to the NDA is available to download from the NDA website (NDA Final Strategy 2006). Also available for download are the 2006-07 Lifetime Plan Site Summaries, which outline activities required to take the site from the present to the assumed or agreed site end state. The majority of these programmes extend well beyond 2020.

The above information relates to civil nuclear sites only. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence has responsibility for defence nuclear sites.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of the costs of remediation of land radioactively contaminated by the nuclear energy industry falls to those whose activities contaminated the land; and who is liable for any remaining remediation costs arising from radioactive contamination by the current generation of nuclear power stations. [177705]

Malcolm Wicks: Under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965, nuclear site license holders are liable for the identification and remediation of radioactive contaminated land within the sites they operate. This is enforced by the Health and Safety Executive via the site license conditions.

Under the various Radioactive Contaminated Land Regulations 2007, covering England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, where civil liability for a nuclear incident is regulated by the Nuclear Installations Act 1965, the Government are liable, in certain circumstances, for the remediation of land outside a nuclear site contaminated above a certain threshold by nuclear matter.

We currently know of no such radioactively contaminated land which would trigger these regulations. The likelihood of an event of this nature arising in the future is sufficiently remote and its possible nature so variable, that no advance estimates or advance provisions for it can be made.

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Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost to his Department is of underwriting the liabilities of land contamination against radioactive pollution from the British nuclear industry. [177709]

Malcolm Wicks: Under the various Radioactive Contaminated Land Regulations 2007, covering England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, where civil liability for a nuclear incident is regulated by the Nuclear Installations Act 1965, the Government are liable, in certain circumstances, for the remediation of land outside a nuclear site contaminated above a certain threshold by nuclear matter.

We currently know of no such radioactively contaminated land which would trigger these regulations. The likelihood of an event of this nature arising in the future is sufficiently remote and its possible nature so variable, that no advance estimates or advance provisions for it can be made.

In addition, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) has plans in place to decommission and clean-up the nuclear sites in its ownership. This will involve future remediation of areas of land that may be contaminated to much lower levels than the threshold of the above regulations. The NDA strategy for the decommissioning and clean up of the 20 civil public sector nuclear sites designated to the NDA is available to download from the NDA website (NDA Final Strategy 2006). Also available for download are the 2006-07 Lifetime Plan Site Summaries, which

outline activities required to take the site from the present to the assumed or agreed site end state.

The information given relates to civil nuclear sites only. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence has responsibility for defence nuclear sites.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many acres of land are known to be sufficiently contaminated by radioactivity to warrant remediation to limit danger to workers or the general public; and what estimate he has made of the acreage likely to be so contaminated after the decommissioning of all the UK's nuclear power plants. [177710]

Malcolm Wicks: Under the various Radioactive Contaminated Land Regulations 2007, covering England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, where civil liability for a nuclear incident is regulated by the Nuclear Installations Act 1965, the Government are liable, in certain circumstances, for the remediation of land outside a nuclear site contaminated above a certain threshold by nuclear matter.

We currently know of no such radioactively contaminated land which would trigger these regulations. The likelihood of an event of this nature arising in the future is sufficiently remote and its possible nature so variable, that no advance estimates or advance provisions for it can be made.

In addition, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) has plans in place to decommission and clean-up sites in its ownership. This will involve further remediation of areas of land that may be contaminated to much lower levels than the threshold of the above regulations. The NDA strategy for the decommissioning and clean up of the 20 civil public sector nuclear sites designated to the NDA is available to download from the NDA website (NDA Final Strategy 2006). Also available for download are the 2006-07 Lifetime Plan Site Summaries, which outline activities required to take the site from the present to the assumed or agreed site end state.

The proportion of land that requires remediation across the NDA estate and the level of remediation, will be fit for purpose, reflecting the risk that the land poses to humans and the environment and taking account of the proposed end use and the delicensing requirements of the Health and Safety Executive as appropriate.

Nuclear Power Stations: Coastal Areas

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* evaluated on the risk of inundation of existing coastal nuclear energy installations from tidal flooding. [177839]

Malcolm Wicks: A cross-nuclear industry group operating under the oversight of the Health and Safety Executive has carried out research into the methodology for the prediction of flooding from extreme sea levels. Subsequent research has evaluated the additional effects of climate change for the UK as a whole, and local to five representative coastal nuclear sites.

Nuclear Power Stations: Security

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of the costs of providing security for nuclear energy power stations, associated facilities and storage will come from the public purse in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [178206]

Malcolm Wicks: The public does not meet any of the direct costs incurred for the provision of security at licensed civil nuclear sites. These costs, including costs for the civil nuclear constabulary, in-house security arrangements, and the Office for Civil Nuclear Security, (the security regulator) are met by the operators of such sites.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost was of providing security for nuclear energy power stations, associated facilities and storage in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [178208]

Malcolm Wicks: All security costs at licensed civil nuclear sites in the UK are met by the operators of such sites. These include the costs of corporate security, in-house security arrangements and, at those sites where there is a regulatory requirement for a dedicated, on-site armed response provided by the Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC), the cost of providing and maintaining this dedicated policing resource. The industry regulator for security, the Office for Civil Nuclear Security, (OCNS, part of the Nuclear Directorate of the Health and Safety Executive), also recovers the cost of its regulatory activity from the industry.

Before March 2005, security measures at the nine nuclear generating sites did not include armed officers from the CNC. Between March 2005 and March 2007, CNC Support Units comprising authorised firearms officers were recruited, trained and deployed to the nine nuclear generating sites to augment the in-house, unarmed civilian security staff. The costs of this deployment (including start-up costs) and the charges raised since March 2007 are £30.1 million. These were met by British Energy and Magnox Electric, the operators of the sites.

There are 42 licensed nuclear sites in the UK, including the nine nuclear generating stations. OCNS recovered a total of £10.88 million from the operators of these 42 licensed nuclear sites over the last five financial years as a charge for its regulatory activity at all sites.

Political Levy

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what figures *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Certification Officer holds on the average political levy charged by (i) all trades unions and (ii) each trade union in the latest period for which figures are available [177602]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 10 January 2008]:* Neither the Department nor the Certification Officer holds the particular information that is needed to provide figures on the average political levies charged.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1073W, on the political levy, according to records held by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Certification Officer, which unions (i) provide a reduced subscription fee for members who opt-out of the political fund and (ii) collect the political levy as a separate charge from the main union membership subscription. [177693]

Mr. McFadden: Neither the Department nor the Certification Officer holds the information requested.

Political Levy: Northern Ireland

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Certification Officer for Great Britain has produced on whether revenue from a trade union's political fund raised in Northern Ireland may be spent by the same trade union in another part of the UK for political purposes, where the trade union has branches in both Northern Ireland and other parts of the UK. [177600]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 10 January 2008]*: Neither the Department nor the Certification Officer has produced guidance on this specific issue.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether revenue raised from trade union political levies in other parts of the UK may be spent in Northern Ireland; where a union has branches in both Northern Ireland and other parts of the UK. [177603]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 10 January 2008]*: Revenue raised from the trade union political levies in other parts of the UK may be spent in Northern Ireland, where the union has branches in both Northern Ireland and other parts of the UK.

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on what date he or his ministerial colleagues informed the Post Office Ltd that it could not issue recommendations in the run up to the local elections in England due to the operation of purdah. [175661]

Mr. McFadden: Following discussion with Post Office Ltd over a number of months, the company was formally advised on 5 November of the particular application to the Network Change Programme of the principles set out in the Cabinet Office guidelines relating to public consultations in the period preceding local elections.

Postal Services: Iraq

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how many packages were sent to UK armed forces personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan over the Christmas period; [177578]

(2) how many packages were sent to UK armed forces personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan in each two week period in 2007. [177579]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I have been asked to reply.

Packages are recorded by weight in kilograms and are not individually counted.

Over the Christmas period (November and December 2007), BFPO dispatched a total of 284,871 kg of mail to Operation Telic (Iraq) and Operation Herrick (Afghanistan).

The monthly total volumes (shown in kilos) of mail dispatched to Operation Telic and Operation Herrick are as follows:

	Telic	*Herrick*	*Total*
January 2007	29,500	19,793	49,293
February 2007	24,408	19,768	44,176
March 2007	24,302	20,124	44,426
April 2007	20,336	23,006	43,342
May 2007	22,432	29,977	52,409
June 2007	31,969	27,436	59,405
July 2007	28,169	24,959	53,128
August 2007	25,684	26,656	52,340
September 2007	29,072	36,036	65,108
October 2007	28,884	48,080	76,964
November 2007	32,548	66,088	98,636
December 2007	72,455	113,780	186,235

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what the cost was of sending packages during the free post period to UK armed forces personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* each of the last three years; [177580]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost of extending free post throughout the year to UK armed forces personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. [177581]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Royal Mail. I have therefore asked Adam Crozier, chief executive of Royal Mail to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Public Telephones

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many public telephone boxes there *(a)* are and *(b)* were 12 months ago. [177738]

Mr. Timms: I understand from the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), that on UK streets there are 61,796 public telephone boxes as at the end of quarter three 2007-08. 12 months ago the number at the end of quarter three 2006-07 was 62,942. These numbers exclude managed payphones at public places like airports and railway stations.

Radioactive Wastes: Land

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether those operating nuclear power plants are liable for the identification and remediation of radioactive contaminated ground within the sites they operate. [177745]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 10 October 2008]*: Under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965, nuclear site license holders are liable for the identification and remediation of radioactive contaminated land within the sites they operate. This is enforced by the Health and Safety Executive via the site licensed conditions.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the Government's total liability for remediation of radioactively contaminated land in the UK. [177746]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 10 January 2008]*: Under the various Radioactive Contaminated Land Regulations 2007, covering England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, where civil liability for a nuclear incident is regulated by the Nuclear Installations Act 1965, the Government are liable, in certain circumstances, for the remediation of land outside a nuclear site contaminated above a certain threshold by nuclear matter.

We currently know of no such radioactively contaminated land which would trigger these regulations. The likelihood of an event of this nature arising in the future is sufficiently remote and its possible nature so variable, that no advance estimates or advance provisions for it can be made.

In addition, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) has plans in place to decommission and clean-up the nuclear sites in its ownership. This will involve future remediation of areas of land that may be contaminated to much lower levels than the threshold of the above regulations. The NDA strategy for the decommissioning and clean up of the 20 civil public sector nuclear sites designated to the NDA is available to download from the NDA website (NDA Final Strategy 2006). Also available for download are the 2006-07 Lifetime Plan Site Summaries, which outline activities required to take the site from the present to the assumed or agreed site end state.

The information given relates to civil nuclear sites only. My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Defence has responsibility for defence nuclear sites.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the total cost of contaminated land remediation following the planned decommissioning of existing nuclear power stations. [177807]

Malcolm Wicks: Under the various Radioactive Contaminated Land Regulations 2007, covering England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland., where civil liability for a nuclear incident is regulated by the Nuclear Installations Act 1965, the Government are liable, in certain circumstances, for the remediation of land outside a nuclear site contaminated above a certain threshold by nuclear matter.

We currently know of no such radioactively contaminated land which would trigger these regulations. The likelihood of an event of this nature arising in the future is sufficiently remote and its possible nature so variable, that no advance estimates or advance provisions for it can be made.

In addition, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) has plans in place to decommission and clean-up the nuclear sites in its ownership. This will involve future remediation of areas of land that may be contaminated to much lower levels than the threshold of the above regulations. The NDA strategy for the decommissioning and clean up of the 20 civil public sector nuclear sites designated to the NDA is available to download from the NDA website (NDA Final Strategy 2006). Also available for download are the 2006-07 Lifetime Plan Site Summaries, which outline activities required to take the site from the present to the assumed or agreed site end state.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* fiscal and *(b)* other incentives are available to developers of (i) large-scale and (ii) small-scale renewable energy electricity generation projects. [175689]

Malcolm Wicks: There are a number of fiscal incentives to encourage renewable generation: renewable generators are exempt from the climate change levy; microgenerators are exempt from income tax on any renewable obligation certificates (ROCs) which they sell and electricity which they export; there is a reduced rate of VAT on microgeneration technologies; and homes meeting the zero carbon criteria are exempt from stamp duty up to £500,000.

In addition to these, the renewables obligation is the Government's key mechanism for encouraging new renewable generating capacity. The RO is a market-based mechanism, which requires electricity suppliers to source an increasing percentage of their electricity sales from eligible sources of renewable energy. Suppliers can meet their obligation by presenting renewables obligation certificates (ROCs) as evidence of renewable generation, by paying a penalty (the 'buyout' price), or a combination of the two. The price of a ROC is subject to the market and is affected by various other factors. The buyout price, which rises in line with inflation each year, caps the costs of the system to suppliers and thus ultimately electricity consumers. Generators of all sizes can claim ROCs for each megawatt of electricity they produce.

We recognise that additional help is needed to encourage small-scale renewable generation, and have a number of beneficial measures in place to provide support. For those wishing to install microgeneration technologies, we provide grants under the low carbon buildings programme, to contribute to the costs of installation.

We are taking steps to ensure that excess electricity generated by small operators can be sold to the grid for adequate reward; an important incentive for

microgenerators. The Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act gives powers to the Secretary of State to require that energy suppliers offer a tariff to their own customers for exported electricity from microgeneration units. We are working closely with the energy suppliers to encourage voluntary action, and all major suppliers are now committed to offering some form of export tariff. Some smaller companies too, like Good Energy, offer a rate for all renewable energy generated —9p/kWh— regardless of whether it is used on site or not. We will keep under review the need to exercise the power to require action.

We are committed to ensuring that generators are aware of the benefits that are available to them, and can access them readily. Ofgem are currently examining the prices paid to green homes when they sell electricity back to the grid. In considering this they will also be looking at how easy it is for green homes to access this information and determine the value of the excess electricity that they sell. We will consider the outcomes of this work and the need for further action. In other areas, a number of steps have been taken to make it easier for smaller generators to access ROCs and we have recently published a joint BERR/Ofgem consultation on a range of initial proposals to make it easier for smaller distributed generators to interact with the wider electricity system and realise the value of the electricity that they generate.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what policy decisions have been taken on renewable energy as a result of recommendations made by the Renewables Advisory Board since November 2002. [177840]

Malcolm Wicks: The Renewables Advisory Board (RAB) was set up in 2002 in order to provide independent advice to Government on renewable electricity.

Governmental policy decisions are not based purely on the advice of the RAB, though they do contribute to consultations relating to renewable energy and have produced a number of reports advising Government on renewables policy. I would refer you to the RAB website for further details: http://www.renewables-advisory-board.org.uk/index.htm.

As I announced on 10 December 2007, the remit for RAB has also been expanded with specific reference to the delivery of the EU 2020 target of 20 per cent. renewable energy in the UK.

Renewables Obligation: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of *(a)* the total quantity of emissions of carbon dioxide which have been avoided as a result of the renewables obligation to date and *(b)* the expected quantity of such emissions in each year between 2008 and 2020. [175696]

Malcolm Wicks: The information is as follows:

(a) Electricity generated from renewable sources, on a renewable obligation basis are given in chapter 7:5 of the Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2007. Assuming that renewable electricity displaces gas generation, with a carbon factor of 95.7 MtC per GWh additional generation, estimated carbon saved is given in the following table.

Finalised figures for 2007 are not currently available.

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Total renewables generation on an obligation basis (GWh)	5,755	7,156	9,906	13,138	14,554
Estimated carbon saved (MtC)	0.6	0.7	0.9	1.3	1.4

(b) Estimates of carbon savings from renewable electricity under the renewables obligation between 2008 and 2020 is given in the following table. These estimates assume that renewable electricity displaces gas generation, with a carbon factor of 95.7 MtC per GWh additional generation. The table gives savings based on its current structure, and under the regime proposed in the Energy Bill 2008.

	Estimated carbon savings from current RO structure (MtC)	*Estimated carbon savings from proposed RO structure (MtC)*
2008-09	1.8	1.9
2009-10	2.2	2.4
2010-11	2.4	2.7
2011-12	2.6	3.0
2012-13	2.8	3.3
2013-14	3.0	3.5
2014-15	3.3	3.8
2015-16	3.5	4.2
2016-17	3.4	4.3
2017-18	3.4	4.3
2018-19	3.5	4.2
2019-20	3.6	4.2

Note:
Estimates are based on results from the model of the renewables obligation from independent consultants. These figures are different from those included in the report 'Reform of the Renewables Obligation—what is the likely impact of changes?'[1] as they take into account updated estimates of electricity sales and technology costs.

[1] http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file39039.pdf.

Royal Mail: Delivery Services

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of the business handled by Royal Mail comprised downstream access mail in the last three years for which figures are available. [177514]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Royal Mail. I have asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Adam Crozier, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

I will put copies of the letter in the Libraries of the House.

Trades Union Congress: Finance

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the Trades Union Congress has a political fund, according to the records held by the Certification Officer. [177601]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer, 10 January 2008]*: According to the records held by the Certification Officer, the Trade Union Congress has no political fund.

UK Trade and Investment: Defence

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on what date he was informed of the Prime Minister's decision to close the Defence Export Services Organisation and to move its remit to UK Trade and Investment. [173403]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 11 December 2007]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for New Forest, East (Dr. Lewis) by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 292-93.

Unfair Commercial Practices Directive Regulations

Mr. Greenway: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what timetable he envisages for the (a) publication, (b) consultation on and (c) implementation of the unfair commercial practices directive regulations. [177372]

Mr. Thomas: The Department of Trade and Industry consulted on draft Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations (CPRs) implementing the unfair commercial practices directive (UCPD) in May 2007. The draft CPRs reflect the outcome of two earlier consultations about implementing the UCPD. The first consultation paper was published in December 2005 and sought views in three areas: interpretation; enforcement; and simplification of existing legislation. The second consultation in December 2006 sought views on how to frame the criminal offences in the regulations implementing the directive.

I propose to lay the draft CPRs before Parliament in January. If approved in debate the regulations will come into force on 6 April 2008.

Wind Power

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of full-time equivalent person years that will be required to build sufficient *(a)* wind turbines and *(b)* associated infrastructure to meet the EU 20 per cent. renewables target. [175676]

Malcolm Wicks: It is too early to estimate what proportion of the UK contribution to the EU 20 per cent. target will come from any particular source of renewable energy, and the impact that will have. Agreement has not yet been reached on the contribution that each member state will make toward the 20 per cent. target, but we will consult in 2008 on policy options to meet the UK's contribution and publish our foil UK renewable energy strategy the following spring once the EU directive has been agreed.

Wind Power: North East Region

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the Government's policy is on the development of a North sea wind farm. [177648]

Malcolm Wicks: In November 2002, DTI published a consultation document 'Future Offshore' which outlined a strategic approach to offshore wind development in UK waters, available at the following link:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file22791.pdf.

To date, the Government and The Crown Estate have held two competitions, Round 1 in 2000 and Round 2 in 2003, for offshore wind development rights. A map of these site lease areas can be found at the following link:

http://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/round_1_2_windfarm_sites-2.pdf.

On 10 December, the Government announced the launch of a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) on a draft plan for up to 25 GW of new offshore wind development rights in UK waters, including in the North sea. A scoping consultation document, entitled 'UK Offshore Energy SEA Scoping for Environmental Report', is currently available at the following web link:

http://www.offshore-sea.org.uk/downloads/Offshore_Energy_SEA_Scoping.pdf.

Depending on the results of the SEA and the magnitude of impacts identified, the Government will take a decision on what the acceptable level of offshore wind development is. As in previous rounds, developers would then be required to bid for site leases through leasing competitions to be held by the Crown Estate and, if successful, conduct their own site evaluations and undertake an environmental impact assessment before applying for the necessary development and environmental consents to build an offshore wind farm.

HEALTH

Abortion (Amendment) Bill of Session 1979-80

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what records his Department holds of the Abortion (Amendment) Bill of Session 1979-80; and if he will make a statement. [177736]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department no longer holds any files on the Abortion (Amendment) Bill of Session 1979-80. Four files have been transferred to the National Archives at Kew and are closed to the public under the 30-year rule. Two other files were destroyed following a review of the contents.

Action on Smoking and Health Foundation

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department allocated to the Action on Smoking and Health Foundation in each year since its inception. [173627]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department's grants to Action on Smoking Health under section 64 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968 are set out in the following table.

Financial year	*Grants (£)*
1996-97	229,425
1997-98	114,713
1998-99	143,618
1999-2000	155,000
2000-01	156,170
2001-02	160,860
2002-03	147,810
2003-04	164,000
2004-05	168,000
2005-06	180,000
2006-07	185,400
2007-08	191,000

Ambulance Services: Shropshire

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will meet members of Shropshire county council to discuss the future status of the Shrewsbury Ambulance Control Centre. [165842]

Mr. Bradshaw: The organisation and location of ambulance service control centres is a matter for local ambulance trusts. Therefore, it is recommended that the members of Shropshire county council request a meeting with Mr. Anthony Marsh, chief executive of the West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust, in order to discuss the future status of the Shrewsbury Ambulance Control Centre. The Minister of State has already met the hon. Member to discuss his concerns about the future of Shrewsbury Ambulance control centre.

Atrial Fibrillation

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to provide services to tackle atrial fibrillation. [174392]

Ann Keen: The provision of national health service services is the responsibility of commissioners, providers and other local service managers who are best placed to plan for and deliver the particular mix of services needed by their local population.

The Department launched Chapter 8 of the Coronary Heart Disease National Service Framework, covering arrhythmias and sudden cardiac death, in March 2005. Chapter 8 sets out quality requirements and markers of good practice for the NHS for the development of all arrhythmia services including those for people with, or suspected of having, atrial fibrillation.

In addition, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence produced a clinical guideline on the management of atrial fibrillation (CG36) in June 2006.

In 2006-07, the Quality and Outcomes Framework of the general medical services contract has included quality indicators for the detection and management of patients with atrial fibrillation.

Atrial fibrillation is also a significant risk factor for stroke. The recently published stroke strategy, therefore, reiterates the importance of good quality care for those with atrial fibrillation.

Bournemouth and Christchurch Primary Care Trust: Finance

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons specialist top-up funds paid to Bournemouth and Christchurch primary care trust district general hospitals in recognition of patients with complex conditions have been discontinued. [177357]

Mr. Bradshaw: We outlined our proposals to refine the targeting of specialist top-ups for 2008-09 in the "Options for the Future of Payment by Results: 2008-09 - 2010-11" consultation document published on 15 March 2007. The arrangements for 2008-09 were published on 13 December 2007 alongside the NHS operating framework.

The aim of these proposals is to better target the top-up payments at the most specialised activity within the scope of payment by results. Copies of the consultation document are available in the Library.

Breast Cancer: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of eligible women *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each ethnic group took part in the NHS Breast Cancer Screening Programme in each year since 1997. [175112]

Ann Keen: The information requested on the total proportion of eligible women who took part in the NHS breast screening programme in each year since 1997 is shown in the following table.

	Coverage (percentage)
	Women aged 50 to 64
1997	65.6
1998	66.4
1999	67.7
2000	69.3
2001	70.2
2002	69.8
2003	69.3
2004	69.0
2005	69.5
2006	69.9

Note:
1. Coverage is the percentage of eligible women with a breast screening test result in the previous three years.
2. The KC63 return from which this data is gathered does not collect information on ethnic groups.

Source:
Office for National Statistics/The Information Centre for health and social care, Breast Screening Programme: England 2005-06.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his latest estimate is of the number of interval breast cancers in each year since 1997; and what plans he has to reduce the round length of breast cancer screening. [175134]

Ann Keen: The number of interval cancers in the national health service breast screening programme are not routinely collected.

Recent improvements in ensuring consistency in data collection have allowed for a major exercise to be undertaken between the NHS breast screening programme, the NHS cancer registries and the Cancer Screening Evaluation Unit at the Institute of Cancer Research to produce reliable national interval cancer figures for the first time. These figures will be published in 2008.

We take the issue of the 36-month standard between screens very seriously. That is why Professor Mike Richards, the National Cancer Director, wrote to the chief executives of all 10 strategic health authorities in England on 9 February 2007 highlighting the importance of maintaining the 36-month interval. Data from NHS cancer screening programmes are monitored quarterly.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of eligible women were seen within the 36-month standard for breast cancer screenings (*a*) in England and (*b*) in each breast screening unit in the latest period for which figures are available. [175136]

Ann Keen: Data on the 36 month interval for breast cancer screening are collected quarterly by national health service cancer screening programmes. Data for England and each breast screening unit are provided in the following table. 38 month interval rates are also given as an indicator of how close intervals are to the national standard of 36 months.

Breast screening unit	*Percentage 36 month breast cancer screening interval rate—July to September 2007*	*Percentage 38 month breast cancer screening interval rate—July to September 2007*
England	70	88
Bolton	86	99
Chester	99	99
Crewe	98	99
East Lancashire	46	99
Greater Manchester	25	50
Liverpool	63	99
Macclesfield	62	100
North Cumbria	99	100
North Lancashire	10	11
Warrington	90	98
Wigan	32	67
Wirral	100	100
North Tees	53	64
Newcastle	90	95
Gateshead	97	100
Pennine	59	95
North Yorkshire	85	99
Leeds Wakefield	16	42
Humberside	8	12
Sheffield	53	97
Doncaster	99	100
Barnsley	99	100
Rotherham	84	99
North London	21	22
West of London	97	98
Barking and Havering	33	56
Central and East London	28	73
South East London	96	98
King's College - London	78	99
South West London	88	99
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	47	90
Chelmsford and Colchester	70	98
Cambridge and Huntingdon	40	98
Epping	1	1
East Suffolk	97	99
James Paget	57	92
King's Lynn	56	74
Norfolk and Norwich	68	97
Peterborough	78	98
South Essex	51	87
West Suffolk	79	97
City Hospital (Birmingham)	91	92
Dudley and Wolverhampton	98	99
Hereford and Worcester	73	99
North Staffordshire	99	100
Shropshire	45	95
South Birmingham	96	98
South Staffordshire	99	99
Walsall and Sandwell	99	100
Warwickshire, Solihull and Coventry	99	100
Avon	74	96
Cornwall	96	98
Dorset	96	97
East Devon	81	97
Gloucestershire	98	99
Somerset	92	97
South Devon	97	98
West Devon	99	99
Wiltshire	89	99
Northampton	98	99
South Derbyshire	78	99
North Derbyshire	95	98
North Nottinghamshire	100	100
Kettering	99	100
Leicester	92	97
Lincolnshire	21	23
Nottingham	98	98

Breast screening unit	Percentage 36 month breast cancer screening interval rate - July to September 2007	Percentage 38 month breast cancer screening interval rate - July to September 2007
Jarvis Centre (Guildford)	95	98
West Sussex	48	84
Brighton	13	57
Canterbury	83	87
Maidstone	33	87
Medway	73	88
Aylesbury	100	100
Wycombe	100	100
Milton Keynes	99	100
Reading	83	95
Windsor	99	100
Oxford	17	99
North and Mid Hampshire	53	96
Southampton and Salisbury	24	84
Portsmouth	100	100
Isle of Wight	99	100

We take the issue of the 36-month standard between screens very seriously. That is why Professor Mike Richards, the national cancer director, wrote to the chief executives of all 10 strategic health authorities in England on 9 February 2007 highlighting the importance of maintaining the 36-month interval.

Cancer

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what cancer networks there are in England; and, for each, what their constituent primary care trusts are. [174775]

Ann Keen: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely number of cases of cancer in each of the next 10 years. [175097]

Ann Keen: Estimates of the likely number of new cases have not been made for every one of the next 10 years. However, they have been made of the likely number of new cases in each of the following years 2011, 2016 and 2020. This information is shown in the following table.

Projected number of cancer cases (rounded to nearest 100)

	Number of cases
2011	256,600
2016	277,000
2020	298,900

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many emergency in-patient admissions for cancer there were in each year since 1997-98; what proportion of these were emergency readmissions in each year; and if he will make a statement. [175102]

Ann Keen: The following table gives the finished admission episodes (FAE) for emergency admissions with a primary diagnosis of cancer for all years since 1997-98. There are no data available for readmissions for cancer.

	Finished admission episodes for emergency admissions
2006-07	146,050
2005-06	149,524
2004-05	146,203
2003-04	143,519
2002-03	143,733
2001-02	141,519
2000-01	141,051
1999-2000	144,074
1998-99	141,799
1997-98	141,059

Notes:
FAE
A FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
Diagnosis (primary diagnosis)
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (7 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
Data Quality
HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 national health service trusts, and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data is also received from a number of Independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
Assessing growth through time
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected from the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
Ungrossed Data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Source:
HES, The Information Centre for health and social care.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the (*a*) elective and (*b*) emergency bed occupancy rates for cancer patients in the NHS as described in figure 13 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy were (i) for all cancers in total and (ii) for each cancer type in each year since 1997. [175103]

Ann Keen: Information on bed occupancy rates for cancer patients is not available.

The title to Figure 13 on page 97 of the Cancer Reform Strategy is incorrect. As described in paragraph 7.24, Figure 13 shows the number of beds by cancer type rather than the bed occupancy.

The number of elective and emergency bed days for all cancers since 1997 is shown in the following table.

	Elective	*Emergency*
1997-98	2,007,489	2,588,500
1998-99	1,953,676	2,629,029
1999-2000	1,968,890	2,735,877
2000-01	1,935,569	2,851,509
2001-02	1,903,450	2,949,132
2002-03	1,885,870	3,053,128
2003-04	1,856,090	3,064,913
2004-05	1,812,749	3,083,436
2005-06	1,841,968	3,103,193
Total	17,165,751	26,058,717

Source:
National Cancer Services Analytical Team, www.canceruk.net

Information on the number of elective and emergency bed days broken down by cancer type since 1997 has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the analysis referred to in paragraph 7.22 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy on projected cancer in-patient costs. [175104]

Ann Keen: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many specialist diagnostic units, referred to in paragraph 7.14 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy, there are; where they are situated; and if he will make a statement. [175105]

Ann Keen: Information on the number and location of all specialist diagnostic units is not held centrally.

Over 99 per cent. of patients with suspected cancer are now seen by a specialist within two weeks of referral, and over 99 per cent. of patients receive their first treatment within 31 days of diagnosis, while over 97 per cent. of patients begin treatment within 62 days of being urgently referred.

As part of the Cancer Reform Strategy, these targets will be extended to more patients and by 2010, the 31-day target will apply to all treatments, not just the first.

Cancer Action Team

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who the members are of his Department's Cancer Action Team. [175140]

Ann Keen: The Cancer Action Team works with and supports the national health service nationally. In particular, it works with cancer networks to implement the Government's strategy for improving cancer and end of life care services. It is not a part of the Department.

Teresa Moss is the Director of the Cancer Action Team and she has 24 members of staff.

Cancer; Clinical Trials

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis was for the statement in paragraph 1.9 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy, that England has the highest national per capita rate of cancer trial participation in the world; and if he will make a statement. [174774]

Ann Keen: The number of cancer patients entering trials in the United Kingdom has grown since 2001 to the point where it is almost the same as the number entering trials in the United States of America (USA). The USA and the UK have the largest number of cancer trial participants in the world. These facts, and the difference in population size between the two countries, form the basis of our assessment of the relative level of the current per capita participation rate in the UK.

Cancer: Death

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects cancer networks to agree local cancer mortality reduction targets for 2012, as described in paragraph 6.9 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy; what definition of cancer mortality he intends to use; how achievement against cancer mortality targets will be assessed; whether each local cancer mortality reduction target will be published; and if he will make a statement. [175108]

Ann Keen: Local mortality reduction goals will be developed and finalised during 2008. It is important to note that these are goals and not targets.

The details, include definitions, assessment and publication, are yet to be decided.

Cancer: Drugs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis is for the statement in paragraph 10.8 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy, that there is significant variation in cancer drugs approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) between cancer networks; what the levels of expenditure on NICE-approved cancer drugs by each cancer network is; and if he will make a statement. [175096]

Ann Keen: The evidential basis for the statement that there is variation in expenditure on cancer drugs approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) between cancer networks is set out in two reports published by the National Cancer Director:

Variation in usage of cancer drugs approved by NICE, June 2004

Usage of Cancer Drugs approved by NICE, September 2006

Both these reports are available on the Department of Health website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4083901

and

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4139061

respectively). Copies of both reports are available in the Library.

The Department does not collect the actual levels of expenditure on NICE-approved cancer drugs by network. However, Figure 17 in the Cancer Reform Strategy sets out the estimated cost per head of NICE-approved cancer drugs used in hospitals between January-June 2005. This chart was based on data from the National Cancer Director's 2006 report plus estimates of drug prices. The chart is anonymised because the data on which it is based has many limitations and the error range is large. It provides a useful indication of the likely spread of spend across the country but is not deemed accurate enough to provide a fair comparison between named networks.

Progress has been made in reducing variation in usage of cancer drugs across the country but there is scope for further reductions. The National Cancer Director recommended in his 2006 report repeating his evaluation of cancer drug usage periodically to ensure that the level of variation is reduced as much as possible. The Cancer Reform Strategy confirmed that the next evaluation will take place during 2008.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the National Cancer Director intends to conduct an evaluation of usage of cancer drugs approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, as stated in paragraph 4.51 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy, in the years after 2008. [175119]

Ann Keen: The National Cancer Director recommended, in his 2006 report "Usage of cancer drugs approved by NICE", that such evaluations should be repeated periodically. No decision has yet been taken about when it would be most appropriate to repeat the exercise following the one due in 2008.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he intends to issue national guidance to clinicians to assist them in discussing with their patients drugs which are not available on the NHS, as described in paragraph 4.50 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy. [175121]

Ann Keen: The Department has no plans to issue national guidance on this matter. However, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) publishes information targeted specifically at service users ("Understanding NICE Guidance") to explain its appraisals. Clinicians could use these documents to help discuss drugs which NICE has concluded are not clinically or cost effective for a particular patient's condition.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy that primary care trusts should publish their individual criteria for determining which patients should access treatments for cancer drugs in those cases where guidance on the use of the drug has not been issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. [175123]

Ann Keen: The Department has no plans to issue guidance or revise policy on this matter.

Cancer: Health Education

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how frequently the surveys of cancer symptom awareness, referred to in paragraph 3.47 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy, will be conducted. [175132]

Ann Keen: As set out in paragraph 8.6 of the Cancer Reform Strategy, the first survey is likely to be in late 2008 or 2009. It will then be repeated at least every two years.

Cancer: Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what national measures are used to assess cancer services through peer review, as stated in paragraph 1.26 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy. [174772]

Ann Keen: The national measures used to assess cancer services through peer review are set out in the "Manual for Cancer Services 2004" which is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Healthandsocialcaretopics/Cancer/DH_4135595

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of patients received their first treatment for cancer within one month of diagnosis in the latest period for which figures are available, calculated using *(a)* Korner and *(b)* Hospital Episode Statistics data. [174777]

Ann Keen: The data requested are not available, as the waiting times standards within the NHS Cancer Plan (2000) are not monitored using Korner data collections or Hospital Episode Statistics.

The most recently available statistics from the Cancer Waiting Times Database (quarter 2 2007-08) show that 99.7 per cent. of patients received first treatment within one month of diagnosis.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he intends to develop a kitemark for good cancer facilities, as described in paragraph 11.8 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy. [175094]

Ann Keen: The Department will be working in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support to develop the kitemark for cancer facilities. This work will commence in 2008.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in which cancer networks three-year planning for implementing Improving Outcomes Guidance was found to be weak, as described in paragraph 9.29 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy. [175099]

Ann Keen: 19 Cancer Networks did not have an agreed three year Network Service Delivery Plan at the time of their peer review visit. These were:

Lancashire and South Cumbria
Humber and Yorkshire Coast
North West Midlands

Pan-Birmingham
North West Midlands
South Essex
North London
South West London
Three Counties
Kent and Medway
Cancer Care Alliance
North Trent
Black Country
Arden
Mid Anglia
Mount Vernon
North East London
Dorset
Sussex

It should be noted that the peer review visits took place between November 2004 to March 2007 and so do not necessarily reflect the current position. It should also be noted that some of these networks have since merged.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to complete the design of the technical specifications for the NHS Cancer Patient Experience Survey Programme, as described in paragraph 5.73 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy; when he expects the national contract to run the cancer patient experience surveys to be let; and when he expects the first survey to be published. [175114]

Ann Keen: An expert group, including patients, will be set up in the first half of 2008 to design the technical specifications of the national health service cancer patient experience survey programme and a national contract will then be let for the collection, management and analysis of cancer patient experience surveys in 2008-09 with first results expected in 2009-10.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of multi-disciplinary cancer teams dealing with each type of cancer do not have clinical nurse specialist cover, as described in paragraph 5.43 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy 2007; and if he will make a statement. [175115]

Ann Keen: The percentage of multi-disciplinary cancer teams (MDT) without clinical nurse specialist cover at the time of their peer review visit is set out, for the tumour types known, in the following table:

Type of MDT	*Percentage of MDTs without CNS cover at peer review visit*
Urology (local)	20
Urology (specialist)	10
Lung	20
Upper Gastro-intestinal (local)	31
Upper Gastro-intestinal (specialist)	14
Bowel	5
Breast	4
Gynaecology (local)	21
Gynaecology (specialist)	2

This information has been extracted from the cancer quality improvement network system (CQuINS), a web-based tool that has been developed to support acute trusts and cancer networks as part of the national cancer peer review programme. However, it should be noted that the peer review visits on which this information is based took place between November 2004 and March 2007 and so that position does not necessarily reflect the current position.

The cancer reform strategy, published on 3 December 2007, acknowledged the vital role that clinical nurse specialists can play in improving the experience of people living with cancer and across many aspects of the management and support of cancer patients. The strategy noted that good commissioners should benchmark their local cancer nurse specialist provision against that of similar primary care trusts and take action where this work force is found to be insufficient.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which cancer networks do not have information managers in post. [175116]

Ann Keen: The following cancer networks do not currently have an information manager in post:

Anglia
Arden
Essex
Kent and Medway
Mid Trent
Mount Vernon
North London
Peninsula
South East London
South West London
Sussex
West London
Yorkshire

For networks where no current information manager is in post, two will be recruiting in January 2008, as funds have become available, and nine networks will be given a year's funding from Macmillan to support an information role.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health where the pilots undertaken by the Cancer Services Collaborative referred to in paragraph 4.7 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy were undertaken; what new approach to implementing cancer waiting time reductions was investigated in each pilot; whether the pilots have been formally evaluated; and if he will make a statement. [175127]

Ann Keen: The Cancer Services Collaborative Improvement Partnership pilot sites were:

County Durham and Darlington NHS trust (tested the proposed two-week wait for all breast problems);

Whittington Hospital NHS trust (proposed two-week wait for all bowel problems);

Manchester Cancer Network (proposed two-week wait for all lung referrals);

Cambridge Breast Unit (reducing follow up);

Sheffield teaching hospital (31-day standard for all radiotherapy treatments and the right of consultants to upgrade patients onto a 62-day pathway where cancer is suspected); and

Luton and Dunstable hospital (stretching the current standards to see how quickly patients could be seen and treated).

The work of the pilot sites is reported on the Cancer Services Collaborative Improvement Partnership website at:

www.cancerimprovement.nhs.uk

The new approach involved using service improvement techniques (such as High Impact Changes, and Lean), to assess whether proposed extensions to the current cancer waiting times standards were achievable. The work of the pilot sites informed the development of the Cancer Reform Strategy.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* missed diagnoses of cancer; *(b)* radiotherapy errors and *(c)* chemotherapy errors were reported to the National Patient Safety Agency in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [175130]

Ann Keen: The National Patient Safety Agency collects reports of patient safety incidents on the National Reporting and Learning System (NRLS) in England and Wales. All national health service trusts have been able to report into this system since late 2005. The number of reports received each year has increased as more trusts report into the system. Staff usually report patient safety incidents before any further investigation or follow-up has taken place.

Complete statistics are available for the years October 2005 to September 2006 and for October 2006 to September 2007. The following figures refer to England and Wales.

Missed diagnoses of cancer

Incidents were identified from the NRLS where the incident type related to delay or failure to diagnose or related to problems with tests or scans.

Between October 2005 and September 2006, 433 such incidents were reported.

For the period October 2006 to September 2007 there were 502 cases reported.

Radiotherapy errors

Incidents were identified from the NRLS for the most recent two years where the patient was receiving radiotherapy treatment. It is important to note that the incidents identified will have resulted from a range of factors and may not be directly related to radiotherapy treatment.

Between October 2005 and September 2006, 1,468 such incidents were reported. Between October 2006 and September 2007 there were 1,854 cases reported.

Chemotherapy errors

Incidents were identified from the NRLS where the patient was receiving chemotherapy treatment. Cases were identified from drug names used in the incident description or medication fields relating to chemotherapy therapy. It is important to note that the incidents identified will have resulted from a range of factors and may not be directly related to chemotherapy treatment.

Between October 2005 and September 2006 there were 4,942 such incidents reported. For the period October 2006 to September 2007 there were 6,344 cases reported.

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he will publish a report on the outcomes of the National Cancer Peer Review Programme. [175511]

Ann Keen: The report of the 2004-07 round of cancer peer review will be published this year.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what additional cancer *(a)* treatment and *(b)* equipment has been made available to trusts in Redbridge and Waltham Forest since the appointment of his Department's National Cancer Director; and what the involvement was of the National Cancer Director in such provision. [177045]

Ann Keen: Aside from correspondence with the right hon. Member concerning Whipps Cross Hospital, Professor Mike Richards, the National Cancer Director, has had no direct involvement with Redbridge and Waltham Forest primary care trusts.

The location and organisation of cancer services are a matter for local decisions.

Cancer: Information

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the proportion of cancer patients who are not given any financial support information in the course of their treatment. [175139]

Ann Keen: The latest assessment of the proportion of cancer patients who were not given any financial support information during the course of their treatment was made by the National Audit Office in their 2005 report, "Tackling Cancer: Improving the Patient Journey".

Cancer: Medical Treatments

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health from which countries he intends proton therapy for suitable cancers to be commissioned as described on page 61 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy; and what the expected budget for this is in 2008-09. [175124]

Ann Keen: It has not yet been decided from which countries proton therapy will be commissioned. The budget will depend on demand and there is a degree of uncertainly about what that demand will be. However, it is currently estimated that the budget for 2008-09 will need to be in the region of £600,000.

Cancer: Nurses

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cancer clinical nurse specialists there were *(a)* of each cancer specification and *(b)* in each cancer network working in the NHS in (i) 1997, (ii) 2001, (iii) 2005 and (iv) 2007. [175509]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Cancer: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department's plans *(a)* to tackle the falling participation of women aged 25 to 35 years in cervical screening, *(b)* to extend breast cancer screening to nine screening rounds between 47 and 73 years, *(c)* rollout digital mammography, *(d)* to expand the bowel cancer screening programme from 2010 and *(e)* to introduce a new National Awareness and Early Diagnosis initiative are expected to cost in each financial year for which an estimate has been made. [172451]

Ann Keen: The requested information is shown in the following table.

Estimates for annual costs of CRS components

£ million

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
(a) Increase participation of young women in cervical cancer screening	0.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
(b) Extend breast cancer screening to nine rounds	12.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0
(c) Digital mammography	3.3	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1
(c) Digital mammography—capital	59.6	56.3								
(d) Expand bowel cancer screening programme			66.4	66.4	66.4	66.4	66.4	66.4	66.4	66.4
(e) National awareness and early diagnosis and inequalities	3.0	7.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the expected expenditure is on the NHS Cancer Screening Programme's press offices public relations strategy, referred to in paragraph 3.17 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [175135]

Ann Keen: National health service cancer screening programme's press office public relations strategy to improve the coverage of cervical screening is in its planning stages, and exact costings cannot be provided at this stage. NHS cancer screening programmes will take steps to ensure the strategy is structured and delivered in the most cost effective manner.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of women participated in the cervical screening programme *(a)* in total and *(b)* in the 25 to 33 age group in each year since 1997. [175138]

Ann Keen: The Cancer Reform Strategy highlighted the falling participation in cervical screening of women aged 25 to 35. The information requested is provided in the following table.

Coverage	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Women aged 25-64	82.0	82.5	82.3	82.0	81.3	81.6	81.2	80.6	80.3	79.5	79.2
Women aged 25-29	78.4	78.8	78.0	77.0	75.5	75.0	74.0	72.8	71.6	69.4	68.2
Women aged 30-34	83.2	83.5	83.0	82.5	81.5	81.7	81.0	80.0	79.2	78.0	77.5

Note:
Coverage is the percentage of eligible women with a cervical screening test result in the previous five years
Source:
Office for National Statistics/The Information Centre for health and social care, Cervical Screening Programme: England 2006-07

Cannabis

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many admissions there were related to the use of cannabis in each hospital within Greater London in each year since 1997. [178459]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available has been placed in the Library.

Carers' Allowances

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future of the carer's allowance. [175354]

Mrs. McGuire: I have been asked to reply.

The whole issue of carers' incomes, including carer's allowance, is being examined in depth as part of the current review of our National Carers Strategy. The findings of the review are due to be published in spring 2008.

College of Chiropractors: Royal Charters

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to support the application by the college of Chiropractors to the Privy Council for a royal charter. [175203]

Mr. Bradshaw: An application by the college of Chiropractors has been submitted to the Privy Council for a royal charter. Decisions as to whether to grant a royal charter are a matter for the Privy Council, who will of course assess the college's application against the published criteria. It would not be appropriate for us to prejudge or pre-empt the Privy Council's collective discussions.

Communication Skills: Children

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health where the pilots on communication skills for effective face-to-face communication for children and young people, referred to in paragraph 5.14 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy, have been undertaken; and when he expects the course based on the national model to be developed. [175117]

Ann Keen: Two pilots were held, one in Esher and one in Liverpool. It is anticipated that the children and young people communication training programme will be taken forward when the united model for adult advanced communications skills training is rolled out early next year.

Communication Skills: Health Professions

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding has been committed to the national programme for advanced communication skills training for senior healthcare professionals, as described in paragraph 5.11 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy, in each year since 2003; and how many senior healthcare professionals have taken part in the national programme in each of those years. [175118]

Ann Keen: The following table shows the funding allocated to the national programme for advanced communications skills training between the financial years 2005-06 and 2007-08. This funding is allocated through the bundle of central budgets to strategic health authorities.

	Funding (£ million)
2005-06	0.5
2006-07	1.5
2007-08	1.9

Source:
Cancer Action Team

The cancer action team manage this programme in partnership with other parts of the national health service. In the last three years, the programme has trained 150 facilitators to deliver this course and approximately 1,300 senior healthcare professionals have participated in the training. It is estimated that an equivalent number will be trained in 2007-08.

Prior to 2005-06 the programme was managed by the NHS University and figures are not available for that period.

Community Hospitals

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make representations to the Chief Executive Officer of the Eastern and Coastal Primary Care Trust to address the concerns raised in a letter to him dated 6 November 2007 from the hon. Member for Sittingbourne and Sheppey on behalf of Rodmersham Women's Institute on the changes to community hospitals in general and at Sittingbourne Memorial Hospital in particular. [176264]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) in conjunction with other local stakeholders and their strategic health authorities (SHAs) to make assessments of health needs and to make decisions on local services.

South East Coast SHA has advised officials, that the Chief Executive of Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT replied to the hon. Friend's letter dated 6 November, on 19 December.

More generally, the Department set up a £750 million fund for community hospitals and services in July 2006. The Department has so far approved 23 schemes, and released £190 million from the community hospitals programme for these schemes.

Community Hospitals: Greater London

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many bids from primary care trusts within Greater London have been received for the funding for community hospitals announced by his Department in December 2005 also work for organisations outside his Department; [178455]

(2) how much has been allocated to primary care trusts within Greater London from the funding for community hospitals announced by his Department in December 2005. [178456]

Mr. Bradshaw: We have received seven bids from primary care trusts within the London strategic health authority. Four schemes have been approved with a total value of £33.6 million, of which £14.3 million is funded from the community hospitals and services programme.

Community Nurses: Manpower

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 23 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 262W, on community matrons, what assessment he has made of progress in meeting his departmental target of recruiting 3,000 community matrons by 2008. [173234]

Ann Keen: Although the National Health Service Improvement Plan (2004) stated that there would be 3,000 community matrons in post by 2008, we brought delivery forward to 2007, to ensure that the appropriate number of community matrons were in post to support delivery of the Emergency Bed Day reductions.

During the local delivery planning exercise last summer, strategic health authorities raised the need for flexibility to change their target envelopes for community matrons in situations where they could provide compelling evidence that there was a local need to do this. The Department provided this flexibility in recognition of the fact that in some cases a case manager other than a community matron may be best placed to provide the service to the patient.

2006 NHS work force census showed there were 366 community matrons in post, an increase of 37.1 per cent. since 2005. However, local intelligence suggests that there are actually many more community matrons in post than the work force census suggests, along with others delivering care and providing services to patients.

We remain committed to increasing the number of community matrons and local development plans strongly suggest this is happening. The equivalent results of the 2007 NHS work force census will be published in the spring of this year.

Dental Services: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will initiate research on the number of Hampshire residents who have to travel *(a)* up to five miles, *(b)* between five and 10 miles and *(c)* over 10 miles in order to gain access to an NHS dentist; and if he will make a statement. [174645]

Ann Keen: It would not be appropriate for the Department to centrally commission research into travelling times in any particular local area. It is for Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) to commission local dental services to meet local needs. PCTs are expected to develop robust commissioning plans. These will include consideration of access to local dental services at the time and place people want.

Dentistry: Manpower

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the numbers of orthodontists available to the acute health sector in England; and if he will make a statement. [175160]

Ann Keen: As of 30 September 2006 there was a total of 544 orthodontists in England, who worked in hospital and community services. Of these, 189 were consultants.

The figures quoted are headcounts.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists have been recruited to *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time NHS work in each primary care trust area in Hampshire in each of the last five years; and what his forecast is of such numbers for the next three years. [174188]

Ann Keen: Information on dentists recruited to the national health service is not available at a part-time basis. Information on dentists who joined the NHS, by primary care trust (PCT) within Hampshire and Isle of Wight strategic health authority (SHA) area, as at year ending 31 March 2002 to 2006 can be found in the following table.

General Dental Services (GDS) and Personal Dental Services (PDS): Number of NHS dentists who joined the GDS or PDS, in Hampshire and Isle of Wight SHA by PCT as at year ending 31 March 2002 to 2006

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Hampshire and Isle of Wight SHA	58	48	45	63	89
Blackwater Valley and Hart PCT	7	3	7	10	9
East Hampshire PCT	6	4	3	5	5
Eastleigh and Test Valley South PCT	3	1	0	4	9
Fareham and Gosport PCT	8	6	3	3	9
Isle of Wight PCT	2	2	1	9	11
Mid-Hampshire PCT	5	7	4	7	8
New Forest PCT	6	5	7	7	13
North Hampshire PCT	6	6	3	6	6
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	9	7	9	7	5
Southampton City PCT	6	8	8	7	13

Notes

1. A joiner indicates that the dentist had an open GDS or PDS contract as at 31 March of the specified year but didn't at the same date of the previous year.
2. A dentist may have joined a GDS or PDS contract within more than one PCT or SHA area, in which case they would appear in figures for each individual PCT or SHA area.

Source

The Information Centre for health and social care, NHS Business Services Authority.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements. To provide information based on the new contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

The Government have provided for the expansion of the dental workforce by increasing the number of undergraduate training places at dental schools in England from 670 to 840, a 25 per cent. increase. The new dental schools currently under development in the South West Peninsula and in central Lancashire, which are part of this expansion programme, are a clear sign of the Government's commitment to putting the growth of the dental workforce on a secure footing.

An additional 40 dentists (graduate entrants on a shorter course) will graduate in 2009 with build up to the full 170 in 2010.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists *(a)* partially and *(b)* entirely gave up NHS work in each primary care trust area in Hampshire in each of the last five years; and what his forecast is for the numbers expected to do so in each of the next three years. [174189]

Ann Keen: Information on dentists partially giving up national health service work is not available. Information on dentists who left the NHS, by primary care trust (PCT) within Hampshire and Isle of Wight strategic health authority (SHA) area, as at year ending 31 March 2002 to 2006 can be found in the following table.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements. Information based on the new contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

General Dental Services (GDS) and Personal Dental Services (PDS): Number of NHS dentists who left the GDS or PDS, in Hampshire and Isle of Wight strategic health authority by PCT as at year ending 31 March 2002 to 2006

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Hampshire and Isle of Wight SHA	43	46	62	43	48
Blackwater Valley and Hart PCT	4	9	2	4	7
East Hampshire PCT	4	7	12	4	7
Eastleigh and Test Valley South PCT	4	3	2	4	3
Fareham and Gosport PCT	3	4	8	6	1
Isle of Wight PCT	3	2	5	3	4
Mid-Hampshire PCT	5	4	10	7	5
New Forest PCT	4	5	4	7	5
North Hampshire PCT	4	2	7	1	4
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	5	5	4	5	4
Southampton City PCT	7	5	9	3	8

Notes

1. Leaver indicates that the dentist didn't have an open GDS or PDS contract as at 31 March of the specified year but did at the same date of the previous year.
2. A dentist may have left a GDS or PDS contract within more than one PCT or SHA area, in which case they would appear in figures for each individual PCT or SHA area.

Sources

The Information Centre for health and social care. NHS Business Services Authority.

The Government have provided for the expansion of the dental workforce by increasing the number of undergraduate training places at dental schools in England from 670 to 840, a 25 per cent. increase. The new dental schools currently under development in the South West Peninsula and in central Lancashire, which are part of this expansion programme, are a clear sign of the Government's commitment to putting the growth of the dental workforce on a secure footing.

An additional 40 additional dentists (graduate entrants on a shorter course) will graduate in 2009 with build-up to the full 170 in 2010.

Departmental Aviation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many air miles were travelled by Ministers in his Department in each year since 2000; and what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as a result; [172238]

(2) how many air miles were travelled by *(a)* him and *(b)* Ministers in his Department on short haul flights over the last year; and what estimate he has made of the total amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced as a result of these flights. [172452]

Mr. Bradshaw: Since 1999 the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007, and is available on the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers.aspx

Details for the current financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. From next year, the list will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the 'Ministerial Code'.

All central Government ministerial and official air travel has been offset from 1 April 2006. Departmental aviation emissions are calculated on an annual basis and subsequently offset through payments to a central fund. The fund purchases certified emissions reductions credits from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with sustainable development benefits, located in developing countries.

In addition, offsetting the flights of Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development, and the Prime Minister has been backdated to 1 April 2005.

A list of Government carbon offsetting fund members, their emission figures and what activities they have offset through the fund is available online at:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/carbonoffset/government.htm.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent by his Department on international flights in each year since 1997. [174358]

Mr. Bradshaw: Since 1999 the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007, and is available on the Cabinet Office's website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety and ethics/ministers.aspx.

Details for the current financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. From next year, the list will include details of overseas travel undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Information in respect of flights taken by officials could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Board

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 711W on the Departmental Board, on what date the NHS Management Board met to discuss the health input to the Olympics, as referred to in paragraph 1.9 of the minutes of the meeting held in June 2007. [172445]

Mr. Bradshaw: The National Health Service Management Board discussed the health input to the Olympics on 25 September 2007.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many letters his Department received from hon. Members and Peers in each session of Parliament since 1997. [174934]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of departments in replying to Members/Peers correspondence. Information relating to 2007 will be published as soon as it has been collated. The report for 2006 was published on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 101-04WS. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the site map for his Department's Delphi staff intranet. [165713]

Mr. Bradshaw: A copy of the site map for the Department's staff intranet, Delphi, has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the full-time equivalent headcount in his Department is; what the forecast full-time equivalent headcount for his Department is for (*a*) 2008-09 and (*b*) 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [163977]

Mr. Bradshaw: The full-time equivalent headcount for the Department is contained in quarterly workforce statistics published by ONS, which can be found at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/pse0907.pdf

Forecasts for 2008-09 and 2009-10 will be established through a business planning exercise which will begin shortly.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many (*a*) men and (*b*) women are employed by his Department, broken down by civil service grade. [172691]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information has been provided by the Office for National Statistics in Table H on page 28 of the amendment to Civil Service Statistics 2006 published on 19 July 2007, which can be found at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/2006CivilServiceStatistics.pdf

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of his Department's staff are employed within each salary band; what the title and role of each position within each salary band is; and for each salary band what the (*a*) bonus structure, (*b*) retirement provision, (*c*) expenses provision, (*d*) total expenses incurred in each of the last 10 years, (*e*) average age of employee, (*f*) number of (i) women and (ii) men and (*g*) ethnic composition is. [171408]

Mr. Bradshaw: Figures showing how many departmental staff and what proportion of staff are employed within each salary band, are presented in the following table. Figures include all people currently on the Department's payroll.

Salary band	*Number of staff in band*	*Proportion of total staff in band (percentage)*
Up to £15,000	6	0.3
£15,001-£20,000	111	4.7
£20,001-£25,000	306	13.0
£25,001-£30,000	343	14.6
£30,001-£35,000	332	14.0
£35,001-£40,000	161	6.9
£40,001-£45,000	247	10.5
£45,001-£50,000	141	6.0
£50,001-£55,000	156	6.6
£55,001-£60,000	149	6.0
£60,001-£65,000	68	3.2
£65,001-£70,000	105	4.4
£70,001-£75,000	63	2.8
£75,001-£80,000	38	1.4
£80,001-£85,000	22	1.1
£85,001-£90,000	29	1.2
£90,001-£95,000	16	0.7
£95,001-£100,000	13	0.6
£100,001-£110,000	8	0.3
£110,001-£120,000	13	0.5
£120,001-£130,000	9	0.5
£130,001-£140,000	3	0.1
£140,001-£150,000	1	0.0
Over £150,000	11	0.5
Total	2,351	100.0

As the Department has over 2,000 members of staff, the question as to what the title and role of each position within each salary band is can be produced only at disproportionate cost.

The Department operates a recognised civil service grade structure, with an associated reward policy.

Special bonuses can be awarded to any member of staff in recognition of work beyond their normal range of duties. Annual bonuses are paid to staff who are members of the senior civil service (SCS). Details of arrangements, including provision for bonuses, can be found in the Human Resource Practitioners' Guide to SCS reward benefits and recruitment which is available at the civil service website at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/documents/doc/pay_reward/HR_Reward_guide_2007.doc

Details of retirement provision can be found on the civil service pensions website at:

www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk

Expenses provision is not recorded by salary band and to derive the figures requested would incur disproportionate costs.

However, total expenses incurred overall form part of the "Department of Health Resource Accounts" which are laid before Parliament annually, and are available in the Library.

The average age of employees is currently 42.2 years.

Information on the number of women and men and ethnic composition within the Department has been provided by the Office for National Statistics in table H on page 28 of the amendment to Civil Service Statistics 2006 published on 19 July 2007, which can be found at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/2006CivilServiceStatistics.pdf

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 303W, on departmental pay, how many of those earning over £100,000 were employed as *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* in a political role in each year since 1997. [177186]

Mr. Bradshaw: Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the number of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister on Thursday 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 147-51WS.

Information on the numbers and costs of special advisers prior to 2003 was provided at regular intervals and this information is available in the Library.

Departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 188W, on departmental bodies, if he will *(a)* place in the Library a copy of the survey carried out in autumn 2006 and *(b)* provide a list of all such groups that are currently being run by his Department. [167797]

Mr. Bradshaw: The survey carried out in autumn 2006 by the Department was a short-term project to identify the number of working groups that existed at the time. A copy of the survey questions and the list of groups identified have been placed in the Library. There is no current update of the survey results.

Departmental Public Buildings

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of new buildings approved by his Department were built to the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method *(a)* very good and *(b)* excellent standard in each of the last five years; and what the construction cost of those buildings was. [172292]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 10 December 2007]*: The National Health Service Environmental Assessment Tool kit (NEAT) is the Department's response to the Government's objective of a sustainable construction programme through the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Methodology (BREEAM).

All NHS capital development schemes must submit a NEAT as part of their Appointment of Preferred Bidder Case or Full Business Case for private finance initiative (PFI) and public capital funded schemes respectively. To be approved the business case must demonstrate a commitment to meeting the NEAT score rating of 'excellent' for a new build or 'Very Good' for a refurbishment scheme. All business cases approved by the Department in the last five years and for which records are held centrally have therefore done so. The full list of these schemes and their construction (capital) costs is in the following table.

NHS trust	*Financial close/ tender award date*	*Procurement route*	*Capital value (£ million)*
Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys	4 July 2003	PFI	16
East Lancashire Hospitals	9 July 2003	PFI	110
Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber Mental Health	11 August 2003	PFI	15
Derby Hospitals	12 September 2003	PFI	312
Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals	1 October 2003	Public capital	57
Hammersmith Hospitals	1 October 2003	Public capital	25
Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre	1 October 2003	Public capital	45
East Lancashire Hospitals	13 October 2003	PFI	30
Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals	1 November 2003	Public capital	59
North West London Hospitals	6 November 2003	PFI	69
Brighton and Sussex University	12 December 2003	Public capital	12
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals	19 February 2003	PFI	134
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals	15 January 2004	PFI	238
Newham University Hospital	27 January 2004	PFI	55
Southampton University Hospitals	1 February 2004	Public capital	53
Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership	13 March 2004	PFI	83
Salisbury Health Care	4 March 2004	PFI	24
Plymouth Hospitals	1 April 2004	Public capital	31
Kirklees PCT	21 April 2004	PFI	27
Wandsworth PCT	6 May 2004	PFI	75
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	10 May 2004	PFI	32

NHS trust	Financial close/tender award date	Procurement route	Capital value (£ million)
Buckinghamshire Hospitals	21 May 2004	PFI	47
Brighton and Sussex University	10 June 2004	PFI	36
The Lewisham Hospital	8 July 2004	PFI	72
Leeds Teaching Hospitals	15 October 2004	PFI	265
Cambridge University Hospital	27 October 2004	PFI	76
The Cardiothoracic Centre Liverpool	1 November 2004	Public capital	49
Hampshire PCT	18 November 2004	PFI	36
Kingston Hospital	23 November 2004	PFI	51
Central Manchester and Manchester Children's Hospitals	14 December 2004	PFI	512
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals	19 December 2004	PFI	35
Nottinghamshire Healthcare	23 December 2004	PFI	19
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	3 March 2005	PFI	28
Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals	27 April 2005	PFI	299
West London Mental Health - Women's MH	1 June 2005	Public capital	27
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	21 July 2005	PFI	24
South London and Maudsley	12 September 2005	Public capital	25
Sherwood Forest Hospitals	29 October 2005	PFI	326
Portsmouth Hospitals	12 December 2005	PFI	236
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals	13 December 2005	PFI	129
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals	21 February 2006	PFI	67
Ipswich Hospital	27 March 2006	PFI	36
Barts and the London	27 April 2006	PFI	1,000
St. Helens Hospitals	1 June 2006	PFI	338
University Hospital Birmingham/ Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health	8 June 2006	PFI	627
South West Essex Teaching PCT	29 June 2006	PFI	30
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals	1 August 2006	Public capital	51
Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children	9 October 2006	Public capital	75
United Bristol Healthcare/North Bristol	16 October 2006	Public capital	64
University Hospital of North Staffordshire	1 December 2006	Public capital	55
Taunton and Somerset	28 February 2007	PFI	21
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals	1 May 2007	Public capital	29
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	3 May 2007	PFI	29
University Hospital of North Staffordshire/Stoke PCT	13 June 2007	PFI	375
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals	22 June 2007	PFI	353
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals	29 June 2007	PFI	336
North Middlesex University Hospital	27 July 2007	PFI	144
Salford Royal Hospitals	5 September 2007	PFI	190
Tameside and Glossop Acute Services	13 September 2007	PFI	109
South Essex Partnership	5 October 2007	PFI	32
Derbyshire Mental Health Services	9 October 2007	PFI	36
West Hertfordshire Hospitals	14 October 2007	Public capital	40
Northamptonshire Healthcare	31 October 2007	PFI	36
Walsall Hospitals	3 November 2007	PFI	169
Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys	6 December 2007	PFI	75
Mid Essex Hospital Services	6 December 2007	PFI	148

Departmental Redundancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of redundancies in his Department in the 12 months preceding (*a*) 30 June 2004, (*b*) 30 June 2005 and (*c*) 30 June 2006. [175337]

Mr. Bradshaw: The requested information organised with respect to financial years is shown in the following table. Data for 2003-04 could be gathered only at disproportionate cost.

	Compulsory (£)	Voluntary (£)	Total (£)	Number of leavers
2004-05	18,808,078	4,334,777	23,142,855	200
2005-06	3,560,055	2,981,767	6,541,822	33

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in his Department (*a*) were disciplined and (*b*) had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last five years. [163701]

Mr. Bradshaw: Central human resources (HR) records do not hold the required information before 1 August 2006 as prior to that date the HR function was devolved and information was held only locally.

The Department of Health manages long-term absence through a standard procedure based on accepted policy. Between 1 August 2006 and 31 March 2007 seven staff were taken through the procedure because of long-term absence due to ill-health.

Three of these returned to work with no subsequent recurring absence. The other four are still absent and are at various stages of the long-term sick policy procedure.

Since 1 August 2006 no staff have had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record.

Doctors: Housing

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 714W, on doctors: housing, which elements of the consultation between 1 October and 31 January referred *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly to the changes to the arrangements for accommodation for junior doctors. [172007]

Ann Keen: The requirement for doctors to be resident was contained within section 10 of the Medical Act. The consultation document contained a copy of the draft order which included a repeal of section 10.

There was also a section specifically relating to the new training and supervision requirements for recently qualified practitioners. This specifically referred to the new section 10A.

The consultation document also contained an invitation for interested parties to submit comments on any issues dealt with in the draft order.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 714W, on doctors: housing, whether the Junior Doctors Committee supported the removal of free accommodation from junior doctors. [172009]

Ann Keen: Changes to the Medical Act, which removed the statutory requirement for residence were subject to consultation. The British Medical Association were involved in the consultation process and do not appear to have objected to the proposed revisions to the Act.

Doctors: Manpower

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many and what percentage of *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses employed by the NHS were (i) non-UK citizens and (ii) non-EU citizens in each year since 1997; [177407]

(2) how many *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses were recruited by the NHS from (i) non-EU countries and (ii) African countries in each year since 1999. [177408]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

The Information Centre for health and social care does not collect data on the nationality of doctors working in the national health service but does collect data on their country of qualification group. The latest information can be found at table four of the 'NHS Hospital and Community Health Services: Medical and Dental Staff England 1996-2006', a copy of which has been placed in the Library. No similar information is collected for nurses.

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (the regulatory body for nurses, midwives and health visitors) does not collect data on the nationality of registered nurses or midwives but does record the country of qualification of new registrants. The latest information is available in the document 'Nursing and Midwifery Council, Statistical Analysis of the Register, 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006', which is available in the Library. Registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council is not a guarantee of employment in the NHS and newly registered nurses and midwives may not be in the United Kingdom or working in the NHS.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for residential rehabilitation treatment for drug addicts *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Plymouth in the most recent period for which figures are available. [177911]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available in the format it has been requested.

On average across England, 96 per cent. of people were able to access drug treatment in three weeks or under. Data on waiting times for substance misuse treatment for April to October 2007 show that 89 per cent. of clients entering all forms of drug treatment in Plymouth waited three weeks or under. These data are not broken down by individual types of drug treatment[1].

Latest information from Plymouth drug action team shows that 67 out of 68 referrals for 2007 up to mid December to enter residential rehabilitation treatment (including multiple presentations by the same person) commenced treatment within 21 days and the remaining one commenced treatment within 43 days.

The Department has made available £54.3 million of capital funding commencing in 2007 to support the expansion of residential based treatment services.

[1] *Source:*
National Drug Treatment Monitoring System.

Eyesight: Testing

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received free eye tests in each London borough in each year since 1997. [172943]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested.

The total number of sight tests paid for by the national health service are available at health authority (HA) level for 1996-97 to 2002-03 (in table 1) and at strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT) level for 2003-04 to 2006-07 (table 2).

In both tables, figures are the total number of free sight tests and do not take into account individuals

who may have had more than one sight test in the same area within the same time period.

Table 1: Total number of sight tests paid for by the NHS, by health authority, in London[1] between 1 April and 31 March in the specified years

Thousand

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
London[1]	998	1,023	1,003	1,239	1,254	1,244	1,205
Barking and Havering	53	52	53	72	74	77	81
Barnet	50	51	52	63	70		
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey						157	146
Bexley and Greenwich	54	57	60	74	83		
Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich						146	144
Brent and Harrow	75	75	76	89	87	88	87
Bromley	37	38	39	58	61		
Camden and Islington	63	57	49	58	59	58	55
Croydon	47	46	46	60	60	56	56
Ealing, Hammersmith and Hounslow	85	85	76	97	97	97	93
East London and the City	113	122	118	129	127	121	110
Enfield and Haringey	79	80	79	98	96		
Hillingdon	32	32	32	45	44	48	48
Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster	37	43	40	49	54	52	52
Kingston and Richmond	33	33	34	51	52	54	53
Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham	93	94	88	106	105	103	98
Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth	74	76	74	96	96	88	89
Redbridge and Waltham Forest	77	80	86	98	92	96	92

[1] London is the Government office region and is a sum of the HAs
[2] Not applicable
Note
Totals may not equal the sum of component parts due to rounding
Source
The Information Centre for health and social care

Table 2: Total number of sight tests paid for by NHS, by SHA and PCT, in London[1] between 1 April and 31 March in the specified years

Thousand

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
London[1]	1,218	1,245	1,263	1,296
North West London SHA[2]	283	287	296	304
Brent Teaching PCT	40	42	43	44
Ealing PCT	43	45	46	48
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	17	18	18	19
Harrow PCT	46	48	48	48
Hillingdon PCT	48	48	52	53
Hounslow PCT	37	38	37	40
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	15	17	17	18
Westminster PCT	37	32	33	33
North Central London SHA[2]	209	214	214	224
Barnet PCT	67	67	69	70
Camden PCT	33	33	32	36
Enfield PCT	44	45	47	49
Haringey PCT	43	44	42	45
Islington PCT	22	24	24	24
North East London SHA[2]	283	293	296	305
Barking and Dagenham PCT	27	28	27	27
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	40	42	39	41
Havering PCT	49	52	53	54
Newham PCT	47	51	50	54
Redbridge PCT	49	51	54	54
Tower Hamlets PCT	27	27	29	31
Waltham Forest PCT	44	43	44	43
South East London SHA2	241	244	248	254
Bexley Care Trust	46	47	47	48
Bromley PCT	62	63	64	66
Greenwich Teaching PCT	35	35	36	38
Lambeth PCT	33	34	32	32
Lewisham PCT	32	32	32	33
Southwark PCT	33	34	37	38
South West London SHA[2]	203	207	210	209
Croydon PCT	58	60	61	59
Kingston PCT	29	30	30	33
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	24	24	24	22
Sutton and Merton PCT	53	55	57	57
Wandsworth PCT	39	37	38	38

[1] London is a sum of the five London SHAs
[2] The SHA totals are a sum of the relevant PCTs
Note
Totals may not equal the sum of component parts due to rounding
Source
The Information Centre for health and social care

Family Practitioner Services

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what circumstances trusts may grant GPs the status of closed practice lists; and if he will make a statement. [177298]

Mr. Bradshaw: A general practitioner practice can apply to their primary care trust (PCT) to have its list of patients closed. The PCT will consider the reasons

for closure put forward by the practice and are required to discuss all such applications with the practice. Both the PCT and the practice are required to use reasonable endeavours to keep the practice list open but if this is not possible the PCT may agree to the practice list being closed.

Food: Safety

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria are used by the Food Standards Agency when determining whether to issue a food alert; and if he will make a statement. [177851]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Safety Act 1990 places a statutory responsibility on the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to inform stakeholders of issues relating to food safety and food standards.

The FSA provides such information to stakeholders in number of ways including webstories, press releases, letters and food alerts. Food alerts, in particular, are the FSA's formal method of communication with local authorities, who have responsibility for enforcing food law, on food safety issues that are of particular relevance to them. In determining the need for a food alert the agency takes into account the food safety requirements as specified in Regulation (EC) 178/2002 Article 14 of General Food Law, information already placed in the public domain, for example by a food business operator and the need to provide relevant additional information to local authorities.

Food alerts either provide local authorities with additional information or outline what action they should take in response to a particular food safety issue.

In line with the agency's policy of openness these alerts are also published on the agency's website bringing them to the attention of other stakeholders. This information can be accessed on the FSA's website at

www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/alerts

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what food alerts have been issued by the Food Standards Agency since April 2005; and what the date and reason for each was. [177852]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) issued 230 food alerts between April 2005 and December 2007. No food alerts have been issued, as yet, in 2008.

All food alerts are published on the FSA's website. Information on the subject of each alert and its date of issue can be accessed on the FSA's website at:

www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/alerts/2005/

www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/alerts/2006/

www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/alerts/2007/

Information has also been placed in the Library.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what monitoring of food and foodstuffs for the presence of Sudan 1 food colorant has been undertaken by *(a)* the Food Standards Agency and *(b)* other public bodies since April 2007; and if he will make a statement. [177853]

Dawn Primarolo: Under European Commission Decision 2005/402/EC imports of chilli, chilli products, curcuma and palm oil must be accompanied by an analytical report demonstrating that the product does not contain Sudan 1. Member states are also required to undertake random sampling of imports as well as those foodstuffs already on the market.

Random sampling is carried out by port health authorities and local authorities across the United Kingdom. The results are collated on behalf of the Food Standards Agency (FSA), who then report these to the European Commission. The FSA is also part of an European Union (EU) wide rapid alert system that informs member states of any positive samples being found of Sudan 1 in food within the EU.

General Practitioners

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government have taken to assist general practitioners in detecting signs of serious illnesses at the earliest opportunity since 1997. [173424]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* The Quality and Outcome Framework incentives provided by Government for GPs as part of the General Medical Services Contract introduced in April 2004 include case finding for people who have risk factors for the most serious diseases. These incentives include identifying people who smoke, or who are obese, or who have high blood pressure, as these are all key risk factors for serious diseases such as coronary vascular disease, strokes, diabetes and a number of cancers. Identifying people with these risk factors facilitates the earliest possible opportunity of diagnosis.

There are a number of other initiatives to support practices including National Service Frameworks. For example, for groups such as children and older people and for specific disease areas such as cancer or diabetes. In addition there is a new cancer strategy which includes proposals for supporting early diagnosis and treatment.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Imports

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many samples from cargoes entering the United Kingdom from *(a)* outside the EU and *(b)* within the EU, were taken by (i) port health authorities and (ii) other public bodies, for the purposes of assessing the presence of approved and unapproved GM traits in each of the last two years; and what the cost was of taking and analysing such samples; [177854]

(2) how much was spent on enforcement of the Genetically Modified Organism Traceability and Labelling (England) Regulations by *(a)* the Food Standards Agency and *(b)* other public bodies in each year since the regulations came into force. [177855]

Dawn Primarolo: Records are not held centrally for the total numbers and costs of samples and analyses undertaken by port health authorities and other public bodies for assessing the presence of authorised and unauthorised genetically modified (GM) varieties.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) carried out a survey in 2006 to provide information specifically on the presence of the non-authorised GM variety, LLRICE601, in United States long grain rice held at United Kingdom rice mills. 31 samples were taken from rice mills and the total cost for sampling and testing was £5,150. A full report is available on the FSA website

www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/fsis1906a.pdf

Enforcement of the law relating to food and feed, including provisions relating to the Genetically Modified Organisms (Traceability and Labelling) (England) Regulations, is the responsibility of local authorities and port health authorities. Records of spending on enforcement of these regulations by local authorities and port health authorities are not held centrally.

Health Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* NHS trusts, *(b)* strategic health authorities and *(c)* departmental units each of the 14 providers appointed to the Framework for Procuring External Support for Commissioners (i) have previously worked in and (ii) currently work in, broken down by services provided. [174313]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not centrally collect the information requested in relation to national health service trusts and strategic health authorities. Information regarding which areas of the Department in which companies on the Framework for Procuring External Support for Commissioners list have provided services is taken from the Department's finance system. However, this information is only available from April 2004 and it is not possible to identify either the Departmental teams or the types of services provided currently or in the past, without incurring disproportionate cost:

AXA PPP Healthcare Administration Services Limited
CHKS Ltd, trading as Partners In Commissioning
Dr. Foster Limited, trading as Dr. Foster Intelligence
KPMG LLP
McKesson Information Solutions UK Limited
McKinsey and Company Inc. United Kingdom
Navigant Consulting, Inc.
Tribal Consulting Limited
UnitedHealth Europe Limited

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* powers and *(b)* role of local government overview and scrutiny committees in the reconfiguration of local health services are. [177192]

Ann Keen: Any national health service body with a proposal to make substantial changes or developments to its services must consult relevant local authority overview and scrutiny committees (OSC).

OSCs may: review any matters relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in the area of the committee's local authority; make reports and recommendations to local NHS bodies which are required to respond; require the attendance of an officer of a local NHS body to answer questions and provide explanations relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in the area; require a local NHS body to provide information relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in the area; report to the Secretary of State for Health or Monitor where the committee is concerned that consultation on substantial variations or developments of services has been inadequate or where the committee considers that the proposal is not in the interests of the health service.

The role of OSCs in the context of a reconfiguration is to consider whether the proposal is in the interests of the health service for the area covered by that local authority.

Further information about the wider review and scrutiny role of OSCs is available at :

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Organisationpolicy/PatientAndPublicinvolvement

Health Services: Armed Forces

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the 10 primary care trusts with the highest concentration of serving and veteran service personnel within their area. [170211]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is not available about which primary care trusts (PCTs) have the highest concentration of veterans within their area.

On the basis of the information available at present, our assessment is that the 10 PCTs with the highest concentration of serving personnel are Wiltshire, Hampshire, North Yorkshire, Devon, Portsmouth City, Oxfordshire, Lincolnshire, Surrey, Cornwall and Berkshire East. Together, they cover about 60 per cent., of the armed forces in England.

Health Services: Overseas Visitors

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of the £38,100,000 in claims made by the UK against other European Economic Area member states in respect of healthcare provided in the UK was claimed from each member state in respect of 2006-07. [178057]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table shows the claims for medical treatment made by the United Kingdom against other European economic area member states by country.

UK claims against member states

	£000
Austria	540,000
Belgium	2,900,000
France	3,800,000
Germany	930,000
Greece	400,000
Iceland	10,000
Ireland	21,140,000
Italy	3,850,000

UK claims against member states

	£000
Netherlands	1,950,000
Spain	1,810,000
Sweden	750,000
Switzerland	20,000

Note
Totals are rounded to nearest £10,000.

Health Services: West Midlands

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the written statement of 15 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 78-81WS, on health service provision, how much was spent on the contract for diagnostic services in the West Midlands that will be terminated; and how many patients were treated under this contract. [167758]

Mr. Bradshaw: Around £7.7 million has been spent on the West Midlands diagnostics scheme contract, with 2,277 diagnostic procedures delivered to national health service patients at the end of October 2007.

An increase in productivity by local NHS providers has substantially reduced the need for the capacity provided by this scheme, with the average waiting time for all diagnostics in the West Midlands being just under three weeks at the end of September 2007.

Hospitals: Admissions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many alcohol-related emergency admissions to hospitals in Southend West constituency there were in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* age group and *(b)* sex. [177132]

Dawn Primarolo: Information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the count of finished admission episodes for alcohol-related emergency admissions by age and gender for Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. Data are for the years 1997-98 to 2006-07.

National health service hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS

	Male			Female		
	Age under 18	*Age 18 and over*	*Age unknown*	*Age under 18*	*Age 18 and over*	*Age unknown*
2006-07	10	452	4	13	234	1
2005-06	17	433	1	21	218	3
2004-05	21	405	1	13	216	0
2003-04	11	256	3	10	149	0
2002-03	6	233	0	*	89	1
2001-02	6	302	1	9	123	0
2000-01	5	335	1	5	127	1
1999-2000	9	301	2	9	130	1
1998-99	8	247	2	*	122	0
1997-98	7	266	2	*	133	1

Notes:
Data quality
HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts, and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
Finished admission episodes (FAE)
A FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
Admission method codes used:
21 = Emergency: via accident and emergency (A & E) services, including the casualty department of the provider
22 = Emergency: via general practitioner
23 = Emergency: via Bed Bureau, including the Central Bureau
24 = Emergency: via consultant out-patient clinic
28 = Emergency: other means, including patients who arrive via the A & E department of another health care provider.
Assessing growth through time
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.
Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
Low numbers
Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced with "*" (an asterisk). This has not been done for the age unknown column as the admissions in this column would not be identifiable.
All diagnoses count of mentions
These figures represent a count of all mentions of a diagnosis in any of the 14 diagnosis fields in the HES data set. Therefore, if a diagnosis is mentioned in more than one diagnosis field during an episode, all diagnoses are counted.
Diagnosis codes used
F10 - Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol
K70 - Alcoholic liver disease
T51 - Toxic effect of Alcohol
Finished consultant episode (FCE)
A FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. The figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
Ungrossed data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the Information Centre for health and social care.

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is on maintenance and improvement of the *(a)* supply systems and *(b)* quality of stoma and incontinence products for elderly people in (i) residential care homes and (ii) their own homes; and if he will make a statement. [176652]

Dawn Primarolo: In primary care, users of stoma and incontinence appliances listed in part IX of the Drug Tariff are prescribed these appliances whether they live in their own home or a care home. The Department's policy on maintenance and improvement is set out as follows:

Supply systems

In primary care, stoma and incontinence appliances which have been prescribed on a FP10 are dispensed by a dispensing pharmacist, dispensing appliance contractor or dispensing doctor. As a related service, patients may also receive home delivery.

However, the Department has consulted on new arrangements for the provision of those appliances and related services in primary care in England. A key objective is that patients should receive the same standard of care no matter where they live. Consequently, one of the proposals is that dispensing appliance contractors and dispensing pharmacists shall, in the normal course of their business, provide a home or care home delivery service in respect of these appliances if the patient desires it.

Quality of stoma and incontinence products

Manufacturers apply directly to the prescription pricing division (PPD) of the NHS Business Services Authority Manufacturers to have these products approved for listing on part IX of the Drugs Tariff.

In assessing whether the product is appropriate for prescribing in primary care, the PPD may require applicants to provide clinical data to demonstrate that the product delivers clinical benefits, and any products required to carry a CE marking must do so. Providing these conditions are met, the PPD also requires that products are safe and of good quality and that they are cost-effective.

In relatively rare cases, the PPD may seek independent advice bearing on these issues although responsibility for the eventual decision will remain with the PPD and the evidence required will depend on the individual application. The need for evidence is likely to be greater if similar products have not been listed before. The PPD may require applicants to provide clinical data to demonstrate that the product delivers clinical benefits.

Lambert Hospital

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he next plans to visit the Lambert Hospital in Thirsk. [177102]

Ann Keen: The Secretary of State (Alan Johnson) makes regular visits to national health service facilities across the country. Invitations are considered on a case-by-case basis and will depend upon diary pressures and parliamentary business. Therefore, if the hon. Member wishes to, she may send a formal request to Ministers regarding a visit to the Thirsk area.

Macular Degeneration: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he expects more rapid treatment to be available to those living in North Yorkshire for age-related macular degeneration; [175246]

(2) what provision there is for treatment for wet macular degeneration in North Yorkshire. [175376]

Ann Keen: The Yorkshire and Humber Strategic Health Authority reports that the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has already recommended the use of photodynamic therapy for treating wet age-related macular degeneration (ARMD) in some patients. North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust (PCT) is funding this treatment in accordance with the guidelines set out in the latest North Derbyshire, South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Commissioning Consortium Policy document with which the PCT adheres.

Three new drugs have been identified as possible treatment options for wet ARMD. These drugs are Macugen (Pegaptinib), Lucentis (Ranibizumab) and Avastin (Bevacizumab). NICE is currently carrying out an appraisal of Lucentis and Macugen and expects to publish final guidance in the new year. NICE published draft guidance on 14 December 2007, which is now subject to consultation with stakeholders. Avastin is not included in the appraisal, as it is not licensed.

Where NICE has not issued guidance, PCTs are expected to make their own decisions on the funding of specific treatments based on an assessment of the available evidence.

Medical Equipment: Procurement

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that the 34 million disposable respirators and 350 million surgical face masks he is purchasing are bought from companies in the UK. [170200]

Mr. Bradshaw: The tender for the procurement of the 34 million disposable respirators and 350 million surgical face masks has not commenced at this stage.

In purchasing goods and services for the national health service, the Department is subject to all European Union public procurement regulations. The rules compel the Department to advertise and award any proposed contract in accordance with the legal procedure set out in the regulations. This ensures that the process is fair, transparent and non-discriminatory. It would be a breach of this legislation to ensure the products were only supplied by companies in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Government has spent on updating hospital equipment since 1997. [175594]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* The Department does not collect information on hospital equipment spend centrally. A decision on the procurement of hospital equipment is made at a local level.

Medical Records: Data Protection

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish all documents of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Connecting for Health on the review into the possibility of NHS patient data being processed overseas by approved organisations. [172905]

Mr. Bradshaw: A reference to a 'review' was made in an unrestricted operational guidance document made widely available to the NHS by NHS Connecting for Health in March 2006. This was subsequently wrongly described in media reports as a leaked document. However, no such formal review has taken place and

the reference was in respect of a general question asked by some suppliers as to whether patient data in respect of the National Programme for IT (NPfIT) could be held abroad. It was subsequently confirmed to all suppliers that there was no change to the policy that NPfIT patient data should not be held or processed overseas. The guidance document concerned has been reissued with the reference removed but there is no 'review' documentation to publish.

Medical Records: Databases

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people he expects to have access to the entire content of the NHS Medical Records Database. [167986]

Mr. Bradshaw: The security measures controlling access to national health service care records service clinical records are set at the Cabinet Office standard e-Government Interoperability Framework level 3, with access restricted to only those with a legitimate relationship with the patient, and further role-based access restrictions to specific information. It follows, therefore, that no one will have access to the entire content of the database.

In exceptional circumstances, when required by law, specialist staff may, for example, be authorised to access records without there being a clinical relationship with the patient or patients concerned. Theoretically these staff could be authorised to access any individual record within the database, but all such access is for specific purposes and in tightly controlled circumstances.

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the provisions of section 10 of the Data Protection Act 1998 can be applied to the processing of data on any component of the national care records database; and whether this could include a patient requirement not to record clinical information on a database that can be accessed by users who are not directly involved in their care. [168954]

Mr. Bradshaw: Requests made by patients under the provisions of section 10 of the Data Protection Act 1998 must be considered on a case by case basis. For section 10 to apply, the data in question must be personal identifiable data and processing must not be subject to a legal requirement or other exception set out in the Act. Patient contact details held as part of the National Health Service Care Records Service (NHS CRS) are subject to legal requirements so are exempt from the section 10 provisions. Clinical information held nationally is not exempt from the section 10 provisions, but this information can only be accessed by NHS CRS users directly involved in the patient's care.

Information is added to the national system in a number of different ways, some by deliberate clinical decision and some by automated processes. In some cases local organisations able and willing to accede to a request under section 10 may be able to withhold information from record systems. In other cases the record is created as a consequence of the treatment or action that takes place, for example the creation of an x-ray image in the new digital picture recording systems, and a section 10 request could only be considered after the event. In the case of the summary care record, which is fed by both clinical decision and automated processes, patients may elect not to have a summary care record or to impose access controls upon it so that information is only shared either with their consent, when anonymised, or where required by law.

Medical Treatments Abroad

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of the £526,700,000 in claims made against the UK in respect of European Economic Area (EEA) claims for medical treatment was claimed by each EEA member state in the year 2006-07. [178056]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table shows the claims for medical treatment made against the United Kingdom by other European Economic Area member states by country of claim.

EEA Healthcare Cost Claims

Member states claims against UK	*£000*
Austria	2,960,000
Belgium	3,770,000
Cyprus	11,370,000
France	83,000,000
Germany	5,630,000
Greece	860,000
Iceland	30,000
Ireland	289,190,000
Italy	5,480,000
Netherlands	4,910,000
Portugal	1,370,000
Spain	117,450,000
Sweden	680,000

Note: Totals are rounded to nearest 10,000.

Medical Treatments Abroad: France

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will extend the E106s of British citizens currently living abroad in France, so they will not have to obtain private medical insurance to access healthcare following a change in French law. [177912]

Dawn Primarolo: Under European Union regulations if someone moves to another European Economic Area country to live they are entitled to health care paid for by the United Kingdom in the following circumstances only:

they are in receipt of a UK state pension or other exportable benefit (an E121 will be issued by the UK)

they are posted abroad by a UK employer and still pay tax and national insurance in the UK (an E106 will be issued by the UK).

In addition the UK does under certain circumstances pay the health care costs for a limited period of those people who move abroad before they are in receipt of their pension. (An E106 will be issued by the UK). There are no plans to extend this entitlement.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when a reply will be sent to the hon. Member for Beaconsfield's letter of 30 July 2007 to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State responsible for Care Services on the SIGN charity in Beaconsfield constituency. [178005]

Mr. Bradshaw: A reply was sent on 23 August 2007.

Musculoskeletal Disorders

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support is available to employers to ensure patients with musculoskeletal disorders access early diagnosis and treatment to remain in work. [177048]

Ann Keen: We are not aware of any support available to employers to ensure patients with musculoskeletal disorders have access to early diagnosis and treatment to remain in work.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of primary care trusts' compliance with (*a*) his Department's and (*b*) the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's guidelines that three cycles of in vitro fertilisation should be provided to couples by the NHS. [177231]

Dawn Primarolo: In response to a survey carried out by the Department in autumn 2007, approximately one third of primary care trusts (PCTs) report that they are offering at least one fresh cycle of in vitro fertilisation to eligible patients, just over a third report one full cycle of fresh plus frozen embryos, and a third report two cycles or more. A very small number report a temporary suspension of the service. We are working with the patient support organisation Infertility Network UK to help PCTs share best practice in the provision of fertility services and move to the implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommendations. To build on the progress being made we are establishing an expert group to advise the project and consider how to help PCT commissioners.

NHS: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what policies his Department has for making data collected by the NHS available to the pharmaceutical industry; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of these policies; and if he will make a statement. [170073]

Mr. Bradshaw: Any requests for national health service data from the pharmaceutical industry are treated in the same way as other requests from outside the NHS.

NHS: Finance

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in reviewing the impact of the market forces factor on (*a*) the overall NHS funding formula and (*b*) overall budgets of NHS trusts. [176052]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA) continually oversees the development of the weighted capitation formula. ACRA's current work programme includes a review of the market forces factor (MFF). The review of the MFF will also inform the MFF adjustments made to providers of national health service services paid for through the national tariff.

Although ACRA has made good progress on some major aspects of its work programme, it has requested, and been granted, additional time to finalise the work that it is doing to review the formula. Given the importance of the weighted capitation formula it is crucial that ACRA has the time required to produce a robust and transparent formula.

Only when this work programme is completed will ACRA finalise its recommendations to Ministers on potential changes to the funding formula. Ministers will then look at all of ACRA's recommendations and decide how to take these recommendations into account when making allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

We will inform providers and PCTs of the changes to the formula, and the revenue allocations as soon as is practically possible after the completion of ACRA's work programme. The aim is to announce revenue allocations to PCTs for 2009-10 and 2010-11 by the summer 2008. The MFF indices applied to providers of NHS services paid for by the national tariff were published on the Department's website on 13 December as part of the national tariff package for 2008-09, and are available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Organisationpolicy/Financeandplanning/NHSFinancialReforms/DH_081226

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what effect the recent renegotiation of the Connecting for Health contract with BT has had on the (*a*) capital and (*b*) revenue costs of the programme; [172914]

(2) what change there has been in the value of the Connecting for Health contract with BT following the recent renegotiation; [172915]

(3) if he will make available the details of the renegotiation of the Connecting for Health contract with each of the local service providers. [172916]

Mr. Bradshaw: There has been no renegotiation of primary supplier contracts let by national health service Connecting for Health under the national programme for information technology, and no changes to their terms and conditions. There have, however, been 'resets' of the contracts. Reset is a normal, repeatable, process for contracts with a long lifetime to ensure that their ongoing delivery reflects progress to date, current priorities, and deployment plans for the future, and that they continue to support the evolving needs of the NHS. However, reset allows for the option of agreeing enhancements to existing services or functionality that does not effect a change in contract scope or risk allocation.

In the course of the reset of the BT contract for London, new requirements and additional services were identified by the NHS, for which a separate business case and funding of £55 million £41.8 million capital and £13.2 million revenue over the lifetime of the contract was subsequently approved. This does not represent an increase in the original cost of the contract for the original specification, but reflects new requirements for additional functionality.

NHS: KPMG

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the report prepared by KPMG and paid for by NHS London and the acute hospital trusts in outer South East London which provides analysis of the financial viability of the four acute hospital trusts in outer South East London. [172685]

Mr. Bradshaw: Currently officials within the Department are using the report in relation to current policy formulation and development.

With this in mind we are currently applying section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act to the report as the information would be likely to inhibit free and frank provision of advice and the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberations.

The results of this review process are being discussed with the strategic health authorities and solutions are being prepared in the context of the Operating Framework for 2008-09.

NHS: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations his Department received from HM Treasury in respect of *(a)* the planning and *(b)* the delivery of each project undertaken under the private finance initiative. [175352]

Mr. Bradshaw: HM Treasury regularly publishes guidance and reports on all aspects of the planning and delivery of private finance initiative (PFI) schemes in terms of evaluating business cases, ensuring value for money and developing standardised contract terms, which all Government Departments must follow. HM Treasury approval is required for all PFI business cases in the national health service exceeding £100 million.

HM Treasury also worked specifically with this Department on developing and conducting the reappraisal of all major NHS PFI schemes in procurement launched in January 2006.

NHS: Property

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much revenue has been received since May 1997 from the sale of NHS property. [170625]

Mr. Bradshaw: Details of national health service property sales are not held centrally. However, the information in the following table shows receipts from the sale of fixed assets including dwellings, plant and machinery, transport equipment, information technology, land, buildings and furniture and fittings during the period requested.

	Receipts from all fixed assets (£000)
1997-98	252,795
1998-99	191,380
1999-2000	290,961
2000-01	390,869
2001-02	766,411
2002-03	1,078,294
2003-04	397,975
2004-05	455,625
2005-06	440,360
2006-07	575,873

This information is collected on the cash receipts from the sale of fixed assets by the NHS through their annual audited summarisation schedules. The table does not include sales by NHS foundation trusts. Receipts include sales to other NHS organisations as well as to the private sector. Funds released from the disposal of fixed assets are capital in nature, and are therefore generally reinvested in local capital schemes.

NHS: Public Participation

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what account was taken of rurality in establishing the level of funding provided to each local authority to set up and run local involvement networks; [177011]

(2) what criteria were used to establish the level of funding provided to each local authority to set up and run local involvement networks. [177012]

Ann Keen: The allocations made to local authorities (LAs) to support the establishment of local involvement networks were based on two elements: a general baseline payment to all LAs with the rest allocated according to the relative needs formula.

The first element allocates a basic amount of £60,000 to each LA.

The remainder of the available funding is allocated according to the social care relative needs formulae. These are mathematical formulae designed to allocate funding for relevant services between LAs according to the needs of each LA relative to other LAs. They are a rigorously developed and accepted method of allocating funds to LAs (and are recognised by key organisations such as the Local Government Association). There are separate formulae for older people, younger adults and children. The formulae take into account the population in the LA area and other key factors. The older people's formula consists of a basic amount per person aged 65 and over and top-ups for age, deprivation, sparsity, low income from fees and charges, and area costs. The younger adult's formula consists of a basic amount per person aged 18-64 and top-ups for deprivation and area costs. The children's formula consists of a basic amount per child aged 0-17 and top-ups for deprivation, foster costs and area costs.

NHS: Standards

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of implementing the recommendations of Lord Darzi's report; and if he will make a statement. [172945]

Mr. Bradshaw: Proposals for the provision of services are a matter for the national health service, working in conjunction with clinicians, patients and other stakeholders.

The projected costs of implementing the proposed models of care in London have been provided in the consultation document 'Healthcare for London: consulting the capital'. These are estimated forecasts which are dependent on many factors over the next few years, such as demand on services, population growth, and the continued increase in the health care budget.

NHS: Telephone Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals his Department intends to consult on the possibility of introducing a new three-digit number for urgent care services, as stated in his Department's NHS next stage review interim report, Our NHS, Our Future; [175029]

(2) how the NHS Next Stage Review will take forward the exploration of the possibility of introducing a single three-digit number for urgent care services, as described on page four of his Department's document Urgent care update: Key areas highlighted by the Direction of Travel consultation and other work; [175031]

(3) whether a new three-digit number for urgent care services, as referred to in his Department's NHS next stage review interim report, Our NHS, Our Future, will be delivered through NHS Direct. [175033]

Mr. Bradshaw: As part of the national health service next stage review, local clinical pathway groups are considering ways to improve the public's understanding of how to access urgent care services. As the interim report of the review, published on 4 October, made clear, there may be benefit in adopting a three-digit number as a single point of access to urgent care. Various options are being considered.

The NHS Direct telephone advice service, which currently operates on 0845 4647, will shortly have to change its number. While it could move to an 03 number, we have had a preliminary discussion with Ofcom about the possibility of securing a three-digit number for NHS Direct. Any proposal would need to follow Ofcom's normal process for consultation with the public.

Postal Services

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many items of post sent by his Department were reported missing by the intended recipient in each year since 1997. [171288]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Department's procedures will be made on completion of the review.

Psychiatry: Standards

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to promote understanding by general practitioners of the role of the therapeutic relationship in talking therapies. [175403]

Ann Keen: The educational and training curricula of general practitioners, including the therapeutic relationship in psychological therapies, is set and managed by the Royal College of General Practitioners, not by the Department.

Post-registration training needs for national health service staff are determined against local NHS priorities, through appraisal processes and training needs analyses informed by local delivery plans and the needs of the service. Services are delivered at a local level, with funding for continuing professional development, including training in new therapies, included as part of the baseline allocation to strategic health authorities (SHAs).

Subject to the Multi-Professional Education and Training Levy Service Level Agreement, it is for each SHA to decide how to allocate this funding against their work force planning strategies.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what standards of *(a)* self-development and *(b)* qualifications psychological therapists will be required to meet under the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme. [175404]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Therapists delivering evidence-based psychological therapies will be required to reach different standards depending on the level of the therapy given and their prior experience. Those delivering high intensity interventions will be expected to reach the standard of a post-graduate qualification.

Therapists will receive supervision during and after training to develop and maintain their skills. The Department is undertaking work to specify the competencies for supervision and the training required to develop and implement the professional development required to deliver evidence-based psychological therapies.

Radiotherapy

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in which areas of the country additional radiotherapy equipment will be needed as stated in paragraph 4.27 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy. [175125]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally.

The need for additional radiotherapy equipment was recognised as an area for development in the National Radiotherapy Advisory Group report, which recommended that 54,000 fractions per million of population by 2016 and that the current average was around 30,000 fractions with a range between 17,000-48,000 per million between networks.

It is for local determination whether additional equipment is needed or services are reconfigured to ensure that the network meets this recommendation by 2016.

Screening: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money has been allocated to increase NHS provision of preventative screening in each of the next three financial years; and how much will be spent on each type of screening. [178310]

Dawn Primarolo: Detailed spending decisions are a matter for the local national health service.

Money will be allocated for the delivery of those policy commitments including the £3 million already announced.

Smoking: Prescription Drugs

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on adverse reactions to the anti-smoking prescription drug Champix. [177304]

Dawn Primarolo: Varenicline (Champix) was first launched in the United Kingdom in December 2006 as a stop-smoking aid for adults. Since that time its safety has been monitored closely by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) in conjunction with the European Medicines Agency.

To date over 1,400 reports of suspected adverse reactions have been received via the yellow card scheme in the UK. The reactions most commonly reported through the yellow card scheme are recognised side effects and are listed in the product information. The most commonly reported side effects are nausea, depression/depressed mood, headache, vomiting, and dizziness. It is important to note that the suspected reactions are not necessarily caused by the drug and may relate to other factors such as nicotine withdrawal, other illnesses or other medicines taken concurrently.

Recently concerns have arisen about reports of depression including suicidal thoughts and behaviour reported in association with the use of varenicline. These data have prompted a Europe wide review of this issue and careful consideration of the available data. Following the most recent consideration the varenicline product information for doctors and the Patient Information Leaflet is being updated to contain warnings that depression has been reported in patients who are trying to stop smoking using varenicline and that the symptoms of this depression may include suicidal thoughts and behaviour. In December 2007, information was posted on the MHRA website regarding this issue. Suicidal behaviour associated with the use of varenicline remains under close review in the UK and within Europe.

Tinnitus: Research

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by the NHS on research into tinnitus in 2007. [178055]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State (Alan Johnson) to my hon. Friend the Member for North-West Leicestershire (David Taylor) on 12 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2084W.

Tomography

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* computerised tomography scanners, *(b)* magnetic resonance imaging scanners, *(c)* linear accelerators and *(d)* positron emission tomography scanners have been available for use in the NHS in each year since 2000. [174776]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect this data centrally. Such data as are available from the Health Protection Agency (HPA) is shown in the following table. Data for positron emission tomography scanners are unavailable.

Modality	*Installed base at January 2000*	*Installed base November 2007*
Computerised Tomography	285	395
Magnetic Resonance Imaging	182	285
Linear accelerators	152	243

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* endoscopies, *(b)* non-obstetric ultrasound tests, *(c)* computerised tomography scans and *(d)* magnetic resonance imaging scans took place in the NHS in each year since 1997-98. [175106]

Ann Keen: Such information as is available is shown in the following table.

Total number of endoscopies, CT, MRI and non-obstetric ultrasound tests, England, 1997-98 to 2006-07

	Endoscopy						
	Gastroscopy	*Colonoscopy*	*Flexible and rigid sigmoidoscopy*	*Cystoscopy*	*Computer tomography (CT)*	*Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)*	*Non-obstetric ultrasound*
1997-98					1,172,656	473,074	2,884,883
1998-99					1,254,474	522,138	3,068,276
1999-2000					1,359,852	585,797	3,289,919
2000-01					1,488,752	632,594	3,430,753
2001-02					1,625,304	705,706	3,579,412
2002-03	522,186	188,584	173,140	347,412	1,767,791	786,646	3,626,903
2003-04	508,992	195,713	172,553	341,603	1,992,826	857,550	3,881,945
2004-05	488,143	203,165	175,017	331,898	2,141,652	944,935	3,949,303
2005-06	505,025	234,152	198,085	356,507	2,481,571	1,118,487	4,253,361
2006-07	537,835	272,715	211,343	366,677	2,728,119	1,257,972	4,461,490

Note:
This only includes endoscopies performed as inpatients.
Source:
Department of Health form KH12 (for CT, MRI and ultrasound)
Hospital Episode Statistics for Endoscopy

Urological Cancers

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the progress made by cancer networks in implementing the Improving Outcomes Guidance for Urological Cancers; and if he will make a statement. [175510]

Ann Keen: The majority of cancer networks are expected to have fully implemented the Improving Outcomes Guidance by the end of December 2007. We will assess the exact position early this year.

In addition, the report of the 2004-07 round of cancer peer review will be published early this year. This will include information on how cancer networks were progressing with this Improving Outcomes Guidance at the time of the peer review visits.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Drugs Misuse

11. **Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will liaise with the Secretary of State for Health to develop a strategy to combat the misuse of prescription and over-the-counter drugs. [177768]

Mr. Coaker: The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is an Executive agency of the Department of Health, and is responsible for monitoring the safety of all medicines in the UK, including concerns about misuse, and takes suitable action to safeguard public health when necessary.

12. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to combat drug misuse among young people. [177769]

Mr. Coaker: We have a comprehensive programme of action under way to prevent today's young people from becoming tomorrow's drug users, through:

tackling the supply of drugs;

delivery of high quality drug education and information to young people and their families; and

early intervention and treatment for those young people most at risk.

Prostitution

13. **Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of organisations which help women to exit prostitution. [177770]

Mr. Coaker: We have not made any formal assessment of the effectiveness of organisations which help women to exit prostitution, but we will be evaluating the implementation of the Government's prostitution strategy in local areas in the near future.

Developing routes out is a key element of our strategy, which provides a framework for local areas to develop their own strategies including the provision of tailored support for those involved in prostitution.

Biometric Visas

14. **Chris Mole:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on the timetable for the introduction of biometric visas for people travelling to the UK. [177771]

Mr. Byrne: Our target to introduce fingerprint visas by April 2008 has been met. This has been achieved ahead of time and under budget. All applicants for a UK visa are now required to provide their fingerprints.

Human Trafficking

15. **Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of when the UK will be in a position to ratify the Council of Europe convention against trafficking in human beings. [177772]

Mr. Coaker: We will ratify the Convention as soon as possible. This will be subject to the necessary domestic legislation being in place in all parts of the UK to ensure we can fully comply with the Convention.

Police Priorities

17. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the impact of targets on police priorities. [177774]

24. **Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the impact of targets on police priorities. [177782]

Mr. McNulty: In setting our new public service agreements (published on 9 October last year) we have, as always, taken account of feedback from the police and others. The new objectives and the supporting performance framework have been designed to promote local flexibility while ensuring that the most harmful issues, like tackling more serious violent crime, are given the priority they deserve.

Data Loss

18. **Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her latest estimate is of the number of accidental data loss in her Department in the last 12 months. [177775]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to the review being undertaken by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts into procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. I also refer the hon. Member to the statement of 17 December by my

right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on measures to improve the security of personal data.

As a result of this interim report, and in common with all departments, the Home Office will cover information assurance, including material on potential breaches, in its annual report.

Points-based Migration

19. **Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on her plans to introduce a points-based system for migrant workers, and if she will make a statement. [177776]

Meg Hillier: The points-based system is on track to start in early Spring. Initially it will apply to highly skilled migrants who contribute significantly to the growth and productivity of the UK economy. When fully implemented it will reduce routes of entry to the UK from over 60 to five.

Neighbourhood Policing

20. **Mr. Chaytor:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the implementation of neighbourhood policing. [177777]

22. **Lynda Waltho:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of neighbourhood policing schemes; and if she will make a statement. [177780]

Mr. McNulty: The joint HMIC and Home Office Police Performance Assessment of the implementation of neighbourhood policing for 2006-07 awarded six forces an excellent grade and recognised 12 other forces as having improved on the previous year.

The Home Office is also conducting an evaluation of neighbourhood policing which is scheduled to end in March 2009 but a report of early findings will be published in the first half of 2008.

Gun Crime

21. **Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the steps taken by the Government to reduce gun crime since 1997. [177779]

Mr. Coaker: We have made significant progress in efforts to reduce gun crime since 1997. We have increased enforcement operations, introduced tougher legislation and given more powers to the police and courts to deal with offenders. We are also empowering communities to take local action against guns and criminal gangs.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

23. **Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of anti-social behaviour orders; and if she will make a statement. [177781]

Mr. Coaker: Three independent reports have confirmed our approach to tackling anti-social behaviour is working: Home Affairs Select Committee (2005), Audit Commission (2006), NAO (2006).

The NAO Report found that:

65 per cent. of people desisted from ASB after one intervention

85 per cent. after two

and 93 per cent. after three

We have also appointed IPSOS Mori to undertake a qualitative study investigating the circumstances in which different antisocial behaviour interventions are most effective. Antisocial behaviour orders are just one of these. This research is due to be published later this year.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many women have been served with an anti-social behaviour order (ASBO) for prostitution-related activities; and how many women have been sent to prison for breach of such an ASBO. [177014]

Mr. Coaker: Data are not collected centrally about the behaviour leading up to the granting of an antisocial behaviour order.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued in each (*a*) police authority area and (*b*) criminal justice system area; how many of these have been breached; how many people received a custodial sentence for such a breach; and how many people have been taken to court for a breach. [176313]

Mr. Coaker: Police force areas and criminal justice system areas are co-terminous. Data showing the number of antisocial behaviour orders issued and breached broken down by criminal justice area are shown in the following table. Unfortunately, data on the number of orders incurring a custodial sentence for a breach, and how many people have been taken to court for a breach, are not available broken down by area. The breach rate nationally is 47 per cent. overall with 57 per cent. for juveniles and 41 per cent. for adults.

Number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued, breached and breaches subsequently receiving a custodial sentence as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2005

	Number of ASBOs	
CJS area	*Issued*	*Breached*
Avon and Somerset	213	103
Bedfordshire	82	32
Cambridgeshire	96	34
Cheshire	208	90
Cleveland	115	74
Cumbria	115	68
Derbyshire	125	51
Devon and Cornwall	177	53
Dorset	77	51
Durham	96	71
Dyfed Powys	35	16
Essex	149	81
Gloucestershire	68	41
Greater London	1,163	463

Number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued, breached and breaches subsequently receiving a custodial sentence as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2005

	Number of ASBOs	
CJS area	Issued	Breached
Greater Manchester	1,227	686
Gwent	72	46
Hampshire	272	133
Hertfordshire	145	54
Humberside	236	100
Kent	159	22
Lancashire	357	176
Leicestershire	120	59
Lincolnshire	43	21
Merseyside	380	136
Norfolk	117	45
Northamptonshire	84	9
Northumbria	302	131
North Wales	168	77
North Yorkshire	91	41
Nottinghamshire	255	109
South Wales	147	59
South Yorkshire	245	132
Staffordshire	170	67
Suffolk	165	65
Surrey	110	48
Sussex	245	121
Thames Valley	162	70
Warwickshire	87	48
West Mercia	231	103
West Midlands	776	373
West Yorkshire	692	384
Wiltshire	52	28
England and Wales	9,749	4,368

[1] ASBOs may be issued in one area and breached in another. Breaches are counted in this table on the area of ISSUE.

[2] Breach data from the magistrates court administrative systems in Kent and Northamptonshire are known to have been under-reported.

Notes

1. On the occasion of the severest sentence received. Custodial sentences for breaching an ASBO may have been given concurrently with custodial sentences for other offences for which the person was found guilty.

2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Sources:

Issued - As reported to the Home Office by the Court Service.

Breached - OCJR Court Proceedings Database.

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what statistics her Department collates on alcohol-related crime in (*a*) England and (*b*) each local authority area. [176707]

Mr. Coaker: The British Crime Survey collects information on the number and proportion of violent incidents where the victim believed the offender to be under the influence of alcohol. While these statistics are published for England and Wales as a whole they are not available at local authority area level.

The Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) holds information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales on an offenders basis. These data include information on the age of the defendants, their gender, the police force area and court where proceedings took place as well as the specific offence and statute for the offence. Alcohol offence categories collected include offences of drunkenness with and without aggravation and offences under the licensing acts. The court proceedings database does not hold specific information on offences beyond descriptions provided by the statutes under which prosecutions are brought. For example information on prosecutions for the offences of 'violent disorder' cannot identify which offences involved alcohol use.

The Home Office is also leading an evaluation of the Licensing Act 2003 on levels of crime and disorder, using a range of measures and statistics at both a national and local level. It is planned to publish the results from this evaluation in the spring.

To complement the findings of the main report, a monitoring exercise was carried out to get an indication of the change in police recorded crime statistics following the introduction of the Act. The results of this exercise were published in 'Violent crime, disorder and criminal damage since the introduction of the Licensing Act 2003', Home Office Online Report 16/07. A copy is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/rdsolr1607.pdf

No statistics on alcohol-related crime are available from the police recorded crime statistics. Such offences are not specifically defined by statute and details of the individual circumstances of offences do not feature in the recorded crime data series.

Animal Experiments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the potential for adverse physical and psychological effects, other than those included in the Guidance Notes to Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, to be experienced by animals for each of the severity bandings used to classify scientific procedures on animals; how often the procedures that fall within these bandings are reviewed; and when the last revision took place. [175621]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 8 January 2008]:* Severity of suffering is classified in four categories: "unclassified", "mild", "moderate" or "substantial". Sections 5.40 to 5.49 of the Home Office Guidance on

the Operation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (HC321) explain how these levels are assigned and provide examples of some of the adverse effects they may entail. The current guidance was published in March 2000 following a review of earlier guidance published in February 1990. At present, we have no plans to review the guidance as a whole or to expand on the examples provided in respect of severity limits.

The severity of suffering authorised in project licences is reviewed by inspectors during visits of inspection and in discussion with licensees. Severity is also reviewed by inspectors when amendments to existing protocols are considered. In addition, a standard condition of issue requires that project licence holders report to the Secretary of State if the severity limit of a protocol appears to have been or is likely to be breached, at which point the severity of the protocol is also reviewed. One of the duties of local ethical review processes in designated establishments is also to ensure that severity is minimised throughout the duration of project licences.

Animal Housing: Security

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance police provide to kennels on measures to be taken to protect kennels against the risk of attacks from the public and organisations wishing to prevent injured strays being put down. [177383]

Mr. McNulty: All police forces will give crime prevention advice through crime reduction officers to members of the public seeking assistance. This includes advice to owners of kennels who may be subject to threats of attacks from the public or organisations. In addition forces also employ officers with a specialist knowledge of domestic extremism who can provide advice on dealing with the unwelcome attention of extremist groups. They in turn have access to advice from specialist national police units such as the National Extremism Tactical Co-Ordination Unit which was set up to provide a consistent response to domestic extremism across the country.

The Government are clear that threats of attacks on individuals and businesses are unacceptable. The Government fully support a person's right to protest lawfully about activities they oppose, but is equally clear that people also have a right to be free to carry out their lawful business without fear of intimidation and violence. We therefore condemn individuals or organisations who are prepared to resort to criminal action to deliver their message.

Asylum

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of asylum seekers who have exhausted all avenues of appeals in England in each year since 1997. [171518]

Mr. Byrne: Information on asylum decisions and appeals relating to asylum seekers in particular areas of the UK is not available since applications are for asylum in the UK and not any particular part of it (and we do not generally require asylum seekers to reside in a particular location). Also, asylum seekers can leave the UK voluntarily at any time and some do so without informing the authorities.

Information on appeal rights exhausted is published annually; information prior to 2003 is not available. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will consider a system of pre-paid cards for asylum seekers as an alternative to the existing vouchers. [177064]

Mr. Byrne: Destitute asylum seekers who have been assessed as eligible for asylum support receive cash on a weekly basis by presenting their application registration card at a nominated post office.

Those refused asylum whose appeal rights are exhausted and who are unable to leave the UK immediately due to circumstances beyond their control may receive support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (IAA 1999). Section 4 support comprises self-catering accommodation with vouchers to purchase food and essential toiletries.

There are no plans to change these arrangements.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (*a*) asylum seekers and (*b*) dependants of asylum seekers have been given leave to remain in the UK in each year since 1997, broken down by type of leave granted. [177338]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the annual number of asylum seekers and dependants of asylum seekers given leave to enter is available from the annual Statistical Bulletin Asylum Statistics United Kingdom. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Asylum: Newcastle

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contractual commitments for units of accommodation the Border and Immigration Agency has with (*a*) Your Homes Newcastle and (*b*) other accommodation providers in Newcastle; and how much notice is required before that figure can be altered. [169005]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) have three regional accommodation contracts providing accommodation for asylum seekers in Newcastle; two with the private sector (Kimberley Housing Group and Angel London Ltd.), and one with the public sector (North East Contract Consortium for Asylum Support). BIA does not have any contractual arrangements with Your Homes Newcastle.

The three contracts BIA has with providers in the North East contain minimum and maximum volume capacities which can be renegotiated at any time. The information is not made public due to commercial confidentiality.

Asylum: Sudan

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether Sudanese Embassy officials have conducted interviews in the UK with Sudanese asylum seekers whose appeal rights have not been exhausted or who have made a fresh claim; and if she will make a statement. [165758]

Mr. Byrne: We take great care to protect individuals who pass through our asylum system and have confidence in the quality of our decision making process. We have a clear policy that external Governments do not become involved in the re-documentation process until decisions have been made on cases. Removal of the individual should take place only once appeal rights have been exhausted and there are no other barriers to their removal.

Burglary: Schools

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many burglaries were committed on school premises in 2006; and what proportion involved theft of IT equipment. [177865]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available centrally. Burglaries on school premises are recorded under the Home Office offence classification of 'Burglary in a building other than a dwelling'. As such they cannot be separately identified from other offences recorded within this classification e.g. burglaries in factories or warehouses.

Community Policing: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many community police support staff have been in post in Romford since 2003; and if she will make a statement. [176793]

Mr. McNulty: Figures collected centrally relate to police community support officers (PCSOs) in the London borough of Havering since 2005. The Home Office started collecting PCSO data below police force level at this time, and these local area data relate to police basic command units (BCUs). Romford is part of the London borough of Havering BCU.

The figures appear in the following table.

Numbers of police community support officers in the London borough of Havering 2005-07

	Police community support officers (FTE)[1]
30 June 2005	41
30 June 2006	47
31 March 2007	83

[1] All figures are full-time equivalents (FTE) rounded to the nearest whole number.

Note:
Figures may not be directly comparable to the 2007 figure in the table, which is part of the Home Office's regular police personnel collection.

Control of Immigration Statistics 2006

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will break down by sub-category the Other category in Table 5.6, Grant of Settlement by main category and geographic region of nationality 1996-2006 of the Control of Immigration Statistics 2006; and what assessment she has made of the factors underlying the increase in this category since 1997. [177412]

Mr. Byrne: A more detailed breakdown of settlement grants by category can be found in Table 5.3 in the Command Paper "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2006". This publication may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

The significant rise in grants in the "Other" category mainly reflects a rise in grants of settlement to recognised refugees and persons granted exceptional leave to remain, including grants under measures aimed at reducing the backlog of pre-1993 asylum applications and grants due to the Family Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) exercise.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contracts her Department has with external consultants; what the total value, including all VAT and disbursements, of these contracts are for the current financial year; how long each contract lasts; and what the forecast total value is of each contract. [163817]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Department engages consultancy firms to support and augment civil servants in the delivery of a specific range of work, including large IT development programmes and, where more cost-effective, longer term service delivery programmes.

The Department's expenditure on these services is allocated across a wide range of firms, from small, specialist companies with niche expertise and few employees, to global multinational organisations offering a broad spectrum and substantial depth of consultancy expertise.

The Department awards contracts in competition according to the EU procurement directives based on value for money. The Department uses OGC framework agreements where appropriate. The use of external consultants provides the Department with specialist knowledge, skill, capacity and technical expertise that would not otherwise be available. Some expenditure is on consultants to whom we have outsourced services, such as IT.

The Department does not hold a central record of individual contracts with external consultants showing the level of detail requested. Only spend figures are held centrally. To assemble the requested details from individual records would incur disproportionate cost. The Department is able to provide the information set out as follows.

The information held by the Home Department on the total value of spend on consultancy and professional legal services from April to September and the forecasted total value for the current financial year is as follows:

£ million

	Home Office including Border and Immigration Agency	Identity and Passport Service	Total
April to September financial year 2007-08 spend			
Consultancy	35	7.6	42.6
Legal	11	0	11
Total	46	7.6	53.6
Full financial year 2007-08 forecast			
Consultancy	100	20.3	120.3
Legal	20	0	20
Total	120	20.3	140.3

Note

Figures include non-recoverable VAT and disbursements.

The information held by the Home Department on the total spend on the top, by spend, eight major suppliers of consultancy services from April to September of the current financial year is as follows:

April to September financial year 2007-08 spend	£
PA Consulting Services Ltd.	7,163,806
COI Communications	5,592,649
Deloitte and Touche	5,053,946
Fujitsu Services Ltd.	2,251,713
Detica Ltd.	1,739,042
Oracle Corporation UK Ltd.	1,650,161
Walker-Cox Ltd.	1,246,376
KPMG LLP	1,084,747

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff employed by her Department during the last 12 months have not been entitled to work in the United Kingdom. [166104]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* I informed the House 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 966W that, as a result of prioritised enforcement action undertaken by the Border and Immigration Agency with respect to the Security Industry, one member of staff employed by a sub-contractor providing services to the Department was identified as not having the right to work within the United Kingdom. This person was immediately detained and has since been deported.

As a result of this discovery, the permanent secretary ordered a review of the immigration status and entitlement to work in the United Kingdom of over 30,000 people employed by and contracted to the Department.

This review will be completed by the end of February 2008.

Deportation

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department further to the answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 951W, on deportation, how many of the 72,550 asylum applicants removed from the UK between April 2003 and September 2007 were *(a)* enforced removals, *(b)* persons refused entry at port within the UK and subsequently removed, *(c)* persons refused entry outside the UK at juxtaposed controls, *(d)* persons leaving voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them, *(e)* persons leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration and *(f)* persons otherwise voluntarily leaving the UK. [177479]

Mr. Byrne: Between April 2003 and September 2007, 72,550 asylum applicants, including dependants, were removed, including voluntary departures. Of these, 42,325 were removed as a result of enforcement action (including voluntary departures and persons leaving voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them), 14,495 were refused entry at port and subsequently removed (including cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls), and 15,730 departed under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration. These data have been rounded to the nearest five and may not sum to the overall total due to independent rounding.

These figures include management information on the breakdown of dependants of asylum applicants removed in 2003. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and should be treated as provisional.

Deportation: Overseas Students

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what instructions have been given to immigration officers on the deportation of students who overstay their visas; what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of enforcement measures in respect of student overstayers; and if she will make a statement. [177399]

Mr. Byrne: A person who stays in the United Kingdom (UK) beyond the time limit specified by his/her leave, an overstayer, is liable to administrative removal under section 10 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. The Operational Enforcement Manual (OEM) provides guidance and information for officers dealing with enforcement (after entry) immigration matters. Chapters 10 and 11 of the OEM specifically deal with persons liable to administrative removal under section 10 and administrative removal procedures respectively.

A copy of the OEM is available to view in the House Library and on the Border and Immigration Agency website at:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/oem/oemsectionb/

Intelligence-led operations are conducted every day of the week across the country to detect and remove those people who have breached UK immigration laws and in 2006 we removed over 63,000 people altogether, including amongst others failed asylum seekers and overstayers.

Driving Offences: Surveillance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to use the photographs taken by surveillance cameras to *(a)* detect and *(b)* prosecute those seen committing an offence under (i) section 14 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and (ii) the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) (Amendment) (No.4) Regulations 2003; what recent representations she has received on the issue; and if she will make a statement. [177577]

Mr. Coaker: How the offences are enforced and what evidence it is helpful and appropriate to put forward are matters for the police and the prosecuting authorities.

Failure to wear a seat-belt is recognised in the national Roads Policing Strategy as one of the key behaviours contributing to road casualties and there is a specific commitment to address it. We recognised the danger inherent in using a mobile phone while driving by increasing the penalty for the offence in the Road Safety Act 2006. This is a matter on which we regularly receive correspondence.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what percentage of decisions on applications for *(a)* extension of stay and *(b)* indefinite leave to remain were made within 13 weeks in each year since 2001; [173958]

(2) how many *(a)* applications for and *(b)* decisions on (i) extension of stay and (ii) indefinite leave to remain there were in each year since 2001. [173967]

Mr. Byrne: Service standards were introduced during 2004. Charged and non-charged turnaround performance for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 is published on the BIA website under making an application—service standards.

The requested statistics on decisions on (i) extension of stay and (ii) indefinite leave to remain (settlement) are shown in the following table.

This information is published annually in the yearly Command Paper "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom". This publication may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Table 4.2 Decisions on applications for an extension of leave to remain[1] in the United Kingdom and settlement, by category, excluding EEA[2] and Swiss Nationals, 2001-06

United Kingdom

	Number of decisions					
Category	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*[3]	*2004*[4]	*2005*[5]	*2006*[6]
All decisions, excluding dependants	277,375	337,650	485,860	383,470	386,565	393,650
Visitors	14,695	15,355	15,740	12,870	10,450	7,695
Working holidaymakers	1,340	2,700	500	490	245	70
Students	90,115	128,400	190,215	156,110	136,525	142,115
Trainees	8,270	7,960	10,760	12,540	10,885	2,765
Au Pairs	495	360	365	225	220	230
Work permit holders	44,025	54,865	79,300	60,370	68,980	52,860
Permit free employment[7]	6,015	7,415	11,470	15,400	27,290	41,915
Independent means	35	10	20	5	10	25
Business[8]	5,580	10,715	25,860	17,510	2,715	10,360
Fiancé(e)s	85	100	150	120	95	130
Spouse (probationary period applications)[9]	24,910	19,235	25,030	19,070	18,020	21,450
Other limited leave	6,915	10,470	15,730	11,595	8,365	12,020
Settlement	74,900	78,935	106,110	70,975	96,270	96,480
Category Unknown	n/a	1,140	4,610	6,185	6,490	5,530

	Percentage refused					
Category	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*[4]	*2005*[5]	*2006*[6]
All decisions, excluding dependants	5.6	5.5	6.8	8.1	8.6	7.2
Visitors	11.1	8.4	10.9	10.0	9.3	9.6
Working holidaymakers	6.1	2.6	19.7	21.1	54.3	50.7
Students	7.7	5.3	2.9	4.3	7.0	5.5
Trainees	1.3	0.6	0.5	0.7	1.0	4.1
Au Pairs	35.1	45.4	63.8	27.1	18.7	12.6
Work permit holders	1.8	3.1	7.5	8.7	10.6	4.2
Permit free employment[7]	2.9	10.7	9.9	7.6	4.5	2.6
Independent means	42.4	66.7	76.2	60.0	25.0	11.1
Business[8]	5.6	7.8	4.1	12.5	47.3	19.7
Fiancé(e)s	22.4	22.4	20.1	21.3	17.9	14.7
Spouse (probationary period applications)[9]	7.4	3.8	9.8	9.9	7.0	5.1
Other limited leave	17.9	16.5	31.2	22.9	23.4	17.0
Settlement	2.9	5.4	9.1	9.2	6.5	8.7
Category Unknown	n/a	15.7	8.2	52.7	51.6	51.6

n/a not applicable.

[1] Excludes dependants of principal applicants, asylum related decisions and withdrawn applications.

[2] Includes nationals of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia before 1 May 2004, but excludes them from this date.

[3] Excludes the outcome of appeals.

[4] Includes writers and artists.

[5] Includes investors and innovators.

[6] Includes unmarried partners.

[7] Revised.

[8] Provisional.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the letter of 17 December 2007 from the chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency to the Home Affairs Committee, when the criteria used to determine the

grant of leave to remain to foreign nationals was adopted; and what means were used to publicise them. [177363]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 10 January 2008]*: All decisions are made on a case by case basis under existing law and policy. The Border and Immigration Agency's website provides details of the policy and guidance that staff follow. We publish this information as part of our commitment to freedom of information.

Entry Clearances: Employment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department further to the answer of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 481W, on entry clearances: employment, how many non-EU citizens have obtained leave to *(a)* remain and *(b)* enter the UK under the categories of (i) the International Graduate Scheme, (ii) Innovator, (iii) working and the (iv) Gap Year Students Highly Skilled Migrant Programme in each year since the scheme began. [175266]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 18 December 2007]*: The following table shows the number approvals of leave to remain and leave to enter the UK for overseas nationals under the categories of the International Graduate Scheme, Innovator, Working Holiday Maker, Work Permits, Gap Year Students and Highly Skilled Migrant Programme for each year for which data are available.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

	Leave to enter—out of country	*Leave to remain—in country*	*Grand total*
Gap year entrant			
2004	415	20	435
2005	795	45	840
2006	810	35	845
2007 to November 2007	685	20	705
Grand total	2,705	120	2,825
Working holiday maker			
2003	54,140	n/a	
2004	70,275	20	70,295
2005	58,420	45	58,465
2006	46,160	35	46,195
2007 to November 2007	37,595	20	37,615
Grand total	212,450	120	212,570
Innovator applications approvals			
2003	20	n/a	20
2004	15	20	35
2005	10	45	55
2006	10	35	45
2007 to November 2007	5	20	25
Grand total	60	120	180
International graduate scheme[1]			
2007 to November 2007	510	8,200	8,710

HSMP applications approvals			
	Approval entry clearance	*Approval leave to remain*	*Grand total*
2002	–	135	135
2003	1,340	765	2,105
2004	3,240	2,265	5,505
2005	6,510	6,715	13,225
2006	7,840	14,095	21,935
2007	9,195	6,255	15,450
Grand total	28,125	30,235	58,360

Work permits approvals[2]			
	Entry clearance	*Granted leave to remain*	*Grand total*
1995	n/a	n/a	
1996	n/a	n/a	
1997	n/a	n/a	
1998	n/a	n/a	
1999	n/a	n/a	
2000	n/a	n/a	
2001	n/a	n/a	
2002	n/a	45,125	45,125
2003	32,240	71,160	103,400
2004	53,860	50,645	104,505
2005	63,340	52,655	115,995
2006	71,870	36,050	107,920
2007 to November 2007	62,915	28,555	91,470
Total	284,225	946,875	1,231,100

[1] Scheme started in May 2007.
[2] Including members of groups.

Notes:
1. The data in this publication are based on Management Information, are provisional and may be subject to change.
2. The data are not National Statistics.
3. Figures are rounded to nearest five.
4. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.

Entry Clearances: Iraq

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Iraqi *(a)* interpreters and *(b)* other employees of the British armed forces have been granted admission to the UK. [167943]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 27 November 2007]*: No Iraqi interpreters or other employees of the British armed forces have yet been granted admission to the UK under the scheme of assistance for locally engaged Iraqi staff that was announced by the Prime Minister on 8 October, and which was outlined in more detail by the Foreign Secretary in his written ministerial

statement of 30 October. Employing Departments are in the process of confirming eligibility for the scheme from those applicants who have expressed an interest and we are working to ensure suitable reception arrangements are in place for their arrival. We anticipate the first admissions to the UK will take place in late January.

Information on how many interpreters or other employees of the British forces have been granted admission to the UK outside this scheme is only available at disproportionate cost.

Frontiers: Northern Ireland

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether there are plans to establish border controls between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland; [168401]

(2) what contribution the Irish government makes to the Common Travel Area. [168409]

Mr. Byrne: There are no fixed controls on either side of the land border and there is no intention of introducing such controls in the future for political and practical reasons.

Since 1997, Ireland has maintained an immigration control on non-CTA nationals arriving directly from the UK by air and sea. British and Irish passengers are only required to show an acceptable form of photo-identification to prove their nationality and exempt them from immigration control. Irish Garda National Immigration Bureau work collaboratively with UK border agencies and run regular intelligence-led operations to counter immigration risks to the intra CTA borders. These joint operations have successfully prevented non-CTA nationals attempting to cross the boundary illegally in both directions.

Frontiers: Security

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the implications are of an e-borders system circumscribing Great Britain for travel between mainland Britain and Northern Ireland; and what documents will be required under the proposed e-border system for travel between Britain and Northern Ireland. [168443]

Mr. Byrne: The police service already screens passengers travelling between Northern Ireland and the mainland and there are no plans to introduce passport controls for those travelling on domestic journeys.

Section 14 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 introduced a new power that will allow the police to capture passenger, crew and service information on air and sea journeys within the United Kingdom. The intention is that the power will be brought into force by secondary legislation in 2008. The specific police requirements under this power, which will include details of the routes affected and data required, are still under discussion within Government. Once the proposals have been finalised they will be subject to a 12-week public consultation.

It is expected that this police power will only apply to air and sea routes between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Passengers will not be required to use passports, but may be required to produce one of several types of documentation, including passports, when travelling, to enable the carrier to the meet the requirements of a police request.

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much revenue was received in fines from employers who knowingly gave a job to an illegal immigrant in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [169705]

Mr. Byrne: Under section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 it is a criminal offence to employ a person, aged 16 or over, who is subject to immigration control and who is not entitled to work in the UK or to undertake the employment in question. Prosecution statistics for section 8 collated by the Border and Immigration Agency do not distinguish between cases involving employers convicted because they simply failed to carry out specified document checks and those cases in which employers were found knowingly to have acted in contravention of the 1996 Act and lost their statutory defence against conviction.

Information is available on total fines imposed by the courts following conviction for the section 8 offence. In 2006, the total amount imposed in fines by the courts under section 8 was £25,570. In 2007 (up to and including 30 November 2007), the total amount imposed by the courts was £41,623. The Border and Immigration Agency's crime management information database was established on 1 April 2006 and figures from before this date are not available. These figures represent management information which is updated on a daily basis and may be subject to change. These figures represent prosecutions instigated by investigators in the Enforcement and Compliance Directorate of the Border and Immigration Agency only.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants have been found to be employed by her Department in 2007. [173383]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 11 December 2007]:* I informed the House—17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 966W—that, as a result of prioritised enforcement action undertaken by the Border and Immigration Agency with respect to the Security Industry, one member of staff employed by a sub-contractor providing services to the Department was identified as not having the right to work within the United Kingdom. This person was immediately detained and has since been deported.

As a result of this discovery, the permanent secretary ordered a review of the immigration status and entitlement to work in the United Kingdom of over 30,000 people employed by and contracted to the Department.

This review will be completed by the end of February 2008.

Immigration Controls

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for which compliance offences by sponsors of migrants her Department plans to seek *(a)* civil penalties and *(b)* prosecution. [172965]

Mr. Byrne: The employment of an illegal migrant worker who does not have leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom, or is not permitted to undertake the employment in question, may make an employer liable for payment of a civil penalty or prosecution under the new measures in the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006, which will come into force on 29 February 2008. The law on preventing illegal migrant working in the United Kingdom (UK) applies to all UK employers, whether or not they are licensed to sponsor migrant workers.

Employers who are on the points based system register of licensed sponsors will face alternative sanctions for failing to comply with their responsibilities, as set out in the statement of intent for sponsorship under the points based system. For instance, non-compliant sponsors may and in some cases must have their licence withdrawn or downgraded from being an A-rated sponsor to being a rated sponsor. If an employer who is also a sponsor is found to have employed illegal migrants that will be taken into account in reviewing their sponsorship status.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of organisations that are likely to be B-rated when her Department begins to license organisations for the sponsorship of migrant workers; and if she will make a statement. [172974]

Mr. Byrne: The criteria for B-rated sponsors have clearly been set out in the Statement of Intent. However, it is not possible to predict accurately sponsor behaviour and hence the number of organisations that will be B-rated.

Immigration: Crime

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were detained for suspected immigration offences in each of the last 10 years. [177038]

Mr. Byrne: The requested information is not available.

The Home Office publishes a quarterly snapshot of people detained solely under Immigration Act powers on the last Saturday of each quarter starting from the third quarter of 2001. These data exclude persons detained in police cells and those detained under both criminal and immigration powers.

Statistics on persons recorded as leaving detention solely under Immigration Act powers during 2005 and between January and September 2006 have also been published.

The number of prisoners detained awaiting trial for immigration offences is not available because the offences are not recorded centrally to this level of detail.

Copies of these publications may be found in the quarterly asylum web pages and in the annual statistical bulletin Asylum Statistics United Kingdom and the Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom. Copies of these publications and others relating to general immigration to the UK are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Immigration: Hillingdon

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to remove asylum seekers who have exhausted all appeals in the London Borough of Hillingdon. [171115]

Mr. Byrne: The removal of asylum seekers who have exhausted all appeals remains a priority for the Border and Immigration Agency across the United Kingdom. We are committed to clearing, by July 2011, the backlog of unresolved electronic and paper asylum records within the Border and Immigration Agency.

Since 5 March 2007, regional asylum teams have managed all new asylum claims under an end-to-end case ownership process. Asylum case owners in West London are working with all of their local authorities, including Hillingdon, to manage cases through to integration or removal. The asylum teams have a target of 40 per cent. of cases to be concluded within six months by December 2007.

Immigration: Manpower

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how the caseworkers for the immigration legacy exercise were recruited and on what basis; and if she will make a statement. [177353]

Mr. Byrne: Permanent members of staff deployed as caseworkers in the case resolution directorate of the Border and Immigration Agency have been selected on merit through fair and open competition and in accordance with the Civil Service Commissioners' Recruitment Code.

Migrant Workers

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what checks are carried out by her Department into the nationality and immigration status of job applicants before offers of employment are made; and if she will make a statement. [177861]

Jacqui Smith: Potential Home Office employees who are UK citizens may demonstrate their identity in a variety of ways in accordance with central guidance promulgated by the Cabinet Office; for example, by presenting a passport, current UK photo driving license or birth certificate. Electronic and paper records held by the Department and its agencies are also used to help validate the evidence supplied by the applicant. Where an applicant is not a UK citizen, the

Department undertakes checks to demonstrate that the individual is lawfully in the UK and entitled to work in the UK.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what checks employers are expected to carry out on the nationality and immigration status of job applicants before offers of employment are made; and if she will make a statement. [177862]

Jacqui Smith: Employers are advised to see, copy and retain the copy of specified document(s) belonging to prospective employees that demonstrate that they are entitled to undertake the employment in question. Such action provides a statutory defence against a conviction for the offence of employing an illegal migrant worker under section eight of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996. The employer must also satisfy himself that the document(s) belong to the holder.

Such document(s) are issued or endorsed by the UK Government or issued by another Government and demonstrate that the individual is lawfully in the UK and entitled to undertake the work in question. Some documents, such as a full UK birth certificate, will only provide a statutory defence when produced in combination with other documents such as an appropriately documented permanent national insurance number.

Employers are advised to undertake these checks on every prospective employee. An individual's race, ethnicity or religion is no indication of their right to work here and employers have a legal duty under race relations legislation to avoid unlawfully discriminating on racial grounds.

Migrants: English Language

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the pass rate was of those taking the *(a)* English language test and *(b)* Life in the UK test with a view to obtaining UK citizenship in each year since these requirements were introduced; and how many people (i) took and (ii) passed these tests in each year, broken down by nationality. [162957]

Mr. Byrne: The English Language tests are provided by a variety of further education, adult and community colleges across the UK and information on the numbers taking these courses and the pass rate for these courses is not available.

The Knowledge of Life (KOL) test was introduced in November 2005 for citizenship applicants. The overall pass rate since the test was introduced is 67.5 per cent. A breakdown of the numbers taking the test for each year with a view to applying for citizenship is as follows:

During 2005 (October to December), 7,398 took the test, 5,249 passed (71 per cent.) and 2,149 failed.

During 2006, 155,877 took the test, 105,402 passed (67.6 per cent.) and 50,475 failed.

During 2007 (January to October) 195,319 took the test, 131,549 passed (67.4 per cent.) and 63,770 failed.

The aforementioned information is based on the information provided by applicants when taking their test. In April 2007 the Home Office extended the Knowledge of Life test to those applying for settlement in the UK. Some applicants who intended to apply for citizenship may have in error selected settlement as the reason for taking their test.

The pass rates for different nationalities are set out in the tables placed in the House Library. This information is based on the nationality selected by applicants when taking their test. Some applicants through human error may select the wrong nationality.

Mr. Chanceless Takaruva

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the residency status is of Mr. Chanceless Takaruva and his family, residents of Skelmersdale, West Lancashire (Home Office ref: T1095080). [178930]

Mr. Byrne: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 287W.

National Asylum Support Service and the Border and Immigration Agency

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* people and *(b)* units of accommodation were supported by the National Asylum Support Service and the Border and Immigration Agency in the City of Newcastle through (i) the city as housing provider and (ii) other providers in each quarter of (A) 2005, (B) 2006 and (C) 2007. [172045]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 6 December 2007]:* The statistics relating to asylum seekers in receipt of support are published on a quarterly and annual basis. Copies of the reports are available in the House of Commons Library and on the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Further breakdowns of those in receipt of support from Borders and Immigration Agency, by parliamentary constituency, are also available from the Library of the House.

The total number of cases supported in accommodation in Newcastle upon Tyne at the end of each of the relevant quarters split between cases accommodated by North East Consortium for Asylum and Refugee Support (NECARS) and by other providers. The City of Newcastle is the consortium provider in Newcastle upon Tyne. These data are in the following table.

Quarter	*Other*	*NECARS*
2005		
Q1	350	340
Q2	300	320
Q3	260	300
Q4	200	310
2006		
Q1	140	310
Q2	190	320

Quarter	Other	NECARS
Q3	290	390
Q4	300	380
2007		
Q1	370	350
Q2	410	350
Q3	320	530

Offenders

Miss Widdecombe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted under the Hunting Act 2004 in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006, broken down by police force area. [177950]

Mr. Coaker: Data showing the number of defendants proceeded against, found guilty, cautioned and fined under the Hunting Act 2004, broken down by police force area, are in the following below table.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts, found guilty at all courts and fined, and the number of offenders cautioned by the police of offences under the Hunting Act 2004, England and Wales, by Police force area[1, 2, 3, 4]

Police force area	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Fined	Cautioned
2005				
Merseyside	1	1	1	1
Northumbria				
Thames Valley	2	2	2	
Total	3	3	3	1
2006				
Cheshire	2	2	2	
Durham	1			
Essex	4	3	3	
Humberside	4			
Total	11	5	5	0

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] The Hunting Act 2004 came into force in February 2005.
[4] Where police forces are not listed assume a nil figure.

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average cost of returning a non-UK prisoner to serve his or her sentence in their home country. [177454]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

Under existing international prisoner transfer agreements to which the UK is a party, the cost of repatriating a prisoner and his continued detention following transfer is a matter for the state to which the prisoner is transferred.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether records are kept or exist of the number of judicial recommendations for deportation of convicted criminals each year. [177871]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Her Majesty's Court Service maintains a central database of completed criminal proceedings in the Crown court. This contains a record of judicial recommendations for deportation made in relation to defendants in these proceedings.

Defendants with judicial recommendations for deportation in the Crown court, 2002-06

	Number
2002	1,073
2003	889
2004	935
2005	1,439
2006	1,882

Opium: Licensing

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many licences have been issued for growing poppies for medical purposes; and in which counties growers are licensed. [178025]

Mr. Coaker: The growing of opium poppies for medical purposes is not licensed under either international law, via the 1961 UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, or domestic law, via the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Control arrangements in other growing countries are not known.

Passports: Lost Property

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK passports issued in Belfast were reported as either lost or stolen in 2006. [175642]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* Of the total processed reports of loss or theft of a British passport in 2006, 15,316 were originally issued by the Belfast office.

Police

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* operational police officers per head of population there were in each police authority in England in each of the last five years. [172860]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Police officer strength by police force area, as at 31 March 2003 (FTE)[1, 2]

Police force	Total officers per 100,000 population[3]	Total operational officers per 100,000 population[4]
London forces		
London, City of	*	*
Metropolitan Police	404	336

Police officer strength by police force area, as at 31 March 2003 (FTE)[1,2]

Police force	Total officers per 100,000 population[3]	Total operational officers per 100,000 population[3]
Metropolitan forces		
Greater Manchester	298	278
Merseyside	302	270
Northumbria	290	264
South Yorkshire	252	221
West Midlands	307	278
West Yorkshire	242	233
Shire county forces		
Avon and Somerset	213	200
Bedfordshire	198	182
Cambridgeshire	196	166
Cheshire	217	191
Cleveland[4]	294	215
Cumbria	237	228
Derbyshire	210	185
Devon and Cornwall	204	190
Dorset	205	191
Durham	281	251
Essex	186	177
Gloucestershire	219	199
Hampshire	208	196
Hertfordshire	191	177
Humberside	244	232
Kent	221	205
Lancashire	239	221
Leicestershire	232	211
Lincolnshire	191	178
Norfolk	189	176
Northamptonshire	194	183
North Yorkshire	193	182
Nottinghamshire	239	215
Staffordshire[4]	212	190
Suffolk	188	182
Surrey	182	164
Sussex	203	189
Thames Valley	186	168
Warwickshire	198	176
West Mercia	196	163
Wiltshire	190	174
Wales forces		
Dyfed-Powys	237	221
Gwent	244	226
North Wales	234	220
South Wales	273	253

[1] Full-time equivalent. This figure includes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[2] This and other tables contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[3] Officers per 100,000 population for City of London and Metropolitan Police are combined.
[4] Functional group totals do not match published figures. Data quality may be an issue with this force.

Police officer strength by police force area, as at 31 March 2004 (FTE)[1,2]

Police force	Total officers per 100,000 population[3]	Total operational officers per 100,000 population[3]
London forces		
London, City of	*	*
Metropolitan Police	420	351
Metropolitan forces		
Greater Manchester	323	301
Merseyside	303	269
Northumbria	294	269
South Yorkshire	261	238
West Midlands	311	281
West Yorkshire	254	245
Shire county forces		
Avon and Somerset	229	216
Bedfordshire	210	195
Cambridgeshire	197	170
Cheshire	224	199
Cleveland	314	269
Cumbria	254	244
Derbyshire	216	194
Devon and Cornwall	208	194
Dorset	209	182
Durham	288	259
Essex	192	182
Gloucestershire	229	209
Hampshire	211	196
Hertfordshire	204	190
Humberside	256	237
Kent	228	213
Lancashire	252	236
Leicestershire	246	228
Lincolnshire	189	177
Norfolk	190	176
Northamptonshire	198	188
North Yorkshire	203	188
Nottinghamshire	245	225
Staffordshire	218	196
Suffolk	196	189
Surrey	183	164
Sussex	206	193
Thames Valley	195	179
Warwickshire	197	176
West Mercia	202	190
Wiltshire	198	184
Wales forces		
Dyfed-Powys	236	227
Gwent	248	231
North Wales	243	222
South Wales	275	251

[1] Full-time equivalent. This figure includes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[2] This and other tables contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[3] Officers per 100,000 population for City of London and Metropolitan Police are combined.

Police officer strength by police force area, as at 31 March 2005 (FTE)[1,2]

Police force	Total officers per 100,000 population[3]	Total operational officers per 100,000 population[4]
London forces		
London, City of	*	*
Metropolitan Police	433	358
Metropolitan forces		
Greater Manchester	321	294
Merseyside	318	281
Northumbria	294	279
South Yorkshire	260	235
West Midlands	316	286
West Yorkshire	271	260
Shire county forces		
Avon and Somerset	225	212
Bedfordshire	215	192
Cambridgeshire	194	165
Cheshire	223	194
Cleveland	305	256
Cumbria	257	247
Derbyshire	213	190
Devon and Cornwall	212	198
Dorset	211	182
Durham	293	260
Essex	198	187
Gloucestershire	230	208
Hampshire	212	191
Hertfordshire	206	195
Humberside	255	232
Kent	227	200
Lancashire[5]	251	236
Leicestershire	246	
Lincolnshire	185	174
Norfolk	192	174
Northamptonshire[6]	201	192
North Yorkshire	206	188
Nottinghamshire	245	229
Staffordshire	220	198
Suffolk	195	188
Surrey	184	157
Sussex	205	186
Thames Valley	198	179
Warwickshire	195	183
West Mercia	203	189
Wiltshire	198	182
Wales forces		
Dyfed-Powys	237	217
Gwent	259	240
North Wales[5]	250	
South Wales	273	249

[1] Full-time equivalent. This figure includes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[2] This and other tables contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[3] Officers per 100,000 population for City of London and Metropolitan Police are combined.
[4] Functional group totals do not match published figures. Data quality may be an issue with this force.
[5] Force was not able to provide data on functional groups.

Police officer strength by police force area, as at 31 March 2006 (FTE)[1,2]

Police force	Total officers per 100,000 population[3]	Total operational officers per 100,000 population[4]
London forces		
London, City of	*	*
Metropolitan Police	417	341
Metropolitan forces		
Greater Manchester	318	288
Merseyside	315	276
Northumbria	291	276
South Yorkshire	259	237
West Midlands	318	288
West Yorkshire	270	261
Shire county forces		
Avon and Somerset	226	213
Bedfordshire	213	194
Cambridgeshire	196	162
Cheshire	223	195
Cleveland	308	231
Cumbria	256	232
Derbyshire	212	190
Devon and Cornwall	219	201
Dorset	216	186
Durham	288	250
Essex	203	192
Gloucestershire	228	206
Hampshire	211	189
Hertfordshire	208	197
Humberside	251	231
Kent	227	195
Lancashire	253	235
Leicestershire	241	221
Lincolnshire	183	172
Norfolk	193	175
Northamptonshire	207	191
North Yorkshire	216	200
Nottinghamshire	243	228
Staffordshire	219	195
Suffolk	191	185
Surrey	184	155
Sussex	207	187

Police officer strength by police force area, as at 31 March 2006
(FTE)[1,2]

Police force	*Total officers per 100,000 population*[3]	*Total operational officers per 100,000 population*[3]
Thames Valley	202	178
Warwickshire	198	187
West Mercia	202	187
Wiltshire	196	177
Wales forces		
Dyfed-Powys	237	215
Gwent	264	244
North Wales	242	223
South Wales	271	243

[1] Full-time equivalent. This figure includes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[2] This and other tables contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[3] Officers per 100,000 population for City of London and Metropolitan Police are combined.

Police officer strength by police force area, as at 31 March 2007
FTE[1,2]

Police force	*Total officers per 100,000 population*[3]	*Total operational officers per 100,000 population*[3]
London forces		
London, City of	*	*
Metropolitan Police[4]	426	328
Metropolitan forces		
Greater Manchester	314	285
Merseyside	325	294
Northumbria	283	269
South Yorkshire	256	235
West Midlands[5]	318	285
West Yorkshire[5]	270	
Shire county forces		
Avon and Somerset	224	205
Bedfordshire	207	189
Cambridgeshire	187	155
Cheshire	225	204
Cleveland	315	233
Cumbria	255	235
Derbyshire	209	189
Devon and Cornwall	216	198
Dorset[4]	217	191
Durham	285	256
Essex[4]	203	196
Gloucestershire	229	205
Hampshire	215	191
Hertfordshire	210	198
Humberside	251	233
Kent	229	198
Lancashire	252	233
Leicestershire	237	217
Lincolnshire	183	171
Norfolk	191	175
Northamptonshire	200	183

Police officer strength by police force area, as at 31 March 2007
FTE[1,2]

Police force	*Total officers per 100,000 population*[3]	*Total operational officers per 100,000 population*[3]
North Yorkshire	217	198
Nottinghamshire	235	222
Staffordshire[4]	219	202
Suffolk	196	189
Surrey[4]	183	161
Sussex	205	184
Thames Valley	199	170
Warwickshire	199	187
West Mercia	205	189
Wiltshire	192	166
Wales forces		
Dyfed-Powys	236	213
Gwent	268	249
North Wales	238	219
South Wales	273	245

[1] Full-time equivalent. This figure includes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[2] This and other tables contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[3] Officers per 100,000 population for City of London and Metropolitan Police are combined.
[4] Functional group totals do not match published figures. Data quality may be an issue with this force.
[5] Force was not able to provide data on functional groups.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1056-60W and 1072-6W, on police, if she will provide figures for 2007. [17421]

Mr. McNulty: The management of the police estate and allocation of resources are matters for each police authority and the chief officer, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

Latest published statistics on police officer numbers can be found in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin (no 13/07) "Police Service Strength, England and Wales, 31 March 2007". A copy has been placed in the Library. It is also available on the Home Office website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1307.pdf

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces use mobile police stations; if she will take steps to require such forces to provide more (*a*) officers on the beat and (*b*) high speed police cars; and if she will make a statement. [176066]

Mr. McNulty: The management of the police estate and allocation of resources are matters for each police authority and the chief officer, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of police posts which have been civilianised in (*a*) Northamptonshire and (*b*) England since the publication of Building Communities, Beating Crime in November 2004. [177918]

Mr. McNulty: Between September 2004 (the nearest date to the White Paper "Building Communities, Beating Crime") and March 2007 police officer numbers in Northamptonshire increased by 17 (+1.3 per cent.) to 1,281. For England officer numbers have increased during the same period by 1,617 (+1.2 per cent.) to 132,474.

Police Stations: Closures

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police stations closed in (*a*) Suffolk and (*b*) the east of England in each year since 1997. [175720]

Mr. McNulty: The management of the police estate and allocation of resources are matters for each police authority and the chief officer, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

Police: Expenditure

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will rank police forces in order of expenditure per thousand population in each police force area. [176060]

Mr. McNulty: Police expenditure is determined by each authority within funding by grant and council tax. Government general grant is determined by formula which takes account of a number of factors, not just population.

Information on police authority expenditure and population are set out in the following table:

Police authority total gross revenue expenditure and population 2007-08

Police authority	*Total gross revenue expenditure (£000)*	*Police estimate at June 2007 (Thousand)*
Avon and Somerset	281,060	1,546,800
Bedfordshire	103,959	582,600
Cambridgeshire	128,665	732,900
Cheshire	187,702	1,000,400
City of London	86,884	327,200
Cleveland	138,836	546,700
Cumbria	112,257	502,900
Derbyshire	172,336	989,300
Devon and Cornwall	288,259	1,629,400
Dorset	127,657	709,700
Durham	129,388	599,000
Dyfed-Powys	98,342	504,500
Essex	289,052	1,665,000
Gloucestershire	115,575	577,400
Greater Manchester	612,035	2,547,700
Gwent	122,204	555,200
Hampshire	324,382	1,800,000
Hertfordshire	192,476	1,056,700
Humberside	182,196	887,500
Kent	316,396	1,634,400
Lancashire	287,976	1,451,800
Leicestershire	177,979	950,000
Lincolnshire	108,166	696,500
Merseyside	355,662	1,355,000
Metropolitan Police	3,341,236	7,500,000
Norfolk	156,716	833,700
North Wales	145,150	674,000
North Yorkshire	147,613	768,700
Northamptonshire	124,424	658,200
Northumbria	317,695	1,385,100
Nottinghamshire	205,545	1,038,300
South Wales	268,595	1,224,500
South Yorkshire	264,662	1,285,600
Staffordshire	191,039	1,050,700
Suffolk	115,994	692,100
Surrey	205,514	1,083,500
Sussex	291,233	1,517,400
Thames Valley	394,881	2,152,000
Warwickshire	94,891	534,500
West Mercia	208,807	1,191,700
West Midlands	680,058	2,590,000
West Yorkshire	465,867	2,125,000
Wiltshire	112,539	630,600

Source:
CIPFA Police Statistics 2007-08 Estimates

Police: Firearms

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department under what circumstances and on whose authority police officers may use hollow-point dum-dum bullets; what assessment she has made of whether use of such bullets is compatible with the UK's international obligations; and if she will make a statement. [177207]

Mr. McNulty: It is for chief officers to decide what ammunition and weapons are appropriate to use in order to meet their own operational requirements, subject to the general law that use of force by the police must be reasonable in the circumstances.

Police: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers have been in post in the London Borough of Havering since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [176794]

Mr. McNulty: While the Home Office has collected police officer data at police force area level since 1997, it only started collecting police officer data at a more local level, namely police basic command units (BCUs), in 2003. For this reason we can only provide figures for Havering (a Metropolitan police BCU) from 2003, and they appear in the following table.

Number of police officers in the London borough of Havering 2003-07

As at 31 March each year	*Police officers (FTE)*[1]
2003	340
2004	343
2005	383
2006	380
2007	383

[1] All figures are full-time equivalents (FTE) rounded to the nearest whole number.

Police: ICT

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (*a*) how many and (*b*) what percentage of (i) police stations and (ii) police forces had livescan units, in each year since 1997. [176055]

Mr. McNulty: Information relating to the number, and the percentage, of police forces with Livescan in each year since 2001 is available and is contained in the following table:

	Number of police forces with Livescan	Percentage of police forces with Livescan
2001	17	34.50
2002	31	63
2003	33	67.70
2004	39	81.40
2005	39	81.40
2006	43	100
2007	43	100

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the (*a*) reliability and (*b*) effectiveness of headcam technology in tackling crime, if she will make resources available to make this technology more widely available to the police, and if she will make a statement. [176301]

Mr. McNulty: A number of police forces have participated in trialling head cam (or 'body-worn video device') technology. This exercise was completed in April 2007 and a report, capturing the learning from the trials and providing other advice, was made available to the police service in July 2007.

In addition, all police forces will benefit from a £3 million Government investment in the current financial year for the procurement of 'body- worn video device' devices. This is in recognition of the potential for delivering operational and efficiency gains associated with this kind of technology. The wider roll-out of this body-worn video technology will be fully evaluated later this year.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions since 2 May 1997 her Department has issued a correction to police numbers statistics. [176298]

Mr. McNulty: No official records are kept of all corrections to police numbers statistics since 1997. Corrections are however rare and usually occur only after corrected data have been supplied from individual forces. If corrections of errors are required the National Statistics protocols on errors and revisions are followed.

Where the error is significant, in that the resultant change would qualify or contradict the conclusions that would previously have been drawn from the data, the protocols would require that Home Office would amend the electronic version of the release as soon as possible and include a prominent alert on the website to notify users of the change.

On only one occasion since 1997 has a significant error occurred to police numbers statistics. The statistical bulletin on Police Service Strength in England and Wales for 30 September 2000 was re-printed after one large police force notified the Home Office of large corrections to its officer numbers. This was enough to affect the direction of the national trend. At the time, the bulletin was not produced electronically, but the correction was highlighted on the front page and a re-printed version issued to all subscribers, including the media.

Police: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many police authorities have been provided with private finance initiative (PFI) credits for new buildings and major refurbishments, what the capital value of each such project is, how many new buildings are proposed within each project, and at what stage they are in the PFI procurement process; [176304]

(2) which private finance initiative projects are (*a*) under way and (*b*) under consideration in each police force area in England and Wales. [176310]

Mr. McNulty: The following table lists all forces that have Home Office supported PFI projects either operationally in use or in construction.

Police force	Project	Equivalent capital cost £ million	Current status	Number of new buildings	Number of refurbished buildings
Cheshire	Force headquarters	35	Operational	1	0
Cheshire	Centralised custody suites	17	Operational	3	0
Cleveland	Action stations	29	Operational	4	0
Cleveland and Durham	Firearms facility	6	Operational	1	0
Cumbria	Workington police station	5	Operational	1	0
Derbyshire	Ilkeston police station	3	Operational	1	0
Derbyshire	Divisional HQ and city police station	16.4	Operational	2	0
Dorset	Divisional HQ and 3 new police stations	15	Operational	7	1
Dorset	Dorset Emergency Services Partnership Initiative	40	In construction	3	0
Dyfed Powys	Ammanford police station	8	Operational	1	0
Gloucestershire	Force headquarters	17	Operational	1	0
Greater Manchester	Property Review - Divisional/Sub Divisional HQ and police stations	60	Operational	16	0

Police force	Project	Equivalent capital cost (£ million)	Current status	Number of new buildings	Number of refurbished buildings
Gwent	Ystrad Mynach Police Station	6	Operational	1	
Kent	Divisional headquarters—Medway	22	Operational	1	0
Kent	Divisional headquarters—North Kent	32	In construction	1	0
Norfolk	Headquarters, Operations and Communications Centre	23	Operational	6	0
Norfolk and Suffolk	Custody services		Developing Final Business Case		
North Wales	Divisional headquarters and Major Incident Unit	15	Operational	3	0
Northumbria	Mounted facilities	1	Operational	1	0
Nottinghamshire	Traffic Wing and Vehicles Services	20	Operational	2	0
Sussex	Centralised custody suites	17	Operational	4	1
Thames Valley	Abingdon Area divisional headquarters	8	Operational	1	0
Wiltshire	Divisional headquarters and satellite facilities	19.6	Operational	1	0
Wiltshire	Air support	3	Operational		

Note: Three other forces are developing Outline Business Cases

Police: Vehicles

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many pedestrians have been hit by police vehicles in each of the last five years; how many of these incidents have been investigated by the Independent Police Complaints Commission and what the conclusions were of each investigation. [176995]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 9 January 2008]*: Responsibility for the collation and publication of studies and statistics relating to road traffic incidents involving police vehicles rests with the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

Police: Volunteers

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken to support volunteers who work for the police, with special reference to staffing police stations. [176063]

Mr. McNulty: Non-uniformed volunteers make a very useful contribution to the work of the regular police service in that they are able to undertake a multitude of tasks which help free officers for frontline operational duties. They can often bring with them a range of specialist and unique skills that may not be readily available, for example, knowledge of forensic accountancy in the context of fraud investigations.

There are a number of initiatives in place to support the work of police volunteer support staff who help to staff police stations. This includes the provision of best practice guidance and awards in recognition of outstanding achievement. There are currently around 3,000 non-uniformed volunteers, and it is envisaged that this number will increase through a marketing and awareness campaign.

The Special Constabulary is staffed by volunteers, but is not used to staff police stations.

Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many seasonal agricultural workers scheme permit-holders are believed to have defaulted and failed to return at the end of the permit period in each of the last five years. [163620]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 15 November 2007]*: The information requested is not available.

All allegations of employment abuse are treated seriously.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will ensure that the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme continues to recognise the distinction between migrants entering the UK and students gaining work experience in this country as part of their higher education courses before returning to their countries of origin. [165644]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 19 November 2007]*: From 2008, the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme will make no distinction between migrants entering the UK and students gaining work experience.

This distinction has been removed in order to ensure that while applications are accepted only from Romania and Bulgaria, in line with our obligations under EU law, there is a sufficient labour pool for SAWS operators to meet the SAWS quota.

In 2007, only 40 per cent. of the SAWS quota need be filled by applications from Romanian and Bulgarian workers, recognising the commitments some operators had made prior to announcement of the decision to restrict access to the scheme. In 2008, the SAWS quota will be 16,250, and applications will only be accepted from Romania and Bulgaria.

Written Questions

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to answer question 162141, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 6 November, on non-EU citizens. [171129]

Mr. Byrne: I answered the hon. Members' previous question on 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 481W.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to answer question 162345, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 6 November, on the Worker Registration Scheme. [171130]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 481W.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to answer question 162352, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 6 November, on highly skilled workers. [171131]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 453-54W.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to answer question 162672, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 6 November, on highly skilled migrants. [171132]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 481-84W.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Overseas Aid

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what funding his Department has allocated to support food aid programmes in developing African countries in the last five years. [176633]

(2) what funding his Department has allocated to provide safe, clean drinking water in developing African countries in the last five years; [176634]

(3) what funding his Department has allocated to support skills training in developing African countries in the last five years; [176635]

(4) what funding his Department has allocated to support AIDS and HIV education and prevention programmes in developing African countries in the last five years; [176636]

(5) what funding his Department has allocated to support health improvement programmes in developing African countries in the last five years; [176637]

(6) what funding his Department has allocated to support education programmes in developing African countries in the last five years; [176638]

(7) what funding his Department has allocated to support the development of agriculture in developing African countries in the last five years. [176639]

Mr. Thomas: Details on the amount of DFID's bilateral expenditure in Africa spent directly in each sector over the last five years are shown in the following table. The data are not mutually exclusive.

Table 1: DFID bilateral expenditure in Africa, by sector, 2002-03 to 2006-07

£ millions

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Total bilateral expenditure	740.7	711.8	868.0	1,139.8	1,135.0
Food aid and security	93.6	53.6	35.2	65.6	33.8
Water and sanitation	4.3	4.2	4.5	10.8	23.3
Skills development	9.2	9.8	9.4	14.0	16.3
Health	122.2	133.2	173.2	199.8	221.1
Education	104.9	106.5	125.5	136.3	157.3
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	37.7	37.3	41.0	34.0	31.2
HIV and AIDS	92.8	112.0	133.5	170.3	171.5

These data do not include funding in Africa delivered through DFID's multilateral assistance.

African Caribbean and Pacific Countries: EC External Trade

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when his Department's website will be updated in relation to the conclusion of economic partnership agreements by the 31 December 2007 deadline. [177798][1]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development's website pages on Economic Partnership Agreements were updated on 10 December 2007 and again on 14 January 2008.

Departmental Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when a reply will be sent to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire's letter, dated 22 November 2007, on the Kenyan government. [179003]

Mr. Malik: The reply to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire's letter of 22 November 2007 has been issued.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what efficiency savings projects his Department put in place under the Spending Review 2004 targets; on what date each was initiated; how much each was expected to contribute to the target; how much was saved by each; and if he will make a statement. [164153]

1. *[Official Report, 16 January 2008, Vol. 470, c. 12MC.]*

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The answers to the following parts of the above question are contained in the reply given to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1062W:

(i) the efficiency savings projects DFID put in place under the Spending Review 2004 targets;

(ii) the date each was initiated; and

(iii) how much each was expected to contribute to the target.

The savings generated by each component of the target are as follows:

£ million

Efficiency component	*Cumulative savings by end of 2005-06*	*Cumulative savings by end of 2006-07*
Increase the percentage of our country programmes spent on programme-based approaches (the target savings for this action to produce by March 2008 is £113 million)	13	15
Increase value for money from procurement (target £10 million)	6	6
Improve our bilateral project performance (target £173 million)	73	298
Increase our contribution to low income countries through EC aid (target £31 million)	21	27
Increase our support to the International Development Association (target £75 million)	0	62
Reduce our administration costs (£20 million)	0	17
Total	113	425

The administrative cost category includes targets to reduce UK-based full-time staff to 1,610 by March 2008 (from 1,907 in March 2004) and a target to relocate 85 posts from the London office to East Kilbride. We have already exceeded our relocation target and by the second quarter of 2007-08 we had reduced our headcount by 232 UK-based full-time equivalent posts (our target by end March 2008 is 297).

On the basis of efficiencies realised by the end of 2006-07 and the current rate of progress in 2007-08 we are on course to exceed our efficiency target of £420 million of sustainable efficiencies by the end of 2007-08. A further update on progress in 2007-08 will be provided in the forthcoming Autumn Performance Report.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recycling schemes are in operation in each building operated by his Department. [176349]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development has recycling schemes in place at both UK offices. All paper, aluminium cans, paper cups and cardboard are segregated in house and transported to the waste depot where the contractor further separates the mixed general waste. IT equipment and furniture is given to charitable organisations.

During 2004-05 DFID changed waste contractors at both buildings. The new waste contractors guarantee they will recycle at least 75 per cent. of all our waste and they provide monthly environmental reports with detailed breakdowns of the various waste streams. Hazardous waste such as fluorescent tubes is stored securely and uplifted by specialist waste contractors.

Developing Countries: Health

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when his Department will respond to Lord Crisp's Report of February 2007; and if he will make a statement. [176651]

Mr. Malik: We have worked closely with other Government Departments, in particular with the Department of Health, and with civil society and professional groups to consider the recommendations of Lord Crisp's report. The Government's response to Lord Crisp's report will be issued shortly by the Inter-Ministerial Group. The response will provide a basis for taking forward those areas of work likely to be most useful in making a sustained difference to helping meet the health needs of developing countries.

Developing Countries: Overseas Aid

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of his Department's budget was spent on budget support for developing countries through *(a)* bilateral, *(b)* multilateral, *(c)* trust fund and *(d)* other arrangements in each of the last five years. [176900]

Mr. Thomas: The following table shows what percentage of DFID bilateral poverty reduction budget support (PRBS) was delivered directly to partner governments and through trust funds over the last five years, and what proportion of DFID's total programme this represents.

Table 1: Proportion of DFID's total programme delivered as bilateral PRBS, 2002-03 to 2006-07

Percentage

	Total DFID bilateral PRBS	*Total delivered direct to partner governments*	*Total delivered through trust funds*
2002-03	6.2	6.2	
2003-04	7.8	7.6	0.3
2004-05	8.9	8.4	0.5
2005-06	10.6	10.1	0.4
2006-07	9.4	8.0	1.4

While some multilateral organisations report the proportion of their programmes delivered as general budget support, they do not report the proportion delivered as sector budget support. As such, an imputed multilateral share for PRBS cannot be calculated.

Disasters Emergency Committee: Agriculture

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will hold discussions with the Disasters Emergency Committee on widening

its membership to include representatives of those working with livestock and animal welfare in emergencies in developing countries; and if he will make a statement. [177444]

Mr. Malik: Membership of the Disasters Emergency Committee, which is independent of Government, is a matter for the Committee. Its purpose is to provide humanitarian relief in overseas disasters. This can and does include help with livestock for the purpose of protecting human life, welfare and livelihoods.

Economic Partnership Agreements

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the timescale is for upgrading interim Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) to full EPAs. [177582]

Mr. Thomas: Of the six interim Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA); four include commitments to conclude a full EPA by 31 December 2008, these are the East African Community, the Pacific, West Africa and Central Africa. The East and Southern Africa EPA aims to conclude a full EPA by 31 July 2009 and the Southern African EPA includes commitments to complete negotiations on services and investment by 31 December 2008 but will only continue negotiations on competition and public procurement when adequate capacity has been built in the region.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many of the countries which have signed an interim economic partnership agreement have expressed an interest in including the Singapore terms in any future agreement. [177668]

Mr. Thomas: All of the current Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) signatory countries have agreed to work towards concluding a comprehensive EPA including trade related areas to which the Singapore issues belong. The Caribbean EPA already includes provisions on investment, competition, public procurement and trade facilitation. The Southern Africa, West Africa, Central Africa and Pacific EPAs all include immediate provisions on trade facilitation. The remaining Singapore issues are covered by commitments to negotiate in the future by all parties.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what safeguard clauses exist to protect African, Caribbean and Pacific producers from import surges in those countries who have concluded an Economic Partnership Agreement. [177583]

Mr. Thomas: All of the signed Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) contain safeguard clauses which provide the EPA signatory countries with the means to protect their industries where a high volume of imports from the EU looks likely to threaten it. These safeguard measures can include an increase in customs duties and/or the introduction of tariff quotas on the products concerned. These safeguards can be introduced where the EU imports are of such volume that they threaten serious injury to the industry producing like or directly competitive products, or where the imports could cause disturbances to a sector of the economy resulting in social problems or a deterioration of the economy. All of the EPAs also contain clauses to protect infant industries, where a high volume of EU imports could threaten an emerging industry producing like or directly competitive products.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what monitoring and review mechanisms exist as part of the economic partnership agreements to enable countries to make their own assessment of the impact of the agreements. [177584]

Mr. Thomas: The specific texts of the agreements and council conclusions approved in November 2007 underpin the EU's commitment to ensure that the implementation of EPAs is properly monitored. We expect the arrangements for each regional review mechanism to take shape over the next few months following further consultation and planning between EU and ACP officials.

The UK pushed strongly at the November General Affairs and External Relations Council to ensure that the conclusions' language on monitoring and review mechanisms reflected a focus on assessing the development impact of EPAs with emphasis on inclusive, participatory processes. In 2008 we will explore with other European partners how to ensure adequate national ownership, capacity and resources for effective monitoring and review mechanisms. We are also in the process of preparing specific initiatives, such as support planned to strengthen monitoring through improved statistical capacity in the Caribbean.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what measures his Department has put in place to assess the effect on those countries which did not conclude an economic partnership agreement by the 31 December 2007 deadline; [177655]

(2) what measures his Department has put in place to make an impact assessment for those countries that have signed (*a*) a full economic partnership agreement and (*b*) an interim arrangement. [177659]

Mr. Thomas: We recognise it is crucial to assess the economic, social and other impacts of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) on the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries which have signed up to them. Over the course of 2007, as part of ongoing plans to strengthen the content and use of impact assessment—we have had discussions with the European Commission and others, particularly on improving the Sustainability Impact Assessments which the Commission is obliged to carry out for trade-related agreements (including EPAs).

Following the launch of both the full and interim EPAs, early work is now underway within DFID and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to review the content of the

agreements and assess how they will work for development. We are working through our offices in the ACP regions, consulting with ACP governments to ascertain their views on the impact of EPAs. In the Caribbean, we are in the process of planning some focused analytical work to identify the constraints and opportunities afforded by EPAs as part of our broader engagement on regional economic integration in the area. More broadly, we will be monitoring the development of the EPA review mechanisms due to be set up in each region. Terms of reference have not yet been developed for these mechanisms but we are investigating opportunities for development partners to be involved and will be working with EU partners, including the Commission on how to ensure national ownership, capacity and resources to ensure their and effectiveness and sustainability.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how the EU will ensure that agricultural exports are duty and tariff free in accordance with the terms of the interim economic partnership agreements. [177646]

Mr. Thomas: On the 20 December, EU Ministers agreed a Regulation which provides all ACP countries which had brought forward WTO compatible market access offers by 31 December 2007, with duty free quota free access for all products being imported into the EU. This Regulation is the legal means by which the duty free quota free market access offer is to be realised and provides an instruction to all EU Governments to allow the qualifying ACP country to export goods to the EU duty and quota free. The EU member state's customs authorities would then update their import entry database. Upon presentation of the appropriate documentation (in this case an EUR1 certificate) from the exporter, which will have been obtained from the Export Issuing Authority in the originating country, proving they are entitled to EPA rates, the products will be given entry into the EU country duty and quota free.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the expected gains are for the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries from the duty and quota free offer from the EU following the EU's change in rules of origin; and whether any further modifications are anticipated. [177669]

Mr. Thomas: Changes in rules of origin for those countries which have signed an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) will primarily benefit those with textile, clothing and fisheries industries where there have been significant relaxations. These industries will now be able to sell more of their products to the EU under the preferential arrangements, where before they would have been excluded. Further changes to rules of origin for the EPA countries are possible as it is open to these countries to request areas for further relaxation. The form that these changes will take will depend on the negotiations which take place in the coming year.

English Language

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on English language classes for staff in the last year for which figures are available. [177426]

Mr. Malik: English language training for staff appointed in country (SAIC) is encouraged in many DFID offices, particularly where English is not the most common second language. For example, DFID Rwanda successfully recently ran English language lessons for SAIC, one at basic level and one at intermediate level.

It is not possible to break down our training costs, to provide the amounts spent on English language training, without incurring a disproportionate cost.

HIV Infection: Medical Treatments

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to support national governments to encourage the provision of co-trimoxazole to all HIV-exposed children *(a)* as a prophylaxis and *(b)* for the treatment of opportunistic infections; and if he will make a statement. [176042]

Mr. Malik: Preventing and treating opportunistic infections are vital components of caring for and treating people, including children, living with HIV. A UK-supported trial in Zambia has shown that providing cotrimoxazole to children with HIV reduced mortality by as much as 43 per cent.

DFID is in the forefront of strengthening health systems and improving access to essential drugs. Cotrimoxazole is on the World Health Organisation's essential drugs list and interventions that improve availability of essential drugs will improve access to it. Essential drugs are intended to be available within the context of functioning health systems at all times in adequate amounts, in the appropriate dosage forms, with assured quality and at a price the individual and the community can afford.

DFID is also working with governments to strengthen their distribution systems for essential drugs. In Zambia we are working with the World Bank to develop a pilot for innovative ways to improve delivery in the public distribution system.

HIV Infection: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make it his policy to earmark at least 10 per cent. of his Department's HIV and AIDS funding for children affected by HIV in the new HIV and AIDS Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [176887]

Mr. Malik: 'Taking Action: the UK's strategy for tackling HIV and AIDS in the developing world', included the commitment to spend at least £150 million on supporting orphans and vulnerable children, out of a total commitment to spend £1.5 billion on tackling HIV and AIDS over the 2005-08 period. We are currently updating 'Taking Action'. The needs and

rights of children affected by AIDS will remain a UK priority when the updated strategy is published this year.

Kenya: Financial Institutions

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to support microfinance institutions during the political disturbances in Kenya. [177864]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Since January 2005 the UK has supported Kenyan microfinance institutions through the multi-donor funded Financial Sector Deepening Trust (£19 million in total since inception) that aims to increase access to financial services for the poor. The trust is an independent entity overseen by a multi-stakeholder board. The trust is currently exploring setting up an emergency facility for the industry to help microfinance institutions assist in the recovery efforts in Kenya.

Kenya: Overseas Aid

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what changes the Government plan to make to the DFID-Kenya country programme following recent events in that country; and if he will make a statement. [177880]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In 2007-08 DFID provided 5£0 million in aid to Kenya. The UK's aid programme in Kenya is directed largely at supporting health, education and social protection for poor Kenyans, and at improving governance in the country; any suspension of the programme would inevitably have a direct and immediate negative impact on the poorest people. It is too early to make decisions about any long-term impact on our aid programme, but we are keeping the programme under review to make sure that it continues to best meet the needs of the poorest Kenyans.

The size and content of the future programme will reflect the extent to which political differences can be resolved and the extent to which we can have an effective development relationship with whatever government emerges from the current crisis.

The DFID team in Kenya are monitoring the humanitarian situation closely. We have contributed £1 million to an appeal by the Red Cross and will provide additional support if needed.

Mott MacDonald

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in what UK aid projects Mott MacDonald have participated in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [175727]

Mr. Thomas: The contracts awarded by the Department for International Development to Mott MacDonald are listed in the following table for the period April 1997 to March 2007. All contracts were awarded following standard procurement procedures. The main focus of Mott MacDonald's involvement with DFID has been in relation to the delivery of development projects to help country governments and partners to reduce poverty.

These figures do not include lower-value contracts issued by DFID's overseas offices, which could be obtained only by incurring disproportionate cost. Those showing a zero value are framework agreements, which allow individual contracts to be called down as required.

Contract/project title	*Country*	*Value (£)*
Sichuan urban environment project	China	749,642
Electrical power study	Montserrat	33,571
Montserrat—emergency fuel facilities—assessment of development option	Montserrat	13,478
Specialist advisory support for the Jiangyin suspension bridge project	China	1,237,108
Betacop—overview study of the final requirements—the rehabilitation of the high voltage transmission system	Bosnia	249,944
Appraisal mission Tanesco diesel stations maintenance	Tanzania	9,410
Environmental management and compliance monitoring	Belize	52,280
Road sector: objective evaluation for bio-engineering	Nepal	48,616
Left bank outfall drain special studies	Pakistan	146,168
Preparation of Betacop	Bosnia	21,412
St. Petersburg water: institutional development plan	Russia	3,468
Bridges for feeder roads	Ghana	7,167
Consultancy to assist marine safety improvement project	Philippines	308,508
Betacop preparations transmission systems: initial overflow and flow modelling	Bosnia	36,331
Recruitment of short-term consultancy sub-station specialist	Bosnia	42,714
Airstrip feasibility study	Montserrat	43,076
St. Petersburg water implementation programme for corporate development support project	Russia	25,211
Review of Scada project	Bangladesh	22,988
Water sector development programme—design phase	China	185,430
Emergency assessment of Sri Salem power station	India	12,461
Betsup joint power co-ordination centre: stage ii institutional support	Bosnia	58,655
Montserrat LPG study	Global (non project specific)	31,250
Montserrat—Carrs Bay fuel depot	Montserrat	21,300
DFID response to world commission on dams	United Kingdom	3,511
Overseas territories—global environment facility	Global (non project specific)	25,915
Provision of professional advice and specialist human resources	Global (non project specific)	0
Northern environmental management and rehabilitation project	Kazakhstan	64,208
Strengthening capacity in environmental project development	Romania	607,917

Contract/project title	*Country*	*Value (£)*
Study on private sector participation in tertiary level service delivery of water and sanitation	United Kingdom	44,947
Strengthening capacity in environmental project preparation	Czech Republic	26,812
Assistance to china water law review	China	241,206
Supporting municipal decision making on private sector involvement in the provision of water and waste	Romania	144,604
Consultant support scoping exercise development capacity in Kavre district development	Nepal	7,667
Sewage collection treatment and disposal consultancy—phase 1	St. Helena	23,804
Advice to infrastructure and urban development dept in the engineering sector	Global (non project specific)	0
Water resources demand management	China	5,948,667
Emergency infrastructure project.	Iraq	4,059,619
Water and sanitation advisor	Iraq	143,180
Review of DFID support to the international programme for technology research in irrigation and drainage	Non specific country	15,995
Water sector programme—interim asset development team leader	Guyana	386,965
Restructuring of the water department	Anguilla	70,216
Southern Iraq employment and services programme	Iraq	529,544
Paper on provision of infrastructure services in post conflict situations	United Kingdom	14,994
Support towards reviewing petroleum energy supply system	Zambia	8,051
Tsunami—water supply strategy (advisor)	Indonesia	30,810
Construction sector transparency initiative—design consultancy	United Kingdom	82,247
Project completion review and report for district maintenance offices capacity building programme	Ethiopia	10,133

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 15 January 2008

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Sentencing: Appeals

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Solicitor-General how many appeals against all sentences on the grounds of undue leniency the Attorney-General has made in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [179353]

The Solicitor-General: The Attorney-General's office publishes annual statistics on unduly lenient sentence references on its website

www.attorneygeneral.gsi.gov.uk.

The following table shows the number of offenders whose sentences were referred to the Court of Appeal as unduly lenient, the number of offenders whose references were subsequently withdrawn and the number of offenders who were therefore brought before the Court of Appeal in each of the last five years for which full statistics have been published.

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Offenders referred to Court of Appeal	148	102	159	127	160
Withdrawn references	9	6	22	19	16
Offenders brought to the Court of Appeal	139	96	137	108	144

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Solicitor-General how many appeals against the minimum tariff applied in cases of indeterminate sentences for public protection on the grounds of undue leniency the Attorney-General has made in each year since that sentence became available to the courts. [179354]

The Solicitor-General: The Attorney-General's office publishes annual statistics on unduly lenient sentence references on its website

www.attorneygeneral.gsi.gov.uk.

The following table shows the number of offenders whose sentences were referred to the Court of Appeal on the basis that the minimum term attached to a sentence of imprisonment for public protection (under section 225 (3) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003) was unduly lenient in each of the years when the sentence was available to the court and for which full statistics have been published.

	Offenders referred
2005[1]	0
2006	2

[1] The legislation came into force on 4 April 2005 and applies to offences committed from that date

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what research the Electoral Commission has conducted into local spending in constituencies by party organisations with incomes of below £25,000 a year. [177636]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that, in 2004 and in 2007, it canvassed all registered accounting units to inquire as to whether their total income or gross expenditure was greater than £25,000 for the prior financial year. Those that were under this threshold were asked to confirm so in writing.

The purpose of the exercise was to confirm which accounting units should be submitting accounts to the commission and which should not. The commission has conducted no research into spending by those associations under the threshold.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1235W, on political parties: finance, what research the Electoral Commission initiated on the operation of the political levy and political funds by trade unions. [177700]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it plans to undertake research on the operation of the political levy and political funds and has arranged a meeting with the United Kingdom Certification Officer.

TRANSPORT

A21

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1909W, on the A21, what stage the tendering process for the A21 Tonbridge to Pembury and A21 Kippings Cross to Lamberhurst improvement has reached; and if she will make a statement. [179362]

Mr. Tom Harris: The tender process began in late March 2007, with invitations to tender. These were returned in early July and assessment was completed during mid-September.

The south east regional bodies have been asked to confirm their support for these schemes on the basis of the latest cost estimates. A decision regarding award of contract for the A21 Tonbridge to Pembury and A21 Kippings Cross to Lamberhurst improvement schemes will need to take this confirmation into account.

British Rail

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was paid in subsidy from the public purse to British Rail in each of the two years preceding privatisation; and how much subsidy for rail services has been paid from the public purse in each year since privatisation. [177164]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is available in National Rail Trends which is published by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR). Copies are available in the Library of the House and on the ORR's website at:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

Cycling: Accidents

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cyclists have been killed in accidents involving left-hand-drive heavy goods vehicles in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [179162]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of pedal cyclists killed in reported road accidents involving at least one foreign registered left-hand-drive heavy goods vehicle in Great Britain for 2005 to 2006 is shown in the following table.

Number of fatalities

	Number
2005	0
2006	2

This information is not available for years prior to 2005.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recycling schemes are in operation in each building operated by her Department. [176371]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table details the recycling schemes currently operated in DfT buildings.

Agency/office location	*Recycling schemes*	*Comments*
Driving Standards Agency (DSA)		
Nottingham	Furniture, cardboard, paper, aluminium cans, printer and photocopier toners.	The agency is currently undertaking a review of waste disposal and is working to reduce waste and increase recycling in an environmentally responsible manner.
430 driving test centres	Varying occupancy agreements prevent us capturing this information so we are unable to supply accurate waste and recycling data at present although they are rolling out a process to capture this data for 2008-09.	
Driver Vehicle and Licensing Agency (DVLA)		
Swansea	Paper, cardboard, cans, glass, silver flake, fluorescent tubes, toner cartridges, IT equipment, kitchen oil, furniture, metal, mobile phones, compact discs, clothes, batteries, wood and wooden pallets.	In the last financial year, 2006-07 the DVLA recycled some 67 per cent. of its waste, and the emphasis now is being placed on waste minimisation.
Local offices	Paper, cardboard, IT equipment, furniture, fluorescent tubes, toner cartridges, CD's, and mobile phones.	
Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA)		
London	Paper, toners, tyres, oil, batteries and confidential waste.	This conforms to Environmental Monitoring Systems ISO1 4001 2004 which is individually assessed by British Standard Institute.
Highways Agency		
All offices	Paper, CD's, fluorescent tubes, hard hats, furniture and batteries.	
Bedford	Additionally, stamps, plastic milk bottle tops, mobile phones, toner cartridges, cards, laptops and cans.	
Leeds	Additionally, cardboard, plastic and cans.	
Manchester	Additionally, spectacles, mobile phones and toners.	
Dorking	Additionally, cardboard, cans, bottles and food (wormery).	
Exeter	Additionally, glass, mixed metal and plastic.	
London	Additionally, toners, mobile phones and spectacles, glass and cans.	
Birmingham	Additionally, cardboard, cans, toners and mobile phones.	
Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)		
Headquarters, Southampton	MCA introduced a system of waste segregation at its HQ building in 2007 increasing levels of recycling from 25 per cent. to 40 per cent. based on the figures for 2005-06.	In line with the set targets the MCA is keen to increase recycling across its estate. However due to the small amounts of waste produced at the majority of sites making private commercial collections uneconomic the agency are currently limited to recycling at locations where the local authority offers this service.

Agency/office location	Recycling schemes	Comments
Regional sites	The agency has in excess of 500 properties and are currently in the process of establishing how many of these currently take advantage of local recycling schemes. this information is expected to take several months to collate	
Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA)		
Bristol and Leatherhead	Paper including confidential, cardboard, batteries, mobile phones, toner cartridges, cans and plastics	
Nuneaton	As above plus scrap metal	
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA)		
Headquarters, Bristol	Paper, cardboard, cans and plastic cups	VOSA is now conducting a national waste audit to identify the streams and general quantities produced by each of its major sites. The results will enable VOSA to establish a centrally administered national waste management contract with the aim of recycling as much of the waste as possible
Regional sites	Paper, card, printer cartridges, plastics and fluorescent tubes	
Core Department		
London HQ	Paper, glass, cans, plastic bottles, toner, cardboard, spectacles, mobile phones, fluorescent tubes and IT equipment	
Air Accident Investigation Branch, Farnborough	Paper, cardboard, metals, glass, toner cartridges, waste fuels/oils and IT equipment	
Marine Accident Investigation Branch, Southampton	Paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, cans, glass, and toner cartridges	
Rail Accident Investigation Branch, Woking	Paper, cardboard, toner cartridges, batteries and CD/DVD	
Rail Accident Investigation Branch, Derby	Paper,.cardboard, toner cartridges, cans, plastics, bottles, batteries and CD/DVD	

Driving Tests

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what changes she proposes to make to the driving test; what estimate she has made of the effect that her proposals will have on the average length of time it takes a 17-year-old person to qualify for a licence; and if she will make a statement. [178431]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In February 2007 we announced a fundamental overhaul of driver training and testing. We are working to bring proposals forward for consultation and hope to publish them in due course.

Galileo

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make a statement on final operational control arrangements for the Galileo Supervisory Authority, with particular reference to the mechanism for shutdown in time of conflict. [178205]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Galileo is a European Union programme and the European GNSS Supervisory Authority (GSA) is the EU agency that will regulate and manage the system on behalf of the Community.

Galileo will not be fully operational until 2013 at the earliest, and the final operational control arrangements within the appropriate institutional framework have yet to be decided. These arrangements are likely to be progressed during discussions on access policy for the public regulated service of Galileo, on which we expect the Commission to make proposals during 2008.

The Council of Ministers has repeatedly confirmed that Galileo is a civil programme under civil control. The operation of any navigation aid, such as Galileo, can nevertheless have security implications for member states. A Council joint action of 2004 provides that any aspects of the operation of Galileo which affect member states' security can be referred to the Council, which would take the necessary decisions—including the option of suspending normal service—by unanimity.

Metronet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost has been of running Metronet since it went into administration. [176782]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In addition to their infrastructure service charge payments, the Metronet companies receive money to cover their operating deficit. The public-private partnership administrator stated in September that the net operating deficit of Metronet while in administration was £14.4 million per week, a projection of £345.5 million for six months of administration. This net operating deficit is funded by a loan provided by Transport for London.

Much of the funding for the net operating deficit simply replaces planned Metronet borrowing which would, in due course, itself have been reflected in public accounts.

Railways

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage change from a 2003 baseline she has projected for (*a*) rail passenger and (*b*) rail freight mileage by (i) 2010, (ii) 2015, (iii) 2020 and (iv) 2025. [178143]

Mr. Tom Harris: The percentage change relative to 2003-04 for rail passenger miles on franchised services in England and Wales is forecast as follows:

	Percentage growth
2010-11	26
2015-16	44
2020-21	54
2025-26	70

Rail freight is a commercial business between the freight operators and Network Rail. The Department does not make forecasts of this traffic.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the effects of the business practices of the rolling stock companies on the operation of the rail network. [179137]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport made a submission to the Office of Rail Regulation on 28 June 2006 requesting that it refer the market to the Competition Commission for investigation under Section 131 of the Enterprise Act 2002.

On 26 April 2007 ORR referred the leasing of rolling stock for franchised passenger services and the supply of related maintenance services to the Competition Commission. The Competition Commission issued their emerging thinking on 19 December 2007.

For further details, I would refer the hon. Member to: www.competition-commission.org.uk/inquiries/ref2007/roscos/index.htm

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her policy is on the sale of rolling stock by rolling stock companies to overseas customers. [179139]

Mr. Tom Harris: Rolling stock is privately owned by the rolling stock companies. Sales and rolling stock are therefore a business matter for them.

Railways: Bridges

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what weights bridges across railway lines are required to support. [177803]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The carrying capacity of public highway bridges crossing railways is a matter for agreement between the relevant highway authority and the bridge owner (which may be the highway authority itself).

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding her Department has provided for the (*a*) maintenance, (*b*) repair, (*c*) rebuilding and (*d*) construction of bridges across railway lines in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [177804]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport provides funding to Network Rail, the Highways Agency and local highway authorities to support the construction and maintenance of their networks, but does not separately identify how much of this is spent on bridges crossing railways.

Railways: Freight

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if she will estimate the amount of carbon emissions from (*a*) rail and (*b*) road haulage in each year since 1990 (i) per mile and (ii) in total; [178132]

(2) if she will estimate the amount of carbon emissions from rail haulage in each year since 1990. [178142]

Mr. Tom Harris: The following tables are based on data from the national atmospheric emissions inventory and Great Britain and Northern Ireland traffic censuses. It summarises carbon dioxide emissions of diesel rail haulage and heavy goods vehicles for the years requested. The tables exclude carbon dioxide emission figures for electric rail haulage and per kilometre for diesel rail haulage which are not available in the form requested.

		1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Diesel rail freight	CO_2 emissions (kilotonnes)	636	610	616	547	517	529	680	673
HGVs	CO_2 emissions (kilotonnes)	22038	20943	21015	21582	23291	23971	25360	26032
HGVs	Kt of CO_2 /billion km	847	817	842	849	898	899	922	924

		1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Diesel rail freight	CO_2 emissions (kilotonnes)	689	724	720	772	744	752	824	824
HGVs	CO_2 emissions (kilotonnes)	26245	26032	25764	25811	26732	27220	27809	28592
HGVs	Kt of CO_2 /billion km	898	878	862	870	883	887	889	920

Road Traffic

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the percentage change in traffic levels (*a*) on English roads and (*b*) in each county within England was for each year since 1997, taking the 1997 levels as 100 per cent. [178130]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The change in traffic levels for England and its constituent counties can be found in the following table. The change is shown as an index based on 1997.

Index of traffic growth by English counties[1] (1997 = 100)

County name	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
England	100	102	104	104	106	108	109	111	111	112
Central London	100	102	102	101	98	96	95	98	98	98
Inner London excluding Central	100	100	102	102	102	102	102	101	99	101
Outer London	100	101	104	104	104	105	105	104	105	106
Avon	100	102	105	106	108	111	112	114	115	115
Bedfordshire	100	103	104	103	104	108	110	113	113	111
Berkshire	100	102	104	105	106	109	108	108	108	109
Buckinghamshire	100	102	106	109	110	111	111	110	110	111
Cambridgeshire	100	101	104	104	106	107	109	111	111	112
Cheshire	100	102	104	105	106	106	108	110	110	113
Cleveland	100	101	104	104	106	109	110	111	110	112
Cornwall	100	101	101	102	105	110	113	115	116	117
Cumbria	100	101	102	103	102	106	107	109	109	110
Derbyshire	100	102	103	100	103	104	107	109	109	110
Devon	100	102	102	103	105	109	109	112	113	114
Dorset	100	102	105	105	106	109	110	110	112	113
Durham	100	102	104	104	106	110	111	113	114	117
East Sussex	100	102	103	103	105	107	109	111	111	112
Essex	100	101	104	104	106	107	108	110	110	112
Gloucestershire	100	101	105	106	108	110	112	114	115	117
Greater Manchester	100	102	104	104	107	111	111	114	112	112
Hampshire	100	102	104	105	108	111	111	113	113	114
Hereford and Worcester	100	102	105	105	105	109	108	109	110	113
Hertfordshire	100	101	102	101	103	106	105	107	106	106
Humberside	100	101	104	103	105	109	110	113	113	114
Isle of Wight	100	100	101	103	104	108	110	111	110	114
Kent	100	102	104	106	108	111	112	114	114	115
Lancashire	100	102	104	103	105	108	108	112	112	113
Leicestershire	100	103	106	105	107	110	111	113	113	113
Lincolnshire	100	102	104	105	106	110	112	114	116	117
Merseyside	100	101	102	104	105	109	109	110	112	113
Norfolk	100	102	103	104	106	109	110	112	114	115
North Yorkshire	100	102	103	102	105	108	109	112	114	119
Northamptonshire	100	103	107	107	109	114	118	120	118	120
Northumberland	100	101	105	104	107	109	110	114	114	117
Nottinghamshire	100	101	104	103	104	107	109	111	111	114
Oxfordshire	100	102	104	105	106	110	108	110	110	111
Shropshire	100	102	103	103	106	109	109	111	112	113
Somerset	100	102	104	104	107	110	111	113	114	117
South Yorkshire	100	103	104	105	107	111	111	115	115	116
Staffordshire	100	101	103	103	105	107	109	112	115	116
Suffolk	100	101	103	103	105	107	109	110	110	111
Surrey	100	104	104	103	106	107	107	108	107	108
Tyne and Wear	100	101	103	103	105	108	109	110	110	110
Warwickshire	100	103	102	103	105	106	106	110	111	114
West Midlands	100	102	103	103	103	107	107	108	108	108
West Sussex	100	103	105	106	107	108	109	111	111	111
West Yorkshire	100	103	103	104	105	107	107	109	109	112
Wiltshire	100	103	103	103	104	107	109	109	112	113

[1] The counties are based on the pre-1997 boundaries.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fatalities have been caused by road traffic accidents in London in each of the last five years, broken down by London borough, and if she will make a statement. [179287]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of fatalities resulting from reported injury road accidents in each London borough for 2002 to 2006 is shown in the following table:

Number of fatalities

London borough	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Westminster	15	11	9	12	13
Camden	8	5	4	2	8
Islington	8	10	2	4	2
Hackney	10	4	8	4	7
Tower Hamlets	10	6	6	8	6
Greenwich	11	7	10	8	13
Lewisham	9	11	5	6	2
Southwark	8	4	9	7	7
Lambeth	10	13	4	8	10
Wandsworth	6	10	8	4	7
Hammersmith and Fulham	4	6	6	10	6
Kensington and Chelsea	7	9	5	10	3
Waltham Forest	6	7	1	5	1
Redbridge	11	7	9	7	5
Havering	7	17	10	7	5
Barking and Dagenham	9	6	9	6	4
Newham	6	4	4	2	3
Bexley	8	4	2	6	6
Bromley	9	13	10	9	12
Croydon	13	14	11	7	6
Sutton	6	6	3	2	2
Merton	5	6	2	1	5
Kingston-upon-Thames	4	3	4	3	3
Richmond-upon-Thames	7	2	6	2	6
Hounslow	12	9	15	14	13
Hillingdon	7	5	11	8	6
Ealing	18	18	7	9	10
Brent	5	2	6	7	10
Harrow	4	9	4	3	3
Barnet	14	20	12	12	17
Haringey	12	16	3	7	8
Enfield	9	7	8	13	21
City of London	3	1	3	1	1
London total	281	272	216	214	231

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road accidents resulting in the death of a cyclist were recorded in each London borough (*a*) in total and (*b*) involving cyclists under the age of (i) 11 and (ii) 16 years in each year since 2000. [179344]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A table showing the number of reported personal injury road accidents resulting in at least one pedal cyclist fatality in each London borough (*a*) in total and (*b*) involving pedal cyclist fatalities under the age of (i) 11 and (ii) 16 years in each year since 2000 has been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

Roads: Tolls

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will ensure that people who have to travel regularly to hospital are exempted from road user charging under the provisions of the Local Transport Bill. [177670]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government believe that the detailed design of local road pricing schemes is best decided at local level. However, we have given guidance to local authorities that scheme design will need to identify at-risk groups and consider how any negative impacts on these groups could be minimised or mitigated.

The Secretary of State may already set national regulations on exemptions and discounts under the Transport Act 2000, so an amendment to the Local Transport Bill would not be necessary.

South West Trains

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 15W, on South West Trains, what percentage of the mainline express fleet class 442 rolling stock units represented before their withdrawal. [178977]

Mr. Tom Harris: Twenty four Class 442 units were taken off lease before the start of the Stagecoach South Western Trains franchise that commenced in February 2007. The class 442s represented 10 per cent. of South West Trains mainline fleet in unit number terms under the previous franchise. No class 442s ran in service under Stagecoach South Western Trains.

Transport: Crime

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the cost to the economy of assaults on staff in the (*a*) bus and coach, (*b*) rail, (*c*) shipping and (*d*) transport industry in 2007-08. [179189]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has not undertaken any estimation of the costs of transport staff assaults to the economy in 2007-08. However, the Department is currently undertaking research into the costs of crime committed on public transport, and the costs of staff assaults is one of the categories being investigated within this piece of research.

Transport: Schools

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on encouraging alternatives to car use for taking children to school. [168681]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Secretary of State for Transport is happy to provide reassurance that there have been no meetings to which the hon. Lady has not been invited with the shadow Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families or indeed any other of her colleagues in the shadow Cabinet. The Secretary of State for Transport has met with the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families to discuss a range of issues, including travel to school.

Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how far people living in an English (*a*) urban and (*b*) rural area travelled per person on average in 2006. [178144]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The average annual distance travelled per person living in England in 2006, based on data from the national travel survey, was 6,677 miles in urban areas and 9,971 miles in rural areas.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Wastes

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate the Government have made of the costs likely to be incurred by farmers for arranging slurry storage for six months under the proposed nitrate vulnerable zones directive; [175755]

(2) what plans the Government have to compensate farmers for the extra costs incurred in storing slurry for six months under the proposed nitrate vulnerable zones directive. [175756]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 7 January 2008]*: The partial regulatory impact assessment and paper 'G4—Assistance on the partial RIA including extended Nitrate Vulnerable Zones', published in support of the consultation on implementation of the nitrates directive in England, provide details of my Department's assessment of the likely cost to farmers of the proposed nitrates action programme measures. Both these papers are available to view on DEFRA's website.

These assessments estimate the likely cost to farmers of meeting the proposed manure storage requirements as in the range £19 million to £24 million per year. This is assuming that the action programme is applied within proposed nitrate vulnerable zones covering 70 per cent. of England. Costs will be higher if the decision is taken to apply the action programme to the whole of England (annualised over 20 years).

My Department has also committed £98 million (under the rural development programme) to the livestock sector, to improve competitiveness, animal welfare and on-farm management of nutrients.

Animal Welfare: Finance

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department provided local authorities in relation to stray animals in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [177656]

Jonathan Shaw: Funding for stray dogs is one of the services supported through formula grant. Formula grant, which comprises revenue support grant, redistributed business rates and principal formula police grant, where appropriate, is an unhypothecated block grant; that is, councils are free to spend the money on any service. For this reason, and due to the method of calculation, particularly floor damping, it is not possible to say how much grant has been provided for any particular service.

From 6 April 2008, local authorities will have sole responsibility for stray dogs functions under sections 149 and 150 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. An additional £4 million per year will be funded through the revenue support grant for local authorities in England and Wales.

Stray Animals

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of stray animals in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [178218]

Jonathan Shaw: No such estimate has been made.

Biodiversity

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 991-2W, on biodiversity, what the form of the socioeconomic studies is; who is undertaking them; what contribution the UK is making to them; and if he will make a statement. [177331]

Mr. Woolas: There is no set form for the provision of views and case studies on the socio-economic considerations. The UK has no plans to provide a contribution and has not yet seen any contributions provided by any other parties.

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what adjustment the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund makes for the effect of radiative forcing. [176168]

Mr. Woolas: The Government Carbon Offsetting Fund (GCOF) applies a radiative forcing multiplier of two to emission calculations of medium and long-haul air travel.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how his Department plans to encourage domestic carbon offsetting and the reduction of emissions in 2008. [177642]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA is currently undertaking a range of activities to encourage individuals to reduce emissions.

Through the Act on CO_2 campaign DEFRA is promoting awareness of climate change and encouraging individuals and households to take action to reduce their CO_2 emissions. DEFRA continues to promote the use of the Act on CO_2 carbon calculator to help raise awareness of an individual's or household's carbon footprint.

The Government will be publishing a voluntary Code of Best Practice for Carbon Offsetting in spring 2008. Offset providers that meet the standard set out in the code will receive accredited status.

Offsetting should be set in a hierarchy of actions. The most effective way to tackle climate change is to avoid and reduce emissions. When it is not possible to avoid or reduce emissions, consumers should consider offsetting. When carried out in this context, we support the use of offsets generated by robust and verifiable mechanisms bound by international regulation.

Carbon Emissions: Government Departments

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps he has taken to meet the target of ensuring the Central Government Office Estate is carbon neutral by 2012; [175960]

(2) what steps were taken in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07 against the objective of making the Central Government Office Estate carbon neutral. [176724]

Mr. Woolas: Reducing carbon emissions is the most important element of delivering carbon neutrality. Departments are currently working towards meeting the sustainable operations targets for the Government estate, which include a requirement to reduce carbon emissions from office energy use by 12.5 per cent. by 2010-11, relative to 1999-2000 levels and by 30 per cent. by 2020. Options for the offsetting scheme that will be required to meet the 2012 carbon neutrality target will be considered during 2008.

Between 2005 and 2007, the Carbon Trust has used some of the funding it receives from DEFRA to help numerous Government Departments reduce their carbon emissions, and financial support is available through Salix Finance, a revolving loan scheme that can be used to invest in cost-effective energy efficiency projects in the public sector.

DEFRA is working towards minimising carbon emissions and energy consumption in its buildings through retrofitting energy efficiency technologies and behavioural change initiatives. DEFRA's new Alnwick office has been designed to be the first carbon neutrally operated office building on the DEFRA estate and a true benchmark for the future.

Carbon Emissions: Small Businesses

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what initiatives have been introduced since the Bali Climate Change Conference to help small businesses reduce their carbon emissions. [177643]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA is already grant funding the Carbon Trust (with around £90 million in 2007-08) to help businesses of all sizes reduce their carbon emissions. The trust provides a range of support to small businesses, which includes interest-free loans for approved energy saving projects, site surveys identifying energy-saving opportunities for companies with energy bills of more than £50,000 per annum, a free telephone helpline and a range of online tools and bespoke information for different business sectors. Over the last three years the trust has provided around £90 million of support to small- to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and in 2006-07 alone, SMEs comprised 40 per cent. of the trust's customer base and received two-thirds of the 5,000 on-site energy surveys conducted by, or on behalf of, the trust.

The Government are also currently developing options for implementing the Energy Services Directive which requires that all (except very small) energy suppliers must take action to supply or promote some form of energy efficiency or energy services to all sectors, including small businesses. Once implemented this will complement the range of carbon abatement services offered to this sector by the Carbon Trust.

Crabs: Conservation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1267W, on crabs: conservation, whether he plans to discuss *(a)* brown crab and *(b)* lobster conservation with the European Commission and his European counterparts in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [177622]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA is in discussion with the devolved Administrations regarding brown crab and lobster conservation. Plans to discuss these issues with the European Commission and European counterparts in the next 12 months will be dependent upon the outcome of these talks with the devolved Administrations.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the effects of the change in his Department's budget following the most recent Comprehensive Spending Review on its ability to meet its target to halt biodiversity loss by 2010; [177552]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of the change in his Department's budget following the most recent Comprehensive Spending Review on Natural England's work on *(a)* local biodiversity partnerships, *(b)* national trails, *(c)* bridleways, *(d)* areas of outstanding beauty and *(e)* national nature reserves; [177553]

(3) when the budget for 2008 and onwards for Natural England will be *(a)* decided and *(b)* announced. [177556]

Joan Ruddock: We are currently considering allocation of the Department's resources for 2008-09 and have started discussions with Natural England on options for its CSR budget. However, it is too early to set out what the implications will be for individual areas of work.

Securing a healthy natural environment remains a top priority and is one of my Department's two high level goals alongside tackling climate change. Natural England will be a key contributor to this work. We expect to be in a position to confirm Natural England's financial settlement for 2008-09 by the end of February 2008 and will then be working with Natural England to finalise its next corporate plan, which will set Natural England's priorities and the outcomes to be achieved.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of the change in his Department's budget following the most recent Comprehensive Spending Review on *(a)* staff morale, *(b)* staff numbers, *(c)* spending programmes and *(d)* grants to non-governmental organisations, including (i) Butterfly Conservations, (ii) The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, (iii) the Wildlife Trusts, (iv) Plantlife and (v) the Bat Conservation Trust. [177555]

Joan Ruddock: The changes to the Department's budget following the CSR settlement in October 2007 have not yet been finalised. New budgets for the CSR period will be announced before the beginning of the next financial year and until these are decided it is not possible to make an assessment of the various issues listed. The exception being on *(b)*; staff numbers, where there are no pre-determined targets across the CSR period. However, staffing levels will be kept under review to ensure that DEFRA maintains a flexible and efficient work force within its administration budget, which will be reduced by 5 per cent. in real terms per annum in common with other Government Departments.

Discovering Lost Ways

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the Discovering Lost Ways project. [178387]

Jonathan Shaw: In February 2007, Natural England approved a review of the Discovering Lost Ways project. This is a fundamental review, which is being informed by evidence collected from a series of small-scale tests and a structured programme of engagement with stakeholders. Natural England is currently finalising its advice on the way forward for the project and will report to me shortly on the outcome of its deliberations.

Dog Wardens

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information his Department has on the number of dog wardens in each local authority in England; and if he will make a statement. [178219]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department does not collect statistics on the number of dog wardens that individual local authorities employ. However, each local authority is required to appoint an officer to carry out the stray dogs functions set out in section 149 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Dolphins: Moray Firth

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to protect bottlenose dolphins at the Moray Firth; and if he will make a statement. [177675]

Jonathan Shaw: The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform is currently consulting on a draft Appropriate Assessment for the Moray Firth in the context of the 24th Offshore Oil and Gas Licensing Round. The draft Appropriate Assessment has been carried out under the terms of the Habitats Directive which was implemented into UK law by the Offshore Petroleum Activities (Conservation of Habitats) Regulations 2001 (as amended). Those regulations require that before granting a petroleum licence, the Secretary of State carry out an Appropriate Assessment where he considers that any activity which might be carried on pursuant to such a licence is likely to have a significant effect on any Special Area of Conservation – whether individually or in combination with other plans or projects. Subject to certain exceptions, a licence can only be granted after having ascertained through the Appropriate Assessment that such activities will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of such a SAC.

The draft Appropriate Assessment considers the impact of potential oil and gas activities on the Moray Firth SAC, which has been designated as such because it contains one of only two resident bottlenose dolphin populations in UK waters. In carrying out his assessment, the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform obtained a report from the specialist Sea Mammal Research Unit which is based at St. Andrews University in Scotland. The Secretary of State's preliminary view – which is supported by the report from the SMRU – is that oil and gas activities which would flow from the grant of a petroleum licence in the Moray Firth would not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC (or others).

The draft Appropriate Assessment was published on 21 December 2007 and the public consultation period on the draft runs until 14 March 2008. The Government's statutory environmental advisers are also being consulted.

Environment Protection

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* the total funding received from the business resource efficiency and waste programme and other Government sources, *(b)* the total landfill diverted in tonnes, *(c)* the total carbon dioxide saved in tonnes, *(d)* the amount of virgin materials saved in tonnes, *(e)* the amount of hazardous waste reduced in tonnes and *(f)* the amount of water saved in tonnes was by (i) the Carbon Trust, (ii) Envirowise, (iii) the National Industrial Symbiosis programme and (iv) WRAP in (A) 2005-06 and (B) 2006-07. [178038]

Joan Ruddock: DEFRA's BREW programme is returning £284 million raised from the landfill tax escalator back to businesses between 2005 and 2008. Work is being taken forward to improve businesses' resource

efficiency and to minimise waste that is unnecessarily sent to landfill. Funds are awarded to a number of regional and national BREW delivery bodies. Allocations for 2005 to 2007 are set out in the following table.

Delivery body	Budget 2005-06	£ million Budget 2006-07
Action Sustainability	0	0.219
Carbon Trust	3	23.382
DEFRA's Waste Data Strategy	0.5	2.1
Environment Agency	2	4.454
Envirowise	12	16.772
Market Transformation Programme	2.6	2.8955
National Industrial Symbiosis Programme (NISP)	2.675	5.7
Regional Development Agencies	5	11.71
Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts—Business Reuse Fund	0	2
Technology Strategy Board	2	5.654
WRAP	2.854	6.288
Other (includes coordination, communication, pilot projects, funding for agricultural waste project and programme contingency fund)	0.321	3.24
Total	33	84.415

The BREW programme has also continued to provide funding towards other business resource efficiency and waste activities in England, as shown in the following table:

Delivery body	Activity	2006-07 funding (£ million)
Carbon Trust	Energy efficiency and carbon emission reduction activities	13.618
WRAP	Work with the construction, manufacturing, retail and recycling and reprocessing industries to reduce waste and encourage recycling	4.7
Total		18.318

In 2005-06, the delivery bodies referred to in the question achieved the short-term savings aggregated in the following table. These show the results for £18.5 million of all £33 million of projects funded from the BREW programme.

The results must be viewed with caution, since delivery bodies report according to a range of methodologies. Work is under way to improve consistency of this reporting and to apply reporting more widely. The results are only for BREW-funded activities. Some savings will result from these interventions in future years, which are not counted here.

Metric	In-year result
(1) Waste diverted from landfill	675,000 tonnes
(2) Carbon savings	320,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide
(3) Virgin raw material savings	682,000 tonnes
(4) Hazardous waste savings	120,000 tonnes
(5) Water savings	5,630,000 cubic metres

DEFRA has not yet released individual delivery body results for 2005-06. These include some selected long-term results, which are not included in this table. Similarly, work is currently under way to verify BREW programme results for 2006-07. I will deposit both sets of results in the House Library when they are ready.

In addition to funding from the BREW programme, DEFRA has provided the following funding to the delivery bodies below. NISP has not received any non-BREW funding from DEFRA.

	2005-06	£ million 2006-07
Carbon Trust	57.6	41.644
Envirowise	2.292	2.292
WRAP	67.605	51.58

Environmental Research Institute: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much has been committed from the private sector to date for the Environmental Research Institute; [173153]

(2) which organisations have pledged contributions to the Environmental Research Institute. [173154]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

In his 2006 Budget Statement, the Prime Minister announced the intention to create "a new energy and environmental research institute". The Energy Technologies Institute was legally established on 12 December 2007 as a Limited Liability Partnership. Private-sector partners are BP, Caterpillar, EDF Energy, EON UK, Rolls-Royce and Shell, together contributing up to £300 million over 10 years. Additional private sector partners are being sought to match the Government's commitment of up to £550 million, and to achieve a budget of up to £1.1 billion for the ETI over the next decade.

European Fisheries Fund

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1270W, on the European Fisheries Fund, whether he submitted the UK National Strategic Plan to the European Commission by 31 December 2007; and if he will make a statement. [177688]

Jonathan Shaw: The NSP has now been finalised, and I expect to formally submit it to the Commission shortly.

Fish: Conservation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to preserve endangered fish stocks in UK waters. [177649]

Jonathan Shaw: The UK Government are committed to the conservation of fish stocks. The common fisheries policy provides a framework for co-operation at European Union level. We continue to play an active role in negotiating improvements to the policy designed to provide more sustainable long-term fisheries management. We are working to ensure that depleted stocks are recovered and subsequently conserved, while at the same time delivering, in so far as we can, a viable future for the fishing industry.

Fisheries

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the value of fish caught by the 10 metre and under fleet in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [176143]

Jonathan Shaw: The value at current prices of reported fish landings by the UK 10 metre and under fleet is provided in the following table.

Landings by the UK 10 m and under fleet

Year	£ million Value
1997	47.0
1998	50.4
1999	48.5
2000	44.5
2001	44.8
2002	43.4
2003	46.3
2004	47.4
2005	38.1
2006	76.2

The sharp increase in value in 2006 is a result of the introduction, by UK fishery administrations, of a scheme of registration for buyers and sellers of first sale fish. This has led to improved landings information for the 10 metre and under fleet. Figures for 2006 are therefore not comparable with those from earlier years.

Fisheries: Quotas

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will provide a detailed breakdown of the distribution of 2008 fishing quota to *(a)* producer organisations, *(b)* the 10 metre and under fleet and *(c)* the non-sector; what the estimated value is of this quota; and if he will make a statement. [177617]

Jonathan Shaw: Work is under way to allocate UK quotas to industry sectors, but it is not yet complete. It is not possible to make the allocations until final catch data for 2007 are available in order to assess whether penalties or compensation should apply. We also need to know what quota for 2008, in addition to that allocated to the UK at the December Council, is available. Officials are working to a timetable to make provisional quota allocations by mid April, and final allocations by mid May.

It is not possible to make any estimate of the value of the quotas until the allocations are made.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to allow the 10 metre and under fleet to lease quota in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [177618]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 703W.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has identified possible quota swaps to benefit the 10 metre and under fleet; and if he will make a statement. [177619]

Jonathan Shaw: Two international swaps have been completed with Germany and the Netherlands to acquire an additional 150 tonnes of value North Sea sole quota for inshore fishermen operating in the southern North Sea. We are continuing to explore the scope for further swaps to boost fishing opportunities in key 10 metre and under fisheries.

Fisheries: Regulation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the level of compliance with regulations and rules for which he is responsible within the seafood and fishing industry in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland. [177441]

Jonathan Shaw: It is difficult to make an accurate formal assessment of levels of compliance due to the diverse fishery activity occurring in our waters. However, during 2006, the last year for which complete figures are available, the Marine and Fisheries Agency undertook some 11,744 inspections, of which 298 revealed one or more offences (some 412 infringements). Compliance in Scotland and Northern Ireland is a devolved issue.

Fisheries: Subsidies

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which countries have submitted their European Fisheries Fund Operational Programme to the European Commission; and if he will make a statement; [177684]

(2) which countries have had their European Fisheries Fund Operational Programme approved by the European Commission; and if he will make a statement. [177685]

Jonathan Shaw: Twenty five member states have formally submitted their Operational Programmes to the European Commission. Of these, 20 have been approved.

Flood Control

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will accept interim conclusion number IC33 of the Pitt Review and bring forward legislation to update flooding legislation. [178244]

Mr. Woolas: The interim report sets out 72 interim conclusions, on which Sir Michael is seeking views before he publishes his final report. The Government will carefully consider these and respond to him, including the suggestion for legislative change. However, the Government are committed to early action on the urgent recommendations in the report—including for better identification of areas at risk from surface water and groundwater flooding. It is committed to bringing forward a complete package of measures that will ensure flood and coastal erosion risk is managed in a sustainable and holistic manner and avoiding a piecemeal approach to managing risk.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the value of excess payments requested in respect of Warm Front grants has been in *(a)* Shropshire, *(b)* west midlands and *(c)* England in 2007-08. [177004]

Mr. Woolas: Between 1 April and 30 November 2007, the following client contributions were requested under the Warm Front scheme:

Area	£ *Total value of excess requirements*
Shropshire	288,347.38
West midlands	4,031,045.68
Total	23,609,213.88

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's policy is on excess payments for Warm Front scheme projects being paid *(a)* directly and *(b)* in cash by householders to contractors. [177008]

Mr. Woolas: Clients are asked to pay excess payment contributions directly to the installation company in order that the work can proceed as quickly as possible, and to reduce the administrative costs of another agency handling the payment.

The preferred method of payment for both parties is a matter for the client and the contractor.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the White Young Green assessment of Warm Front will be made available to hon. Members and the general public. [177671]

Mr. Woolas: Two recent reviews of Warm Front pricing will be made available on the DEFRA website by the end of February.

Other Warm Front quality assessment reports can be requested from my Department.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Heating

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many radiators have been installed through Warm Front; and in how many homes. [177690]

Mr. Woolas: Since June 2005, 353,999 radiators have been installed in 83,628 households.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Hendon

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many pensioner households in Hendon have received grants under the Warm Front scheme; what the cost of those grants has been; what the average grant was; what grants are available under the scheme; and if he will make a statement. [177499]

Mr. Woolas: Since the start of Warm Front, 786 pensioner households in Hendon have received grants. The total cost of these grants is £938,111.92, with the average grant being £718.31.

The Warm Front Scheme offers eligible households grants of up to £2,700, or £4,000 where an oil system is recommended. For pensioner households not eligible for a main grant, Warm Front offers a £300 voucher towards the cost of a heating measure.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Iguana Services

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of Warm Front grants have been awarded to Iguana Services Limited *(a)* by number and *(b)* by value in each of the last three years. [177005]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

	Total number of heating installations under Warm Front	*Total number of heating installations completed by Iguana*	*Percentage of installations completed by Iguana*
2005-06	44,567	6,301	14.14
2006-07	86,828	25,324	29.17
2007-08	85,550	24,241	28.34
Total	216,945	55,866	26

	Total value of heating installations under Warm Front	*Total value of heating installations completed by Iguana*	*Proportion of value of installations completed by Iguana*
2005-06	75,359,434.38	5,035,666.68	6.68
2006-07	145,183,356.58	30,457,998.67	20.98
2007-08	150,377,506.58	37,044,220.00	24.63
Total	370,920,297.54	72,537,885.35	19.52

Oil: Moray Firth

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on oil and gas exploration at the Moray Firth; and if he will make a statement. [177674]

Jonathan Shaw: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn) had no recent discussions with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on oil and gas exploration at the Moray Firth.

Pitt Review

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which of the 15 recommendations for urgent action made by the Pitt review he plans to act on immediately; and if he will make a statement. [178434]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have said that it agrees with all 15 of the urgent recommendations in the report and we will work with all of the organisations involved to implement them.

Railways

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by his Department on first class train tickets in the last 12 months. [171261]

Jonathan Shaw: From information held centrally, the core-Department spent £1,030,331 on first-class train tickets in the period October 2006 to September 2007 inclusive.

First-class travel by Ministers, by officials accompanying Ministers and by officials is undertaken in accordance with departmental guidance which encourages people to use public transport wherever possible.

Not all rail travel taken is first class.

Sea Fisheries Committees

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to increase the representation of recreational sea anglers on Sea Fisheries Committees; and if he will make a statement. [177664]

Jonathan Shaw: Recreational sea anglers are currently represented on each SFC. All appointments to SFCs made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State last for a maximum of four years and the current round of appointments will end on 30 June 2009. The Marine Bill White Paper set out proposals to reform SFCs in England, including adjustments to their membership structure to improve decision-making and local stakeholder involvement. Sea anglers will continue to be represented on reformed SFCs but I have not at this stage made any decisions regarding the future level of that representation.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many recreational sea angling representatives were on each Sea Fisheries Committee in each year since 1997. [177667]

Jonathan Shaw: All appointments to SFCs made by the Secretary of State last for a four year period. For the appointment periods 2001-05 and 2005-09, each SFC had the following number of appointees with a known interest in sea angling (information for 1997-2001 is not readily accessible in the format required):

SFC	*2001-05*	*2005-09*
Cornwall	1	2
Cumbria	0	1
Devon	1	2
Eastern	0	2
Isles of Scilly	1	1
Kent and Essex	1	2
Northumberland	1	2
North Eastern	3	4
North Western and North Wales	1	2
Southern	1	1
Sussex	1	2

Within the above appointment periods, the level of angler representation may have varied in some instances where vacancies have arisen due to resignations.

Members appointed by the Secretary of State are required to represent all the local fishing and marine environmental interests in the SFC district in a balanced way. Appointees are reminded that they should not regard themselves as representing any one particular interest, and may have experience across several sectors.

Appointments to South Wales SFC are a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government.

Sea Fishing: Licensing

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether he plans to introduce a recreational sea angling licence; what estimate he has made of the revenue that a recreational sea angling licence would raise; and if he will make a statement; [177660]

(2) pursuant to the Marine Bill White Paper and associated Regulatory Impact Assessment, what estimate he has made of the cost of administering and enforcing a recreational sea angling licence; and if he will make a statement; [177661]

(3) pursuant to the Marine Bill White Paper and associated Regulatory Impact Assessment, to what use the revenue raised from a recreational sea angling licence would be put; and if he will make a statement. [177662]

Jonathan Shaw: The Marine Bill White Paper published in March 2007 includes proposals to introduce a chargeable licensing scheme for recreational sea angling. The RIA accompanying the White Paper estimated that the revenue from such a scheme could generate £9 million to £12 million per annum in licence fees, depending on uptake and the rate of the charge. The RIA also estimated the

one-off set-up cost to the Government could be between £0.1 million to £1.5 million, with annual running costs including enforcement between £1.2 million and £2.8 million, depending on how the scheme is implemented and the level of compliance.

The White Paper explained that the revenue raised from a recreational sea angling licence would be used to help support measures such as:

(i) improved scientific data to inform the development of management measures for stocks of specific interest to anglers;

(ii) protection and improvement of shore access and parking;

(iii) provision of more small boat launching facilities;

(iv) access to existing and new shore structures;

(v) creation of artificial inshore and offshore reefs; and

(vi) clear displays of relevant rules, codes of conduct and other useful data on the shore, at boat launch sites and aboard charter boats.

The revenue would also cover the costs of administration, monitoring and inspection and evaluation of any measures introduced for the benefit of anglers.

Seas and Oceans: Legislation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy not to introduce the draft Marine Bill before the Planning and the Energy Bills receive Royal Assent; and if he will make a statement. [177440]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 868W.

Shellfish

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has reached an agreed approach on *(a)* brown crab and *(b)* lobster conservation with the devolved Administrations; and if he will make a statement. [177621]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA is in discussion with the devolved Administrations to explore whether an agreed approach would be the most appropriate course of action in relation to brown crab and lobster conservation.

Stray Dogs

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the reasons were for the decision to transfer responsibility for stray dogs from the police to local authorities. [177657]

Jonathan Shaw: In July 2002, the Police Bureaucracy Taskforce made recommendations on the transfer of a range of ancillary tasks from the police service to other agencies in order to free up officer time to focus on core policing activities. Included in those recommendations was that responsibility for stray dogs should become the sole responsibility of local authorities. Implementation of the recommendation was agreed by the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Local Government Association. Parliamentary approval was received by enactment of section 68 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 which removes any statutory responsibility on the police for stray dogs. The provision is due to be commenced on 6 April 2008.

Waste Management: Finance

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been allocated to research and development on the waste management programme in each of the next three years; and from what budget these resources will be drawn. [179286]

Joan Ruddock: DEFRA was allocated a total budget of about £4 billion under the comprehensive spending review for 2008-11.

No allocations have yet been determined for research and development on DEFRA's waste management programme, although the Department expects to do so before March this year.

Water Supply

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps are being taken to encourage private water boards to improve their pipe networks to prevent leaks and wastage. [177645]

Mr. Woolas: The independent regulator, the Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat) sets leakage targets for the water companies and has regulatory powers which it can use should it consider that to be necessary. Across England and Wales leakage has been reduced by 24 per cent. overall since 1997 and most companies continue to meet the targets set by Ofwat. Ofwat has set water companies targets to reduce leakage by a further 2.9 per cent. from 2006-07 levels by 2009-10.

Water: Meters

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to impose compulsory water meters on currently unmetered family homes. [176526]

Mr. Woolas: Under the Water Industry Act 1999 water companies have powers to impose a meter on an individual household for discretionary purposes. They may also make a case that the water resources situation in their area requires compulsory metering of all properties.

Whaling

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Prime Minister and *(b)* Cabinet colleagues in relation to whaling since the IWC59 meeting of the International Whaling Commission; and if he will make a statement; [177612]

(2) when he last wrote to his Cabinet colleagues about whaling; and if he will make a statement; [177613]

(3) with reference to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 195W, on whaling, whether he has received a response to the letters sent to his Cabinet colleagues; and if he will make a statement; [177682]

(4) with reference to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 195W, on whaling, when Cabinet colleagues have drawn to the attention of their foreign counterparts the subject of *(a)* whaling, *(b)* whale conservation and *(c)* the whale watching industry; and if he will make a statement. [177683]

Jonathan Shaw: Cabinet members, along with all hon. Members, were sent a 'Dear Colleague' letter sent by my predecessor in June last year, which provided a full report of the outcome of last year's annual IWC meeting. The letter emphasised the UK's efforts to increase the number of conservation-minded countries in the IWC. The report of the meeting made clear that the UK remains vigorously opposed to whaling and details our position on issues such as the importance of welfare considerations and whale watching.

The UK has led efforts to recruit more conservation-minded countries to the IWC through our publication 'Protecting Whales—A Global Responsibility'. The Prime Minister emphasises the UK's strong commitment to whale conservation in the foreword to this document stating:

> "I urge Governments to join the UK, and other anti-whaling countries, in the International Whaling Commission to maintain the moratorium on commercial whaling so that our generation meets its responsibility to protect whales."

This year, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is also writing to 18 countries encouraging them to join the IWC for the greater protection of whales. In the coming weeks, Foreign and Commonwealth Office posts will deliver the updated version of the leaflet 'Protecting Whales—A Global Responsibility' to host Governments and lobby to support the UK's position. FCO posts are aware of the need to watch for indications that countries, including some mentioned in the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 195W, may join the IWC and adopt a pro-whaling stance. Posts in the relevant capitals are briefed, supplied with copies of our publication and engage in discussion with their counterparts on whaling at every appropriate opportunity. Such countries are left in no doubt as to the importance that the UK attaches to whale conservation.

As a result of the correspondence over lobbying mentioned by my predecessor in his answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 195W prior to the 2007 Annual IWC Meeting in Anchorage, the UK and its like-minded allies managed to recruit six countries into the IWC, so that the pro-whaling majority in that organisation was overturned. In a further response to UK lobbying efforts, several other countries have indicated willingness to support our opposition to Japanese whaling and to join the IWC in time for this year's annual meeting in Santiago, Chile in June.

Whales: Japan

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps are being taken to secure a complete ban on whaling by the Japanese Government. [177712]

Jonathan Shaw: The UK Government have consistently voiced its opposition to Japanese "scientific" whaling. Most recently, on 8 January, I called in the Deputy Ambassador from the Japanese Embassy in London to express the UK's outrage, and urge Japan to end its slaughter of whales.

On 21 December 2007, the UK, along with 29 other countries, took part in a demarché to the Japanese Government calling on Japan to

> "cease all its lethal scientific research on whales, and assure the immediate return of the vessels which are implementing JARPA II" (the Japanese "scientific" Research Programme in the Antarctic).

White Fish: Conservation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to introduce measures to improve bass conservation and bass stocks; and if he will make a statement. [177620]

Jonathan Shaw: Scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea in 2004 suggested that the bass stock is fished sustainably. Last year I announced a review of bass nursery areas and inshore netting restrictions with a view to providing additional protection for stocks of bass. The first step will be to engage with stakeholders to agree how and when to take this work forward collaboratively this year.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Drugs

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the total expenditure on promoting alternative livelihoods to the drugs trade in Afghanistan was in each year since 2001. [177538]

Mr. Malik: Prior to 2003-04 much of DFID funding in Afghanistan focused on humanitarian assistance. By March 2007 DFID had spent £91.5 million on supporting alternative livelihoods to the drugs trade since 2001.

£

Financial year	*Amount in GBP*
2001-02	144,079
2002-03	36,699
2003-04	5,205,33
2004-05	7,350,806
2005-06	44,072,886
2006-07	34,460,725

Afghanistan: International Assistance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the total expenditure on reconstruction and aid for Afghanistan was in each year since 2001. [177543]

Mr. Malik: Details of the UK's bilateral assistance and imputed multilateral assistance to Afghanistan since 2001 are laid out in the following tables.

Table 1: UK total bilateral gross public expenditure on development 2001-02 to 2006-07

	£000
	Afghanistan
2001-02	50,027
2002-03	76,018
2003-04	99,595
2004-05	98,959
2005-06	126,949
2006-07	123,011

Table 2: Imputed UK share of multilateral official development assistance (ODA), 2001 to 2005

	£000
	Afghanistan
2001	7,064
2002	23,300
2003	36,789
2004	27,676
2005	39,864

Departmental Pay

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1255W, on departmental pay, how many of those earning over £100,000 were employed (*a*) as special advisers and (*b*) in a political role in each year since 1997. [177176]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the number of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, 147-151WS.

Information on the numbers and costs of special advisers prior to 2003 was provided at regular intervals and this information will be available in the Library of the House.

Ethiopia: Foreign Exchange

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 414-5W, on Ethiopia: foreign exchange, what the (*a*) exchange rate obtained, (*b*) value of commission paid, (*c*) name of the exchange institution or bank used and (*d*) purpose of the transaction was of DFID Ethiopia's currency exchanges of (i) 27 July 2007 and (ii) 8 October 2007. [177170]

Mr. Thomas: (*a*) The exchange rates obtained were (i) 18.4789 Birr = £1 and (ii) 18.3706 Birr = £1 respectively.

(*b*) The value of commission paid was (i) £626.57 and (ii) £625.00 respectively.

(*c*) The transactions were made through the international banking division of the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia.

(*d*) Both transactions were made to fund payments in local currency.

Sudan

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the answer of 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1624W, on Sudan, what proportion of the grant aid given by his Department to the UN high commission for refugees was spent upon that organisation's priority areas of vaccination and veterinary care in co-operation with the Chadian government's livestock delegation and promoting the breeding of smaller animals (sheep and poultry) better suited to vulnerable refugees living in camps. [177438]

Mr. Thomas: In 2007, DFID gave the Office for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) £2 million to support their operations in Chad. Our contribution was to their overall appeal rather than to specific parts of their programme. Under the Good Humanitarian Donorship initiative, we do not require separate reporting for DFID against each activity and it is not therefore possible to determine DFID support to this particular aspect of their programme. In total, however, the livestock component of UNHCR's programme was around £400,000 in 2007.

Tanzania: Overseas Investment

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 9 January 2008 to question 166007, what steps he has taken, in conjunction with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, following his briefing by the UK High Commissioner in Dar es Salaam on 26 and 27 November 2007, in relation to the case of Mr. Stewart Middleton and Ms Sarah Hermitage. [179148]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I raised the case with the President of Tanzania on 27 November 2007. Our high commissioner subsequently followed up that conversation with the Tanzanian Chief Secretary, who undertook to look into the matter with the relevant authorities. The Chief Secretary confirmed that it was his Government's intention that the issue should be justly and expeditiously resolved.

SCOTLAND

English Language

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on English language classes for staff in the last year for which figures are available. [177485]

David Cairns: Nothing.

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what plans his Department has to contribute to the reduction of fuel poverty in Scotland; and what account he has taken of the Scottish House Condition Survey in developing such plans. [177113]

David Cairns: Tackling fuel poverty is a priority for the Government, with DBERR and DEFRA taking lead responsibility. Across the UK we are taking action to ensure the energy market is working effectively, and continuing to tackle poverty through ensuring adequate levels of income. The UK Fuel Poverty Strategy, and subsequent annual progress reports, set out this work.

In Scotland initiatives relating to the promotion of energy efficiency are devolved, such as the Central Heating programme and Warm Deal. The Scottish Executive therefore contribute to monitoring progress against the UK Strategy. The 5th Annual Progress Report, published in December 2007, draws on data from the Scottish House Condition Survey.

Official Engagements

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his official engagements were between 1 November and 21 November 2007. [169460]

Des Browne: My official engagements as Secretary of State for Defence and Secretary of State for Scotland, throughout the period 1 November to 21 November, included various meetings in London and Scotland, including with ministerial colleagues and officials from the MOD and Scotland Office. On Thursday 1 November and Friday 2 November I was overseas visiting service personnel serving in Iraq. On Monday 5 November I met HBOS in Scotland. On Tuesday 6 November I attended the State Opening of Parliament. On Wednesday 7 November I hosted the French Defence Minister for bilateral discussions in London. On Thursday 8 November I attended the British Torch of Remembrance ceremony at Westminster Abbey and met National Grid. On Friday 9 November I visited Diageo with my hon. Friend the Member for Ochil and South Perthshire (Gordon Banks). On Saturday 10 November I attended the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance 2007 event and, on Sunday 11 November, I attended the Remembrance Ceremony at the Cenotaph. On Monday 12 November I met EU ambassadors in London, hosted by the Portuguese ambassador, before attending the Defence debate in the House of Commons. On Tuesday 13 November I met separately with the National Farmers Union Scotland and Scottish Financial Enterprise. On Wednesday 14 November I attended a Sailor, Soldier, Airmen and Families Association reception. On Thursday 15 November I hosted the Romanian Defence Minister for bilateral discussions in London. On Friday 16 November I hosted a reception in Edinburgh for Polish National Day. On Sunday 18 and Monday 19 November I was in Brussels attending a meeting of EU Defence Ministers. On Tuesday 20 November I met The Crown Prince of Bahrain.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what engagements he has had since 8 October 2007; and what the *(a)* date, *(b)* location, *(c)* time and *(d)* duration was of each engagement. [170718]

Des Browne *[holding answer 3 December 2007]*: From Monday 8 October to Tuesday 9 October I was in London where I had various meetings, including with ministerial colleagues and officials from the Scotland Office and MOD. On Tuesday 9 October I attended Cabinet, had a telephone conversation with the First Minister of Scotland and attended the Chancellor's statement on the comprehensive spending review. I had no Scotland Office engagements on Wednesday 10 October, Thursday 11 October or Friday 12 October.

On Saturday 13 October I attended the Scotland v. Ukraine Euro 2008 Qualifier at Hampden Park, Glasgow. On Sunday 14 October I attended the National Youth Orchestras of Scotland Futures performance at Glasgow City Halls.

From Monday 15 October to Wednesday 17 October I was in London where I had various meetings, including with ministerial colleagues and officials from the Scotland Office and MOD. On Tuesday 16 October I attended Cabinet, and answered Scottish questions at the House of Commons. That evening I attended the Border and Immigration Agency reception in Dover House. On Wednesday 17 October I met the chief executive of Ofgem and that evening I attended the Poppy Scotland reception in Dover House.

From Thursday 18 October to Saturday 20 October I had no Scotland Office engagements. From Monday 22 October to Tuesday 23 October I was in London where I had various meetings, including with ministerial colleagues and officials from the Scotland Office and MOD. On Tuesday 23 October I attended Cabinet. That afternoon I delivered a statement on the Gould report in the House of Commons. That evening I attended the CBI reception in Dover House. From Wednesday 24 October to Thursday 25 October I had no Scotland Office engagements.

On Friday 26 October I attended the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce business breakfast. That afternoon I attended the launch of Stagecoach's bio-diesel coaches in Kilmarnock. From Saturday 27 October to Wednesday 31 October I had no Scotland Office engagements.

My official engagements as Secretary of State for Defence and Secretary of State for Scotland, throughout the period 1 November to 21 November, included various meetings in London and Scotland, including with ministerial colleagues and officials from the MOD and Scotland Office. On Thursday 1 November and Friday 2 November I was overseas visiting service personnel serving in Iraq. On Monday 5 November I met HBOS in Scotland. On Tuesday 6 November I attended the State Opening of Parliament. On Wednesday 7 November I hosted the French Defence Minister for bilateral discussions in London. On Thursday 8 November I attended the British Torch of Remembrance ceremony at Westminster Abbey and met National Grid. On Friday 9 November I visited Diageo with my hon. Friend the Member for Ochil and South Perthshire (Gordon Banks) On Saturday 10 November I attended the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance 2007 event and, on Sunday 11 November, I attended the Remembrance Ceremony at the Cenotaph. On Monday 12 November I met EU ambassadors in London, hosted by the Portuguese ambassador, before attending the Defence debate in the House of Commons. On Tuesday 13 November I met separately with the National Farmers Union Scotland and Scottish Financial Enterprise. On Wednesday 14 November I attended a Sailor, Soldier, Airmen and Families Association reception. On Thursday 15 November I hosted the Romanian Defence Minister for bilateral discussions in London. On Friday 16 November I hosted a reception in Edinburgh for Polish National Day. On Sunday 18 November and Monday 19 November I was in Brussels attending a meeting of EU Defence Ministers. On Tuesday 20 November I met The Crown Prince of Bahrain.

Throughout the period 22 November to 10 December, I had various meetings in London and Scotland, including with ministerial colleagues and officials from the MOD

and Scotland Office. On Thursday 22 November, I had a meeting with the Columbian Defence Minister and a meeting with the Turkish Chief of Defence Staff. On Friday 23 November, I addressed the State of the City Economy Conference in Glasgow. On Wednesday 28 November, I answered oral questions for the Scotland Office in the House of Commons. On Thursday 29 November, I attended a reception to mark the homecoming of 12 Brigade from Iraq. On Saturday 1 December, I visited the Longannet Power Station in Alloa and participated in the Scottish Interfaith Week Come and Play the Diversity Game event in Edinburgh. On Monday 3 December, I answered oral Defence questions in the House of Commons. On Tuesday 4 December, I met service families about the Board of Inquiry findings into the crash of the RAF Nimrod XV230 before attending the House to make a statement about the same. On Wednesday 6 December, I gave oral evidence to the AFPRB and in the evening I attended a Sailor, Soldier, Airmen and Families Association carol service at the Guards' Chapel, Wellington Barracks. On Thursday 8 December, I met representatives from the services charity "Forward Edge Battle Area". Between December 7 and December 10, I was overseas visiting service personnel in Afghanistan.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his official engagements were from 22 November to 10 December 2007. [177536]

Des Browne: Throughout the period 22 November to 10 December, I had various meetings in London and Scotland, including with ministerial colleagues and officials from the MOD and Scotland Office. On Thursday 22 November, I had a meeting with the Columbian Defence Minister and a meeting with the Turkish Chief of Defence Staff. On Friday 23 November, I addressed the State of the City Economy conference in Glasgow. On Wednesday 28 November, I answered oral questions for the Scotland Office in the House of Commons. On Thursday 29 November, I attended a reception to mark the homecoming of 12 Brigade from Iraq. On Saturday 1 December, I visited the Longannet Power Station in Alloa and participated in the Scottish Interfaith Week Come and Play the Diversity Game event in Edinburgh. On Monday 3 December, I answered oral Defence questions in the House of Commons. On Tuesday 4 December, I met with service families about the Board of Inquiry findings into the crash of the RAF Nimrod XV230 before attending the House to make a statement about the same. On Wednesday 6 December, I gave oral evidence to the AFPRB and in the evening I attended a Sailor, Soldier, Airmen and Families Association carol service at the Guards' Chapel, Wellington Barracks. On Thursday 8 December, I met representatives from the services charity "Forward Edge Battle Area". Between December 7 and December 10, I was overseas visiting service personnel in Afghanistan.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Alcoholic Drinks: Licensing

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many small businesses had their licences to sell alcohol revoked in 2007 where sales to underage drinkers were cited as the reason. [179361]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information is not held centrally.

Statistical bulletins on licences to sell alcohol include the number of licences revoked, but do not indicate the reason for revocation, nor the size of premises affected. Licences may be revoked on review for one or more reasons relating to the four licensing objectives, including sales of alcohol to children.

The latest DCMS Statistical Bulletin on Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment, was published on 8 November 2007 and shows that, between April 2006 and March 2007, there were 695 reviews which resulted in 92 licences being revoked and 91 being suspended.

Definition of Sport

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) why recreational (*a*) horse riding and (*b*) swimming were included in the new definition of sport; [177107]

(2) why recreational cycling was excluded from the new definition of sport. [177108]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The definition of sport for the local and national government measurement framework from April 2008 will be largely based on the definition of sport currently used for the Comprehensive Performance Assessment framework. This is set out in the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport's letter to the Local Government Association of 21 December 2007, a copy of which has been placed in the House Library.

The Secretary of State has asked Sport England to develop a new strategy for how it will deliver a world class community sport infrastructure of clubs, coaches, volunteers and facilities.

This new focus will deliver the provision of excellent sport opportunities from the grassroots up, sustaining and increasing participation and allowing everyone to develop their sporting talents at every level.

Sport England's tighter focus on sport will mean that some activities may fall outside Sport England's remit and funding. Decisions have not yet been taken on what activities fall within or outside of Sport England's remit.

To ensure that gaps do not appear, Her Majesty's Treasury is leading wider cross-Government work on creating a physical strategy for all, which should be completed by the end of March 2008.

DCMS has a clear Government lead on delivering sport and believes a tighter definition of sport will ensure Lottery and Exchequer funding through Sport England will more effectively deliver an excellent sporting infrastructure. Investment in wider physical activity falls to other Government Departments and agencies who have the policy and funding lead.

Departmental Contracts

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the (*a*) objective and (*b*) value was of each contract placed with (i) Deloitte and Touche, (ii) Ernst and Young, (iii) KPMG, (iv) PricewaterhouseCoopers and (v) PA Consulting by his Department and its agencies in each year since 2004-05. [179031]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following contracts are those awarded over the stated time period:

Contract	Date	£
(i) Deloitte and Touche		
Undertaking of sports strategy	September 2004	24,000
Undertaking of Olympic programme assurance	November 2006	50,000
Conducting ICT security compliance/review	October 2007	58,000
(ii) Ernst and Young	Nil Return	
(iii) KPMG		
To provide validation of Olympic costs	November 2005	255,000
(iv) PricewaterhouseCoopers		
Review of Olympic cost validation	May 2004	114,000
Study of impact of Olympic Games	October 2004	72,000
Accountancy advice on fees to be charged through Licensing Act 2003	December 2004	29,500
Examination of Government sponsorship of British Library	February 2005	24,000
Review of public library standards	August 2006	99,570
Provision of economic advice for Olympics	February 2007	17,000
To ensure VAT regulations/compliance are met	April 2007	18,000
Appraisal and Evaluation of Olympic Games Legacy	October 2007	78,000
Assessment of costs/benefits of World Heritage Site	May 2007	69,000
(v) PA Consulting		
Delivery of strategic framework to respond to priorities of local communities	February 2004	151,410
Provision of advice on agency's governance arrangements	April 2006	26,000

The return includes Royal Parks Agency.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which section in his Department is responsible for answering correspondence from hon. Members and peers; and how many staff work in that section. [177237]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS have a central team - the Central Information and Briefing Unit - that drafts the majority of responses to correspondence from hon. Members and peers and the general public. This team is currently staffed at just under 17 full-time equivalents (FTE), but has a variety of other non-correspondence duties. In addition, some responses (roughly a quarter of the overall volume) are drafted in full by officials working directly on the policy area in question.

DCMS aims to provide a comprehensive and responsive service to its inquiries, and the central team have contributed significantly toward this aim. From 1 January 2007 to 31 October 2007 (the last date where data is currently available) the Department responded to 74.35 per cent. of hon. Members and peers letters within 20 working days of receipt, and 90.58 per cent. of correspondence from the general public to the same timescale.

Gambling

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the use of fixed odds betting terminals remains under review following publication of the British Gambling Prevalence Survey 2007; and what evidence his Department is gathering on these machines to evaluate their impact on gambling behaviour. [177058]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The 2005 Gambling Act regulates fixed odds betting terminals for the first time and allows a maximum of four machines per licensed betting premises. However, if there is evidence of harm from particular forms of gambling, including individual categories of gaming machines, the Government have the power to place further restrictions on operators.

The Gambling Commission is also planning a programme of secondary analysis of the British Gambling Prevalence Survey 2007 data which will look more closely at the risk factors associated with problem gambling. The risks associated with gaming machines will be considered within this context.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations he has received from (*a*) the Responsibility in Gambling Trust and (*b*) GamCare on the impact of the Gambling Act 2005 on problem gambling. [177059]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Following the implementation of the Gambling Act 2005 on 1 September 2007, Ministers and officials continue to hold meetings with key stakeholders including the RiGT and GamCare and which have included representations on a range of issues, including problem gambling.

The Gambling Commission has also recently launched a first consultation paper on the Review of Research, Education and Treatment for problem gambling and has invited views from a broad range of stakeholders including GamCare and RiGT.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans the Gambling Commission has to undertake further research into

problem gambling following the publication of the British Gambling Prevalence Survey 2007, with particular reference to problem gambling associated with fixed odds betting terminals. [177060]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Following publication of the British Gambling Prevalence Survey 2007, the Gambling Commission is planning a programme of secondary research which will look at a range of risk factors associated with problem gambling. The risks associated with gaming machines will be considered within this context. The research will be commissioned shortly.

Gyms: Finance

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has allocated to mobile gymnasia in each year since 2005-06; and how much is likely to be allocated to such facilities in (*a*) 2008-09, (*b*) 2009-10 and (*c*) 2011-12. [177105]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There is no national funding programme specifically set up to support the provision of mobile gymnasia. Each Sport England region has an open application process to consider both capital and revenue projects and provides funding based on individual merit.

In the period 2005 to 2008, Sport England committed £896,007 to two mobile gymnasia projects. The first of these projects was completed in 2005 at a total cost to Sport England of £641,635. The project attracted an additional £483,906 in partnership funding. The second project was allocated funding of £254,372 to be spent over the three year period 2005 to 2008.

The allocation of funding by Sport England for the provision of mobile gymnasia in the period 2008 to 2012 will be subject to the consideration and merit of all submitted projects.

National Lottery: Community Development

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of National Lottery funding for good causes, excluding resources for the 2012 Olympic Games, will be available for community projects in each of the next 10 years. [177109]

James Purnell: All non-Olympic Lottery funding is essentially available to community projects in all the non-Olympic good cause sectors, namely the arts, sport, heritage and the areas supported by the Big Lottery Fund. There is no clear distinction between community projects and those with wider national or regional significance, or grants to individuals for public benefit. Decisions on which Lottery applications to support are made at arm's length by the independent distributing bodies.

On current projections, even before these are revised to take account of likely returns under the third licence, over £5 billion of fresh Lottery income will be raised for the non-Olympic good causes in the five years from 2008-09 to 2012-13. This, together with further income raised until at least 2019, will be shared half for Big Lottery Fund causes, and a sixth each for sport, art and heritage.

Sports: National Lottery

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what account will be taken of the new definition of sport in considering national lottery funding applications for community projects. [177106]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England is currently developing a new strategy to build a world class community sports infrastructure for 2008 to 2011. As part of this work, it is considering what activities should fall within its remit to fund sport.

Lottery distributing bodies operate at arm's length from Government, therefore Sport England will continue to take decisions independently on which community project applications receive lottery funding.

UK Sport: Finance

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will break down the £30,000 allocated by UK Sport to the 2008 Legacy Lives Conference in Barbados by main budget heading, how many UK representatives are planned to attend the conference and at what cost per head; and how many of such representatives are expected to be UK Sport officials. [177947]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 14 January 2008]:* The £30,000 allocated by UK Sport to the 2008 Legacy Lives Conference is an award made to support the overall running costs of the event.

As the UK's lead agency for world class events, UK Sport has made this award from its international directorate budget as part of its ongoing strategy to promote greater knowledge and debate about the legacy benefits that arise from public investment in major sporting events. UK Sport aims to be a world leader in legacy benefits and its ambition is to influence event owners worldwide as to the importance of harnessing this element of major sporting events.

Two representatives will attend from the UK, both from UK Sport, following invitations to be a keynote speaker and a workshop moderator. As well as giving a keynote address, John Scott is also attending meetings in Barbados with colleagues from the Association of National Anti-Doping Organisations, of which he is vice-president.

The cost per head is approximately £1,500 and this has been met entirely from resources within the original £30,000 investment.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate UK Sport has made of the cost of sending a British baseball team to the final 2008 Olympics qualification event in Taiwan. [177948]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 14 January 2008]*: UK Sport's current investment strategy does not provide funding to baseball and has therefore made no estimate of the cost of sending a British baseball team to the final 2008 Olympics qualification event in Taiwan.

The sport will not receive world class funding in the future as it is not on the competition programme for London 2012.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Burglary: Businesses

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many burglaries were reported in business premises and how many persons were convicted in each Police Service of Northern Ireland District Command Unit in each of the last 10 years. [174859]

Paul Goggins: Table 1 shows the number of offences of non-domestic burglary recorded from 2001-02 to 2006-07 by District Command Unit. As the DCU structure was only in place from 2001-02 figures are not provided prior to this financial year.

Non-domestic burglaries include burglaries which have occurred at locations which are not business premises, for example vacant houses, hotel rooms let out on short-stay basis, holiday homes/caravans not in use at the time, and also other buildings such as schools, halls etc. which may not be considered to be businesses. A manual trawl of each record would be required to establish whether the non-domestic burglary related to a business premises.

The number of recorded non-domestic burglaries fell by 3,296 (41.5 per cent.) between 2001-02 and 2006-07.

It is not possible to give the total number of convictions for burglary of a business as the court prosecution and conviction datasets do not contain information in relation to the type of dwelling involved. It is only possible to give the number of convictions for those offences, which refer to a non-dwelling. These are documented in Table 2.

Data are collated on the basis of principal offence; this means that only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

It is not possible routinely to reconcile recorded crime data from PSNI with prosecution and conviction data. Data from PSNI relate to the number of offences whereas data on prosecutions and convictions relate to the number of offenders brought before the courts. In addition, PSNI data denote each offence as it has been initially recorded and this may differ from the offence for which a suspect or suspects are subsequently proceeded against in the courts, therefore prosecution and conviction statistics should not be compared with the number recorded.

Table 1: Number of recorded offences of non-domestic burglary

DCU	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Antrim	213	244	257	190	142	141
Ards	325	393	346	266	208	157
East Belfast	403	518	358	283	217	161
North Belfast	454	426	389	294	213	228
South Belfast	736	877	659	899	636	486
West Belfast	246	197	132	132	135	151
Carrickfergus	120	105	84	51	48	41
Castlereagh	275	239	235	137	106	116
Down	351	474	421	264	275	333
Lisburn	389	477	413	266	251	230
Newtownabbey	344	459	392	345	266	246
North Down	346	277	239	204	177	135
Urban Region	4,202	4,686	3,925	3,331	2,674	2,425
Armagh	199	171	179	153	151	130
Ballymena	273	322	222	183	162	145
Ballymoney	135	123	78	49	52	43
Banbridge	151	129	128	119	99	131
Coleraine	331	378	348	366	366	301
Cookstown	119	127	112	105	156	80
Craigavon	603	702	607	300	257	221
Dungannon and S Tyrone	196	191	146	125	138	137
Fermanagh	233	228	243	184	165	144
Foyle	450	339	413	291	373	195
Larne	100	134	72	82	81	64
Limavady	130	105	128	102	120	120
Magherafelt	112	88	72	47	51	32
Moyle	61	91	77	39	53	61
Newry and Mourne	329	298	344	353	401	262
Omagh	192	174	137	88	102	85

Table 1: Number of recorded offences of non-domestic burglary

DCU	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Strabane	107	123	86	48	71	54
Rural Region	3,721	3,723	3,392	2,634	2,798	2,205
Total	7,926	8,409	7,317	5,965	5,472	4,630

Table 2: Prosecutions and convictions for burglary in a non-dwelling by police district command unit 2000 to 2005

	2000		2001	
District Command Unit	Prosecutions	Convictions	Prosecutions	Convictions
Antrim	6	6	0	0
Ards	11	11	8	5
Armagh	15	15	9	7
Banbridge	13	11	7	4
Belfast East	30	29	15	12
Belfast North	31	28	22	17
Belfast South	20	18	13	9
Belfast West	36	30	27	21
Ballymena	12	12	20	18
Ballymoney	8	8	8	8
Carrickfergus	6	4	10	9
Coleraine	9	8	14	11
Cookstown	3	3	5	3
Craigavon	12	12	12	5
Castlereagh	3	3	10	9
Dungannon and South Tyrone	13	12	15	12
Down	10	6	5	4
Fermanagh	10	7	9	5
Foyle	26	22	37	36
Larne	7	5	12	11
Limavady	4	3	5	5
Lisburn	18	16	13	10
Magherafelt	4	4	1	1
Moyle	1	1	1	1
Newtownabbey	4	3	4	4
North Down	7	7	7	7
Newry and Mourne	6	6	10	8
Omagh	6	5	6	5
Strabane	16	14	9	7
Missing	6	5	6	4
Total	353	314	320	258

	2002		2003	
District Command Unit	Prosecutions	Convictions	Prosecutions	Convictions
Antrim	4	4	5	3
Ards	9	8	5	5
Armagh	13	11	15	14
Banbridge	10	9	8	4
Belfast East	19	14	20	20
Belfast North	40	34	39	36
Belfast South	19	13	22	22
Belfast West	20	18	31	27
Ballymena	13	12	13	11
Ballymoney	8	7	3	3
Carrickfergus	6	6	1	1

	2002		2003	
District Command Unit	Prosecutions	Convictions	Prosecutions	Convictions
Coleraine	7	7	7	7
Cookstown	2	2	6	4
Craigavon	17	15	13	8
Castlereagh	13	12	4	4
Dungannon and South Tyrone	3	3	8	7
Down	9	9	14	11
Fermanagh	6	6	5	4
Foyle	33	30	27	27
Larne	3	3	5	5
Limavady	3	3	4	2
Lisburn	17	17	18	15
Magherafelt	4	2	4	4
Moyle	3	3	2	2
Newtownabbey	4	3	7	7
North Down	15	14	8	7
Newry and Mourne	8	7	17	12
Omagh	9	9	10	7
Strabane	5	5	5	4
Missing	9	9	7	7
Total	331	295	333	290

	2004		2005	
District Command Unit	Prosecutions	Convictions	Prosecutions	Convictions
Antrim	11	11	2	2
Ards	3	3	8	4
Armagh	7	6	4	4
Banbridge	4	4	5	1
Belfast East	20	16	19	13
Belfast North	37	28	31	26
Belfast South	13	11	14	12
Belfast West	34	29	25	22
Ballymena	14	9	10	9
Ballymoney	1	1	2	2
Carrickfergus	2	1	5	3
Coleraine	14	11	14	11
Cookstown	14	11	6	6
Craigavon	31	26	11	10
Castlereagh	5	5	2	1
Dungannon and South Tyrone	6	4	5	4
Down	10	9	8	6
Fermanagh	5	5	8	8
Foyle	32	30	25	20
Larne	2	2	0	0
Limavady	6	6	2	2
Lisburn	21	18	26	22
Magherafelt	5	4	1	1
Moyle	1	1	3	1
Newtownabbey	6	6	9	7
North Down	8	7	9	6
Newry and Mourne	10	9	9	6
Omagh	6	6	5	5
Strabane	2	0	3	1
Missing	7	6	2	2
Total	337	285	273	217

[1] Includes the offences of 'burglary with intent to steal—non-dwelling', 'burglary and theft non-dwelling and burglary and attempted theft—non-dwelling.

[2] Missing data relate to those offenders for whom police DCU information is not available.

Emergency Services: Crimes of Violence

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland were charged with attacking emergency service workers in each of the last five years. [164446]

Paul Goggins: While there is no specific offence of attacking emergency service workers, the following tables set out the number of offences against the person and criminal damage offences recorded and cleared where:

the primary occupation of the victim is recorded as the emergency services (although it is not known whether they were on or off duty at the time of the offence) or;

the details recorded of the victim indicate "emergency services" this denotes a general offence against an emergency service rather than a named individual (for instance an attack on a manned police vehicle or ambulance).

The term "offences against the person" covers a range of matters of varying severity, from minor incidents to more serious assaults.

Offences against the person where the victim's primary occupation is "emergency services"

	Offences cleared by means of charge/summons
2002-03	1,626
2003-04	1,748
2004-05	1,861
2005-06	2,121
2006-07	2,315

[1]Offences against the person include offences of assault on police.

Criminal damage where the victim is listed as "emergency services"

	Offences cleared by means of charge/summons
2002-03	140
2003-04	191
2004-05	212
2005-06	211
2006-07	282

The PSNI have stressed that these figures include all the emergency services, and that they encompass many incidents which, while categorised as "offences against the person", are relatively minor in nature. The majority relate to interactions between police and public during arrests, interventions in assaults etc. rather than deliberate premeditated attacks on police.

During recent years, as policing with the community embeds, officers are having more and closer interactions with the public during night time economy operations and therefore are more likely to intervene in tense situations.

National Identity Register

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans his Department has to make use of data on the National Identity Register when it is established; and what the estimated annual cost to his Department of that use is. [174032]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office will work with the Home Office prior to the introduction of the National Identity Scheme to establish how identity information held on the proposed National Identity Register might be used to provide easier access to the Department's services.

It is too early in the process to estimate the costs of using the register within the Northern Ireland Office.

Orange Halls

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will bring forward legislative proposals to facilitate the provision of criminal damage compensation in relation to arson attacks on Orange halls. [177313]

Paul Goggins: The Orange Order is entitled to make claims for statutory compensation in accordance with the provisions of the Criminal Damage (Compensation) (Northern Ireland) Order 1977. Following a meeting in February 2007 between the then Secretary of State and representatives of the Orange Order, Ministers have been working with the Orange Order, PSNI and the Compensation Agency to ensure the existing system operates more effectively.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons he chose the Ridgeback to meet his requirement for additional specialist protected vehicles for Afghanistan. [176279]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Ridgback is the name that will be given to the vehicle that the Ministry of Defence selects to meet the requirement for additional protected patrol vehicles for Afghanistan – a requirement stated by military commanders. We are considering a number of factors, including mobility, capacity and protection as part of our assessment work. Negotiations are continuing and I am withholding further details on the likely vehicle or vehicles being considered as their release would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of our armed forces.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps the Government have taken to improve the morale of armed forces personnel on operational duty. [179179]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD spends some £54 million per year on the provision of welfare services for our forces on operations. The exact provision of welfare facilities is dependent on location and the operational situation, but wherever possible personnel should receive 30 minutes of free telephone calls per week to anywhere in the world; free e-mail and internet access; a free forces aerogramme (bluey), e-bluey, fax bluey and photo bluey service; a free postal packet service; access to TVs, radios, DVD players and video gaming machines; British Forces Broadcasting Service TV and radio transmissions; books, newspapers, magazines and board games; combined services entertainment live shows and celebrity visits; rest and recuperation (R and R); the provision of basic shop facilities; a free Christmas box; the provision of financial assistance to home units to assist with families' welfare; the provision of concessionary families' travel;

and post deployment leave. In both Iraq and Afghanistan, the nature of some operations means that our personnel can often be deployed from a permanent base to a forward operating base where facilities are necessarily more basic, but even in these situations we aim to provide iridium satellite telephones and Textlink e-mail/SMS messaging terminals as a minimum.

The morale of our forces personnel in operational areas is good.

Armed Forces: Pay

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions since 1977 the Government have not implemented in full the recommendations of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body. [178507]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Since 1977, the Government have always implemented in full the recommendations of the AFPRB. The implementation of the AFPRB's recommendations have, however, been staged on seven occasions, but where this has occurred they have always been effected within the same financial year.

Astute Class Submarines: Repairs and Maintenance

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of repairing the Astute submarine damaged during routine tests. [179039]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 14 January 2008]:* Repair work is currently under way and progressing well. Costs will be agreed between the Department and BAE Systems once all repairs have been completed.

AWE Burghfield

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1035W, on Atomic Weapons Establishment Burghfield, how many safety shortfalls *(a)* were identified by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate during the risk assessment, *(b)* were resolved by the delayed 27 September 2007 target date, *(c)* will shortly be resolved and *(d)* will remain unresolved under the current single operation licensing regime imposed by the NII for each warhead handling operation; and if he will make a statement. [177368]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As I indicated in my answer to the hon. Member on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 28W, the safety case issues in question were identified not by the NII, but by AWE plc in its own Periodic Review of Safety. A total of 1,000 safety shortfalls were identified and these ultimately translated into 337 improvement packages requiring further action. Of these improvement packages, 234 were completed by 27 September 2007 with a further 50 due to be completed by 31 March 2008. The remaining 53 improvement packages are due to be completed by 31 December 2008.

It is important to note that NII has made a full assessment of AWE's Periodic Review of Safety and is satisfied that appropriate progress is being made at AWE Burghfield to address the findings. It is emphasised that, if NII believed a particular operation were unsafe, it would not allow it to take place, and has appropriate regulatory powers at its disposal to cease operations.

Defence: Procurement

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the value of private sector funds pledged by contractors for each equipment acquisition programme audited by the National Audit Office and reported on in major projects reports published since 2001 is as a percentage of the contract price. [171827]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held in the format requested.

Departmental Public Buildings

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of listed departmental buildings are in a *(a)* good, *(b)* fair, *(c)* poor and *(d)* unknown condition. [177533]

Derek Twigg: There are 782 listed buildings on the defence estate. The condition of these buildings at the end of the last financial year and at 9 January 2008 is shown in the following table:

Category	At 31 March 2007		At 9 January 2008	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Good	390	50	435	56
Fair	184	24	187	24
Poor	83	11	84	11
Unknown	125	15	76	9
Total	782	100	782	100

A programme is in place to establish 100 per cent. known condition by the end of this financial year.

Destroyers

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many months each Royal Navy destroyer in service spent *(a)* on operations and *(b)* in maintenance in each year since 1997. [165881]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Following the definitions of operations and maintenance I set out in my letter to the hon. Member on the 5 November, the number of months each Royal Navy Destroyer spent on both in each year since 1997 were as follows:

	1997		1998		1999	
Vessel	Op time	Maintenance	Op time	Maintenance	Op time	Maintenance
Edinburgh	6	2	7	2	6	3
Gloucester	8	1	3	7	2	4

	1997		1998		1999	
Vessel	Op time	Maintenance	Op time	Maintenance	Op time	Maintenance
Manchester	3	3	7	3	4	4
York	7	3	8	2	1	6
Exeter	2	8	0	9	5	2
Liverpool	9	2	6	2	7	2
Nottingham	5	2	7	2	2	9
Southampton	8	2	0	12	0	6

	2000		2002		2002	
Vessel	Op time	Maintenance	Op time	Maintenance	Op time	Maintenance
Edinburgh	1	7	7	3	5	2
Gloucester	6	2	7	2	0	12
Manchester	6	5	0	12	1	5
York	6	3	3	4	7	3
Exeter	6	3	7	2	4	5
Liverpool	6	2	0	11	1	5
Nottingham	0	10	4	2	4	8
Southampton	8	1	6	3	7	2

	2003		2004		2005	
Vessel	Op time	Maintenance	Op time	Maintenance	Op time	Maintenance
Edinburgh	6	3	5	3	1	8
Gloucester	1	5	7	2	4	3
Manchester	6	2	4	3	5	3
York	7	2	0	10	6	1
Exeter	1	7	9	2	4	2
Liverpool	9	2	4	3	7	2
Nottingham	0	12	1	6	6	2
Southampton	2	8	4	3	6	2

	2006	
Vessel	Op time	Maintenance
Edinburgh	5	2
Gloucester	6	3
Manchester	1	8
York	7	4
Exeter	3	3
Liverpool	7	3
Nottingham	6	3
Southampton	4	3

The figures given have been rounded to whole months.

The tables do not include leave, trials and work-up periods.

Ex-servicemen: Suicide

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if his Department will record the number of suicides of former UK military personnel who have served in either Iraq or Afghanistan. [177356]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 10 January 2008]:* The Ministry of Defence currently publishes data on detailed causes of the mortality (including suicide) of veterans of the 1990-91 operation in the Gulf, together with comparative data for a matched cohort of personnel who did not deploy. We have also commissioned research from the University of Manchester into suicide between 1996 and 2006 among personnel who have left the UK armed forces using data from the National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide; we expect this to report later this year.

We are currently considering whether we should undertake further research, into the detailed causes of mortality for those taking part in the current operations in Iraq (Operation Telic) and Afghanistan (Operation Herrick).

Hercules Aircraft

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of the RAF Hercules transport fleet currently in service have been fitted with foam fire suppressant in the wings. [177888]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

All Hercules aircraft that are routinely deployed on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan are now fitted with Explosion Suppressant Foam.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department defines current operations in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan as small, medium or large-scale contingencies. [168904]

Des Browne: The operations in Iraq and Afghanistan are both classed as medium scale.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* telephones and *(b)* computer terminals are currently available to service members for welfare use in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan. [175448]

Des Browne: There are currently 151 telephones and 136 computer terminals available solely for welfare purposes to personnel deployed in Iraq. There is, in addition, limited wireless internet coverage at the Contingency Operating Base in Basra. There are currently 213 telephones and 85 computer terminals available solely for welfare purposes to personnel deployed in Afghanistan. As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 24, work is in hand to expand these numbers and provide free wireless internet to both theatres.

Military Aircraft

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the planned out of service dates for all fixed-wing aircraft were in each year since 1997. [176842]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Full information on historic out of service dates for all fixed-wing aircraft is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Such information in respect of the current fleet as is readily available is provided in the following table. The table does not include commercially owned aircraft.

	Planned out of service date				
Aircraft	*1997 to 2003*[1]	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Harrier GR7/GR9	2015	2015	2018	2018	2018
Harrier T10/T12	2015	2015	2018	2018	2018
Tornado F3	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011
Tornado GR4	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025
Typhoon	2029	2029	2029	2029	2029
Hawk	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011
BAe 125	2015	2015	2015	2015	2017
BAe 146	2015	2015	2015	2015	2017
C-17[2]	n/a	n/a	n/a	2031	2031
Hercules C-130K	2010	2010	2010	2010	2012
Hercules C-130J[3]	2030	2030	2030	2030	2030
Islander	2015	2015	2015	2015	[4]2015
Defender	2014	[4]2034	2034	2034	[4]2038
Nimrod MR2[5]		2011	2011	2011	2011
Nimrod R1[6]					
Sentry E-3D AEW Mk 1	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025
Tristar[7]		2013		2014	2015
VC-10[8]			2013	2013	2014
Dominie	2015	2015	2015	2013	2013
Jetstream T Mk 2	2007	2007	2009	2009	2009
Jetstream T Mk 3	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018
Tucano Mk 1	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010
Viking Glider	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015
Vigilant Glider	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015

[1] Out of service dates (OSD) were unchanged during these years except where separately indicated below.
[2] The C-17 aircraft was initially acquired on lease in 2000. An agreement was signed in 2006 to purchase the leased aircraft.
[3] Aircraft entered service in 1999.
[4] On current plans one Islander aircraft will remain in service until 2038.
[5] OSD extended as a result of new aircraft entering service.
[6] Comprehensive data is unobtainable in the time available. It is known that the OSD was 2006 in 1995. The Major Projects Report 2000 quoted an OSD of 2008. On 17 January 2002 an OSD of 2009 was given in response to a parliamentary question.
[7] The OSD of Nimrod R1 is dependent upon Project Helix decisions and will be determined in due course.
[8] Comprehensive data is unobtainable in the time available. Known OSDs during 1997-2003 are as follows:
Tristar: OSD 2011 in 2002. VC-10: OSD 2007 in 2000, 2010 in 2001, 2011 in 2003.

Military Bases: USA

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list those *(a)* establishments and *(b)* parcels of land where the US authorities have been granted exclusive occupation by his Department. [178154]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The United States Visiting Force has never been granted exclusive occupation of UK bases; rather they are made available under the terms of the NATO Status of Forces Agreement 1951, and other arrangements. The following establishments in the United Kingdom are currently occupied by the USVF under the terms of the NATO SOFA of 1951:

Blenheim Crescent, London.

Joint Maritime Facility at RAF St. Mawgan, Cornwall.

RAF Alconbury, Cambridgeshire.

RAF Barford St. John, Oxfordshire

RAF Croughton, Northants.
RAF Fairford, Gloucestershire.
RAF Feltwell, Norfolk
RAF Lakenheath, Suffolk.
RAF Menwith Hill, North Yorkshire.
RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk.
RAF Molesworth, Cambridgeshire.
RAF Upwood, Cambridgeshire.
RAF Welford, Berkshire.

In addition, Edison House and Providence Court in London are privately owned buildings that MOD leases on behalf of the USVF. The USVF also has family quarters housing allocated to them, in several locations in the UK.

UK nationals work in a variety of roles at all the principal USVF bases. At RAF Menwith Hill and the Joint Maritime Facility at RAF St. Mawgan there is a joint UK-US mission, where UK nationals are also employed in an operational role.

RAF Lyneham

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* existing military capabilities and functions will be retained and *(b)* new military capabilities and functions will be undertaken at the RAF Lyneham site once the Hercules fleets have been redeployed to RAF Brize Norton; what capabilities and functions undertaken at RAF Lyneham will be relocated; and to where they will be relocated. [178003]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It is not planned to retain any of the current military capabilities or functions at RAF Lyneham after the RAF withdraw from the Station in 2012. The capabilities and functions currently based at RAF Lyneham will be relocated to RAF Brize Norton.

Programme Belvedere is studying the long-term requirement for military helicopter bases in the UK, and RAF Lyneham is one of a number of sites currently under consideration. This work is still ongoing and no decisions have yet been taken. Once the Programme has reached its conclusions, these will be put forward for consultation and announced in the usual way.

Taliban: Peace Negotiations

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether meetings between the Taliban and the British army would have to receive Ministerial approval from his Department before going ahead. [177508]

Des Browne *[holding answer 10 January 2008]:* UK operations in Afghanistan are undertaken in accordance with ministerially endorsed policy.

United Kingdom Hydrographic Office

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has discussed the conclusions of his Department's review of the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office with the Office of Fair Trading. [176701]

Derek Twigg: As owner of the UK Hydrographic Office, I commissioned a review of structural and ownership options in February 2007. I have not specifically discussed the conclusions of the study with the Office of Fair Trading, but in light of the OFT's market study on the Commercial Use of Public Information the study team held discussions with the OFT, exploring the handling of public sector data collated and used by the UKHO.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons the UK is purchasing the MQ-9 unmanned aerial vehicle system from the US; what effect this purchase will have on the acquisition and introduction into service of the Watchkeeper UAV system; and if he will make a statement. [177281]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Three MQ-9 UAVs, known as Reaper, have been purchased under urgent operational requirement arrangements to provide an all-weather, persistent Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance capability over a wide geographical area. Reaper provides a separate and complementary capability to that which Watchkeeper will provide, and will not affect the acquisition or introduction into service of Watchkeeper.

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether the Watchkeeper Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicle is designed to allow full alignment and transparency with manned aircraft for all flight rules, including ability to assess in-flight conditions; [177282]

(2) whether the Watchkeeper Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicle will comply with visual flight rules and instrument flight rules as they affect manned aircraft flying as operational air traffic; [177283]

(3) whether the Watchkeeper Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicle pilot-in-command will have the ability to assess in-flight conditions for visual flight rules flight. [177284]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: For a number of technical and regulatory reasons, Watchkeeper, as with other Unmanned Air Vehicles cannot comply with either Visual Flight Rules or Instrument Flight Rules. In the context of UAVs, the Aircraft Commander's responsibility for collision avoidance is discharged by operating the UAV within defined airspace, from which other aircraft are excluded.

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Watchkeeper Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicle will be pre-programmed with an appropriate contingency plan in circumstances where the pilot-in-command is no longer in control of the TUAV. [177285]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Yes, in the event that communication with the air vehicle is lost it will join a pre-programmed and cleared route. The Watchkeeper software system has a flight plan validation tool that will ensure that the air vehicle will remain within its assigned airspace, and within glide range of designated emergency recovery points.

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Watchkeeper Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicle pilot-in-command will be provided with an independent means of communication with air traffic control. [177286]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Watchkeeper system will be equipped with two radios, powered from different supplies, dedicated to air traffic control.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with the Government of Afghanistan on the release from prison of the Taliban leader Mullah Sorkh Naqaibullah. [178116]

Dr. Howells: We are deeply concerned at the alleged circumstances of the release of Mullah Sorkh Naqaibullah. This is a matter for the Afghan Government and we understand the Afghan National Directorate of Security is investigating the case. We intend to follow the situation closely.

Christmas

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on purchasing Christmas cards in 2007. [179264]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 445W.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on postage for Christmas cards in 2007. [179265]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 445W.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the planned number of departmental staff is for financial years 2008-09 to 2010-11, broken down by strategic priority. [179177]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office currently employs some 6,000 UK civil servants ("UK-based staff") at home and abroad. The FCO's new strategic workforce plan predicts that over the next five years there will be a net reduction of some 400 staff against this figure.

As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary told the House on 8 January, *Official Report*, column 150, the FCO will be focusing its future policy work on countering terrorism and weapons proliferation; promoting a low carbon high growth local economy; preventing and resolving conflict; and developing effective international institutions. It is not possible to give a breakdown of staff numbers working on each of these priorities over the next few years, since the vast majority of FCO staff work on more than one.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the average number of departmental staff was for financial years 2001-02 to 2006-07, broken down by post. [179204]

Meg Munn: The average number of UK civil servants employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office at home and overseas for the financial years 2001-02 to 2006-07 is 6,148.

We are not able to break this figure down by individual post. This would incur disproportionate cost.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the planned number of departmental staff is for financial years 2008-09 to 2010-11, broken down by post. [179205]

Meg Munn: The number of Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff at post is under constant review in the light of changing world circumstances, operational requirements and financial constraints. It is therefore not possible to give an accurate estimate of the number of staff at each post over the next three years. In the latest FCO departmental report for financial year 2006-07, the number of staff worldwide employed by the FCO is given as 6,364.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the average number of departmental staff was for financial years 2001-02 to 2006-07, broken down by strategic priority. [179206]

Meg Munn: The vast majority of Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff work on more than one strategic priority. The SPs were introduced in 2003 and updated twice in 2006. It is not therefore possible to give an accurate breakdown of the numbers of staff who worked on each of the SPs.

Disclosure of Information

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when Ministers in his Department were told that senior officials in his Department believed that the leaking of documents by Mr. Derek Pasquill had helped to provoke a constructive debate. [179251]

Meg Munn: It has never been the view of senior officials that the leaking of documents by Mr. Pasquill helped provoke a constructive debate.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department made of the harm caused to international relations by Mr. Derek Pasquill's disclosures before the decision was taken to prosecute him. [179252]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office provided a witness statement to the police setting out our considered assessment of the damage caused, by the disclosures, to international relations under Section 3 of the Official Secrets Act 1989.

The statement was given by a senior FCO official on behalf of the Department, but FCO Ministers were briefed on its contents.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations Ministers in his Department made to *(a)* the Crown Prosecution Service and *(b)* law officers in respect of the decision to prosecute Mr. Derek Pasquill under the Official Secrets Act 1989. [179253]

Meg Munn: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers made no representation to the Crown Prosecution Service or law officers in respect of their decision to prosecute.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the classification was of the documents disclosed by Mr. Derek Pasquill which fell within the meaning of the Official Secrets Act 1989. [179254]

Meg Munn: The documents disclosed by Mr. Pasquill contained official information ranging in sensitivity and classification, including seven documents classified as confidential and three documents classified as restricted.

India: Christianity

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with the Government of India on *(a)* violence and *(b)* destruction of Christian churches in the state of Orissa. [178532]

Dr. Howells: While such incidents remain an internal matter for the Indian authorities, we continue to monitor the situation and seek out opportunities to raise human rights issues, including the need for the right to freedom of religion to be upheld.

Iraq: Christianity

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Iraqi counterpart on the Christian minority in Iraq. [179113]

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Belfast, North (Mr. Dodds) on 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 346W. Although my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no discussions with his counterpart on the Christian minority in Iraq, we recognise that Christians in Iraq, like all other communities, have been badly affected by the high levels of violence in the country.

We continue to press the Iraqi Government to take action to protect people regardless of faith or political persuasion and to take tough measures against those perpetuating the violence. I raised our concerns about the position of Iraqi Christians in October 2007 with the Iraqi Minister of Human Rights during her visit to the UK.

Palestinians: Travel Restrictions

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on movement restrictions in the West Bank and East Jerusalem in the form of *(a)* checkpoints, *(b)* roadblocks, *(c)* closures, *(d)* road gates, *(e)* trenches and *(f)* earth mounds (i) operated and (ii) removed by Israel since the start of November 2007. [178536]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The latest authoritative information that we have is from the Movement and Access Report produced by the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs, covering the period 14-17 November 2007, published on 11 January 2008. The report records that 563 obstacles were present in the West Bank, compared with 561 in the previous report. This represents an increase of 185 obstacles, or 49.7 percent. over the baseline figure for August 2005.

The ability of Palestinians to move within the West Bank has deteriorated due to the continued or increased use of checkpoints, curfews, roadblocks, a permit system and the barrier. Permit and other restrictions have isolated residents of the West Bank from East Jerusalem and from each other.

Terrorism: Finance

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to his *Sunday Times* article of 6 January 2008, whether the extra £80 million he intends to spend on counter-radicalism is in addition to the £37 million announced in the comprehensive spending review. [179203]

Meg Munn: The £37 million announced in the comprehensive spending review is part of the £80 million that will be spent on counter radicalisation over the next three years.

Trade Unions: EC Grants and Loans

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what trade union programmes are currently funded under EU budget line *(a)* 04 03 03 01 and *(b)* 04 03 03 03 that pertain to training in (i) arbitration, (ii) industrial action, (iii) employment rights and (iv) work as a shop steward. [178236]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold specific information on spending under these budget headings. Information on grants awarded under the social dialogue budget lines are freely available on the Commission's website

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_dialogue/grants_en.htm.

Turkey: Migration

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the migration consequences for the UK of Turkish membership of the EU; what assessment he has made of these migration consequences; what account he has taken of migration in formulating UK policy on Turkish membership; and if he will make a statement. [177462]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government have not commissioned any research specifically on the migration consequences for the UK of Turkish membership of the EU. The European Commission prepared an assessment of Turkish membership before the EU opened negotiations with Turkey in 2005 and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what geographical claims the UK intends to submit to the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf on areas off *(a)* the north west coast of Scotland, *(b)* Northern Ireland and *(c)* other UK territories. [177297]

Meg Munn: The UK is considering making submissions to the CLCS in respect of four distinct areas, before the right to do so expires in May 2009. The four areas under consideration are:

'Hatton-Rockall' – an area of the north east Atlantic off the north west coast of Scotland;

the area around Ascension Island;

areas around the Falkland Islands and South Georgia; and

the area off British Antarctic Territory.

In 2006 the UK made a joint submission to the CLCS with France, Ireland and Spain in respect of an area of the Bay of Biscay, and all four states are working with the Commission towards the production of its conclusions.

UN General Assembly: Depleted Uranium

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how the United Kingdom voted on the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on the effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium, A/C.1.62/L.18/REV/i, on 5 December 2007; which other states voted in the same way; and what the reasons were for the UK vote. [177842]

Meg Munn: The UK opposed the resolution on the effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium at the UN General Assembly's First Committee. Israel, US, Netherlands and the Czech Republic also voted against the resolution.

The current consensus of scientific and medical experts, including reports published by the Royal Society, is that the use of depleted uranium for military purposes has not had any significant impact on the health of veterans or civilian populations. The UK is also aware that the US National Academy of Sciences is currently carrying out an independent review of the type mentioned in the resolution.

Whales

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with representatives of foreign Governments on whaling since the International Whaling Commission 59 meeting; and if he will make a statement. [177576]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no discussions with his foreign counterparts on this issue.

The departmental lead on this subject is the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and DEFRA work closely together regarding whaling, in particular lobbying foreign Governments, emphasising the importance which the UK attaches to whale conservation.

On 21 December 2007, the UK, along with 29 other countries and the EU, made a formal diplomatic representation to the Japanese Government in Tokyo urging it to stop its lethal whaling programme in the Antarctic.

In January 2008, the FCO and DEFRA will launch a lobbying campaign spearheaded by the global distribution of the newly revised DEFRA brochure "Protecting whales – a global responsibility" including a foreword from my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to discuss whaling and the international moratorium on whaling with other Governments before the IWC60 meeting; and if he will make a statement. [177609]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no current plans for discussions with his foreign counterparts on this issue.

The departmental lead on this subject is the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and DEFRA work closely together regarding whaling, in particular lobbying foreign Governments, emphasising the importance which the UK attaches to whale conservation.

Upcoming initiatives include a conference organised by our embassy in Reykjavik in March to highlight the advantages of whale watching. Our embassy in Copenhagen is arranging a similar event, also in March, in which a range of people will participate, including the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

In January 2008, the FCO and DEFRA will launch a lobbying campaign spearheaded by the global distribution of the newly revised DEFRA brochure "Protecting whales – a global responsibility" including a foreword from my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister. Further targeted lobbying will be carried out by FCO posts in the run up to IWC 60.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his foreign counterparts on whale conservation; and if he will make a statement. [177610]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no recent discussions with his foreign counterparts on this issue.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I have given to him today (UIN 177576).

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect on public order of supermarkets selling alcohol at cost price. [168115]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 26 November 2007]*: The Government published their National Alcohol Strategy 'Safe.Sensible.Social' in June 2007. This strategy sets out how the Government plan to achieve significant reductions in the harms and cost of alcohol misuse over the next 10 years. The Government have commissioned an independent review which will look at the relationship between alcohol price, promotion and harm. This review will look at in what circumstances price (including discounting, advertising and other forms of promotion) drives overall consumption of alcohol and problem drinking in particular. This review is expected to report in July 2008, and following public consultation, the Government will consider the need for regulatory change if necessary.

Cannabis

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if the Government will seek to re-classify cannabis as a class B drug. [178108]

Mr. Coaker: We will carefully consider the findings of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs when it submits its advice in April 2008 and we will then make a decision about whether or not to bring a proposal to Parliament to reclassify the drug.

Community Policing

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on the establishment of neighbourhood policing teams in England and Wales. [177778]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 14 January 2008]*: The Government are committed to ensuring every community has a neighbourhood policing team by April 2008 and forces are well on the way to achieving this. As at the end of December 2007, there were over 3,600 neighbourhood policing teams across England and Wales and 33 forces had already fully rolled out neighbourhood policing.

Crime Prevention: Voluntary Organisations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what support her Department gives to voluntary organisations that help reduce crime in communities. [176834]

Mr. Coaker: The Department is committed to working with voluntary sector organisations that play a crucial role in helping to shape, and where appropriate, deliver crime reduction services directly. In recognising this role at both regional and national level, the Home Office in 2007-08 provided over £3 million in financial support to several organisations, which demonstrates our continued support to our partnership with third sector organisations.

In addition, the Connected Fund Government funding for community groups has so far made over £1.75 million available to 400 small voluntary groups working on gun crime and related issues across the country.

The Home Office has also provided funding of £5.9 million in 2007-08 to Crime Concern for the Positive Futures Programme. Positive Futures is a national sports-based social inclusion programme which targets vulnerable young people in 30 areas worst affected by drug-related crime across the country.

Other financial support from the Home Office also benefits voluntary organisations. In 2007-08 this included over £21 million to the Youth Justice Board to fund youth crime prevention: third sector organisations are often key local delivery partners. The Tackling Gangs Action programme is working with third sector community groups as well as statutory providers to tackle gang activity and gun and knife crime. In addition, a substantial amount of Home Office funding is pooled with other funding through local area agreements to be spent locally, and again voluntary organisations are often key delivery partners locally in tackling crime in communities: in the current 2007-08 Financial Year the Home Office contributed £65 million resource and 18 million capital through local area agreements.

Crime: Internet

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received from *(a)* businesses and *(b)* organisations representing business on the establishment of a Police Central E-Crime Unit. [173822]

Mr. Coaker: The Secretary of State has not received any formal representations from business or business organisations regarding the establishment of a Police Central E-Crime Unit.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions Ministers and officials in her Department have had with HM Treasury on funding for a Police Central E-Crime Unit. [173824]

Mr. Coaker: Home Office Ministers and officials have not held any discussions with HM Treasury regarding funding for any police e-crime unit.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to receive a business case for the establishment of a Police Central E-Crime Unit. [173825]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office has received an initial business case from ACPO, and has asked for a more developed case to be presented. It is essential that any new unit formed has clear objectives, and does not overlap with any other law enforcement activity.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of legal sanctions in prosecuting the hiring of botnets to carry out phishing, directed denial of service and other cyber attacks on computer networks. [173829]

Mr. Coaker: The Government have introduced amendments to the Computer Misuse Act 1990 under section 5 (37) of the Police and Justice Act 2006 that creates a new offence of making, adapting or supplying articles for use in computer misuse offences. This offence covers the potential hiring out of botnets to carry such attacks. It is likely that this offence will come into force in April 2008. Guidance on the use of this new offence will be issued by the end of 2007.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the number of computers in the UK infected with malicious software enabling them to be used by third parties in botnet attacks. [173830]

Mr. Coaker: The Government recognise the problems of malicious software, and works with industry to encourage them to implement security solutions both on their networks and for consumers. The Government also support Get Safe Online, which provides consumers and businesses with information on how to protect themselves.

Extradition: EC Countries

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether all European extradition warrants are handled by the Serious Organised Crime Agency. [175763]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 8 January 2008]*: SOCA is the designated authority for the receipt and transmission of all European Arrest Warrants in the UK, with the exception of Scotland where this function is performed by the Crown Office of the Procurator Fiscal.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of levels of people trafficking into the UK. [177906]

Mr. Coaker: The nature of the crime makes it difficult to make an accurate assessment of the extent of the problem although intelligence suggests there has been an increase in the trafficking problem over the last few years. In order to better understand the situation the Serious Organised Crime Agency along with the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre continue to work on improving intelligence collection as a priority. The intelligence collected as part of the current Operation Pentameter 2 will assist with improving our understanding of the nature and scale of trafficking throughout the UK.

However, findings from a Home Office research paper estimates that at any one time in 2003 there were in the region of 4,000 female victims of trafficking for prostitution in the UK.

Police: Finance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much was spent by each police force defending actions brought against them by victims of crime in each year since 2001; [177134]

(2) how much was spent by each police force defending itself against vexatious litigation in each year since 2001; [177135]

(3) which *(a)* barristers' chambers and *(b)* solicitors' firms have undertaken work for each police force in England and Wales in each of the last two financial years; and what the reason for the work and the fees paid were in each case; [177136]

(4) which 10 barristers instructed by each police force in England and Wales received the highest sums for this work in the last two financial years; how much each received; and if she will make a statement. [177137]

Mr. McNulty: The information for all police forces in England and Wales is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Decisions on the distribution of resources are matters for the chief officer and the police authority.

Police: Migration

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect of likely increases in population on the delivery of policing services in *(a)* Government designated growth areas and *(b)* Northamptonshire. [162135]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 14 November 2007]*: Projections of population are one of the key components in the funding formula which determines the distribution of the main Government police grant between police authorities in England and Wales.

Since 1997, increases in Government funding for the police have far outstripped increases in population. In the case of Northamptonshire, Government funding has increased by 55 per cent., 22 per cent. in real terms, while its population has increased by 10 per cent.

Theft: Computers and Bicycles

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps the Government have taken to reduce computer theft; [177847]

(2) what steps the Government have taken to assist the public in protecting their bicycles from thieves. [177848]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 14 January 2008]*: There has been a strong drive from Government to reduce acquisitive crime since 1997, through targets, policy interventions and good practice development. Acquisitive crime has decreased significantly since the mid 1990s with a 34 per cent. reduction in personal acquisitive crime and a 55 per cent. reduction in household acquisitive crime between 1995 and 2006-07. This is equivalent to around 1 million fewer personal acquisitive crimes and almost 5 million fewer household acquisitive crimes.

Where these particular offences are problems in local areas, the police and other partners such as local authorities, will include them in their strategic assessments and priorities. A good example of local activity is Coventry Community Safety Partnership's work with two universities to purchase 1,000 licences which enable laptops to be tracked if stolen.

Regarding bicycle theft, in 2006 the Home Office published a "Steer Clear of Cycle Theft" leaflet providing crime prevention guidance for owners and law enforcement. Details can be found on the Home Office website (http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime-victims/how-you-can-prevent-crime/). This advice includes security marking the cycle; keeping a copy of the details including colour and frame number (and taking a photograph); and, registering the details with a central database.

Theft: Metals

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to deal with people who steal expensive metal objects to sell to scrap yards. [178000]

Mr. Coaker: We are aware that thefts of valuable metals have been increasing over recent months and we are working closely with the industries affected and the police to develop a response to tackle these crimes.

The Association of Chief Police Officers has set up a working group, chaired by the British Transport police and with Home Office representation, to assess the scale of such incidents. The aim of the group will be to establish an action plan which will address all aspects of the problem from national co-ordination to local responses to tackle metal thieves, including an examination of the current effectiveness of legislation relating to scrap metal recycling.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to ensure that hon. Members' constituency cases are not referred to regional Child Support Agency offices without hon. Members' consent; and if he will make a statement. [166904]

Mr. Plaskitt: Where parliamentary questions or correspondence from Members of Parliament refers to child support operational matters, the Minister will ask the Child Support Agency to respond on their behalf as the administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You have asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to ensure that hon. Members' constituency cases are not referred to regional Child Support Agency offices without hon. Member's consent; and if he will make a statement.

Where Parliamentary Questions or correspondence from Members of Parliament refers to Child Support operational matters, the Minister will ask the Child Support Agency to respond on his behalf.

I reply personally to all Parliamentary Questions, including those relating to constituency cases. The Agency's Head of Client Relations, Florence Lea, will reply to all other correspondence from hon. Members to the Minister relating to constituency cases.

In cases where an hon. Member writes directly to me as Chief Executive, the Agency's policy is that all such correspondence is dealt with by the Agency's Head of Client Relations, unless the hon. Member is content to receive a response direct from the regional centre dealing with their constituent's case.

I hope you find the answer helpful.

Council Tax Benefit

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the take-up rate of council tax benefit was in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [178384]

Mr. Plaskitt: Estimates of the take-up rate of council tax benefit are available in the DWP publication series entitled "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2005-06". Copies of the latest publication, plus past reports, can be found in the Library.

Credit: Low Incomes

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Government is taking to encourage initiatives from mainstream lenders to provide affordable credit to those on benefits and others at risk of financial exclusion. [177882]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The Financial Inclusion Task-force has defined the role for banks in respect of affordable credit as supporting the growth of third sector lenders. The Government's recent action plan for financial inclusion announced a commitment by the banks—building on successful work in partnership with Government to increase take-up of basic bank accounts, and their support for other financial inclusion initiatives—to support third sector affordable credit. This will include action to develop new provision in 25 high priority areas identified by the Financial Inclusion Task-force; the Government will work with the banks to identify areas most suitable for action.

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans his Department has to reduce fuel poverty in Scotland; and what account he has taken of the Scottish House Condition Survey in developing such plans. [177114]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs have the lead responsibility for the reduction of fuel poverty, although DWP works very closely with them to ensure that as many households as possible receive help. This is a Government priority and we are taking action throughout the UK to maximise benefit take-up and improve joined up working with the energy suppliers and across Government.

We are currently undertaking a fuel poverty partnership pilot with the energy industry. This targets 250,000 pensioners in receipt of pension credit throughout England, Scotland and Wales, which aims to increase the take-up of energy efficiency measures and Warm Front grants. In Scotland, 16,500 recipients of pension credit will be contacted. This is just one of a range of activities designed to tackle fuel poverty as part of the cross government 'Keep Warm Keep Well' initiative.

With reference to the Scottish House Condition Survey, the Fifth Annual Progress Report of the UK Fuel Poverty Strategy, published in December 2007 by DBERR and supported by DWP, draws on the data from that report.

Health and Safety Executive: Finance

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of future funding plans for the Health and Safety Executive on its ability to perform its role. [173795]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department is currently discussing funding for the 2007 spending review period with the Health and Safety Commission and the Health and Safety Executive. As part of this process, Ministers have asked HSC/E to maintain front-line inspector numbers for the next spending period, at least at the March 2008 level. HSC/E has been asked to prepare a business plan for my approval which sets out how they will perform their role. HSC/E's final spending settlement will be announced in the new year.

Jobcentre Plus: Computer Software

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reason the personal benefit advice software provided by Jobcentre Plus is compatible with MS Windows platforms only. [174090]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The personal benefit advice software essentially mirrors that of the Department of Work and Pensions' own networked better off calculator which is available to staff, primarily within Jobcentre Plus.

The better off calculator has been developed for use on the Department's standard operating platform which, along with the personal benefit advice software, is MS Windows.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether claimants may receive jobseeker's allowance for more than 18 months as a result of single claim; and if he will make a statement. [173900]

Mr. Plaskitt: Yes. Since May 1997, the number of people claiming jobseeker's allowance for 18 months and over has fallen from 292,700 to 29,900 in November 2007.

Pensions: Financial Assistance Scheme

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 100-02WS, on Financial Assistance Scheme, whether the level of compensation in the amended Financial Assistance Scheme will be identical to that offered by the Pension Protection Fund. [175719]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 7 January 2008]*: The assistance provided by the financial assistance scheme will be broadly comparable in value to that provided by the Pension Protection Fund, though not identical. Because FAS pension schemes started winding up under the regulatory framework and individual pension scheme rules that predate the PPF, and as many FAS schemes will already have bought annuities for members as part of the winding up process, there will inevitably be differences in the structure of assistance provided. In practice, we believe that for the majority of beneficiaries these differences will not be substantial.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was unclaimed in means-tested benefits in each of the last five years. [179146]

Mr. Plaskitt: Estimates of unclaimed means-tested benefits are available in the DWP publication series entitled "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-up". Copies of the latest publication, plus past reports, can be found in the Library.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Housing: York

13. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if the Minister for Housing will visit York to discuss the city's housing needs. [178397]

Yvette Cooper: Yes.

Councillors: Diversity

14. **Nia Griffith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made in increasing the number of councillors who are women or from ethnic minorities. [178398]

Mr. Dhanda: We set up the Councillors Commission to examine how a wider range of people, especially from under-represented groups like women and ethnic minorities, can be encouraged to become councillors. The Commission has published its findings in December and we will respond to their recommendations this spring.

Young People: Local Authority Decision Making

15. **Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will improve opportunities for the involvement of young people in decision-making by local authorities. [178399]

Hazel Blears: My Department is deeply committed to increasing opportunities for all people, including young people to be involved in decision-making by local authorities. Our ambitions to widen and deepen these opportunities are set out in our Community Empowerment Action Plan published in October 2007, which is jointly owned by the Local Government Association.

Home Information Packs

16. **Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what provisions the Government have put in place for the regular review of the effect of home information packs on the housing market. [178400]

Yvette Cooper: An independent report by Europe Economics on the impact of home information packs on the market was published by my Department on 22 November. The Government continue to monitor the impact of home information packs.

Community Land Trusts

17. **Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what additional help she plans to make available to encourage the setting up of community land trusts. [178401]

Yvette Cooper: We are supporting 14 pilots for community land trusts through the Housing Corporation by:

giving local communities access to land for affordable house building;

inviting trusts to bid for funding through the National Affordable Housing Programme; and

providing support through the Innovation and Good Practice Programme.

Council Housing

18. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she plans to take to improve the quality of council housing. [178402]

Yvette Cooper: In 2001 we introduced the decent homes standard, which for the first time set minimum standard, for all council housing in England, we have already reduced the number of non-decent social sector homes by over one million.

By 2010 over £40 billion will have been invested in improvements to social housing and work will have been completed to over 3.6 million social-sector homes, with improvements for 8 million people in total, including 2.5 million children.

Energy-Efficient Homes

19. **Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on steps to improve domestic energy efficiency. [178403]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has a wide range of mutually reinforcing policies and programmes in place aimed at improving domestic energy efficiency. Discussions are held at ministerial and official level on a regular basis. Both Departments will be jointly launching a green homes strategy which will include what Government is doing to reduce emissions from the domestic sector.

Local Government Funding

20. **Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the local government finance settlement for 2008-09. [178404]

John Healey: The provisional local government finance settlement was announced on 6 December 2007. The ensuing consultation on Government's proposals has now closed, and the House will have the opportunity to debate the Government's proposals in due course.

Violent Extremism

21. **Mr. Khalid Mahmood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made through the Pathfinder projects in preventing violent extremism. [178405]

Hazel Blears: Over 200 projects are currently being delivered through the preventing violent extremism Pathfinder fund, which is building resilience to violent extremism in around 70 priority local authorities.

Firefighters

22. **Dr. Nick Palmer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will review the regulations governing ill-health retirement of firefighters. [178406]

Mr. Dhanda: Representations from stakeholders about the terms of the current regulations governing the ill-health retirement of firefighters are being carefully considered. A statement will be made once our assessment of the representations is completed.

It is not the intention of the current regulations, nor the explanatory guidance produced by Communities and Local Government, either in 2004 or 2006, to adversely affect firefighters' entitlement to an ill-health pension.

Pension benefits for life are available to those who are permanently unable to perform the duties of a firefighter. Otherwise, the Department believes that another post within the fire and rescue authority, or alternative local authority employment, should be considered.

Ujima Housing Association

23. **Mr. Rob Wilson**: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the financial position of Ujima Housing Association and consequent action taken by the Housing Corporation under the Housing Act 1996. [178407]

Yvette Cooper: On 20 December, Ujima issued a statutory notice to the Housing Corporation and sought a winding-up order from court on the basis that it was unable to meet its debts when they fell due. Statutory notices were also issued by some secured creditors of Ujima on 20 December (in relation to defaults against credit agreements) and on 21 December (confirming the appointment of receivers). This latter action triggered a Moratorium under Part 1 of the Housing Act 1996, during which time the Housing Corporation may put proposals to secured creditors to safeguard the interests of tenants, taxpayers and creditors.

Following the acceptance of the Housing Corporation's proposal by the secured creditors of Ujima Housing Association, the Housing Corporation on 14 January, appointed Grant Thornton as Manager under the 1996 Act to implement the transfer of Ujima's assets and liabilities to London and Quadrant Housing Group. We anticipate that the transfer should be complete this week.

Councillors' Commission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria her Department used to determine the membership of the Councillors' Commission; and what *(a)* remuneration and *(b)* expenses members of the Commission are entitled to. [171639]

John Healey: The membership criteria for the Councillors' Commission were:

substantial understanding of local government and the role of a councillor;

experience of community activism;

good understanding of the business/commercial perspective on councillors as employees;

awareness of ethics in public life; and

sound understanding of the Government's agenda for local government.

The Chair in particular was required to command the confidence of the stakeholders, especially the local government sector. None of the Commissioners were remunerated for their work, but their expenses were covered in relation to any costs arising from attending Commission meetings, events and other related visits.

Departmental Pay

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 874W, on departmental pay, how many of those earning over £100,000 were employed *(a)* as special advisers and *(b)* in a political role in each year since 2002. [177178]

Mr. Dhanda: Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the number of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 147-151WS.

Information on the numbers and costs of special advisers prior to 2003 was provided at regular intervals and this information will be available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reason she is proposing to reduce the floor of spending. [177983]

John Healey: When setting the levels of the floors within the local government finance settlement we need to strike a balance between affordability, the floor level and the scaling factor applied to authorities above the floor.

Departmental Secondment

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff have been seconded to *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its executive agencies, in the last 12 months; from which outside body they were seconded; and what the length was of each secondment. [176593]

Mr. Dhanda: Fifty-two secondments to Communities and Local Government began during the 12 months to 31 December 2007. The planned lengths of these secondments and the outside bodies from which the secondments were drawn are given in the following tables.

Length of secondment	*Number of secondments*
Less than or equal to six months	7
More than six months, less than or equal to one year	36
More than one year, less than or equal to two years	6
More than two years	3
Total	52

Outside body	*Number of secondments*
Audit Commission	2
Basildon District Council	1
Bedfordshire and Luton Fire and Rescue Service	1

Outside body	Number of secondments
British Urban Regeneration Association (BURA)	1
Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority	1
Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service	1
Centrepoint	1
Chief Fire Officers' Association	1
Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service	1
Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service	1
East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service	1
Essex County Council	1
Essex County Fire and Rescue Service	1
Fire Control West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service	1
Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service	2
Groundwork UK	1
Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service	4
Hereford and Worcester Fire Rescue Service	1
Homeless Link	1
Humberside Fire and Rescue Service	1
Improvement and Development Agency	1
London Borough of Lambeth	1
London Civic Forum	1
London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority	1
MAple Access	1
Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service	1
Mid-Sussex District Council	1
Norfolk County Council	1
Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service	1
Northamptonshire County Council	1
Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service	1
Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service	1
Nottinghamshire Probation Area	1
Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service	1
Revolving Doors Agency	1
South Wales Fire and Rescue Service	1
Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service	1
Stoke on Trent City Council	1
Surrey Fire and Rescue Service	1
The Housing Corporation	2
Town and Country Planning Association	1
West Berkshire	1
West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service	1
West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service	1
Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority	1
Record not available at this time	1
Total	52

There were no secondments to the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in the last 12 months. There was one secondment to the Planning Inspectorate from North Somerset council which is planned to last for nine months. There were 12 secondments to the Fire Service college beginning in 2007. These were drawn from local fire and rescue services listed as follows. Each of these secondments is intended to last for three years.

Outside bodies from which staff were seconded to the Fire Service college:

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service
Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service
Cleveland Fire and Rescue Service
Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service
Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service
Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service
Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service
Fife Fire and Rescue Service
Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service
Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service
Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service

Digital Technology

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to promote digital inclusion. [176207]

John Healey: The Department's work on digital inclusion is aimed at ensuring that all local authorities and local strategic partnerships have the capacity and capability to take advantage of new technologies in supporting communities and place shaping, and delivering on the Local Government White Paper.

This work includes continuing support to the winner of 2007's digital challenge competition, Sunderland city council, and the nine other finalists in their efforts to jointly develop good practice on digital inclusion initiatives and to promote digital inclusion as an aid to the successful delivery of local area agreements; a new digital inclusion theme for the beacon scheme in 2008; and funding the national digital inclusion team which runs a programme to explore and exploit the application of digital technologies to benefit socially excluded people across England.

Empty Property: Farms

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of disused farm buildings in England. [179298]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

English Language

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has spent on English language classes for staff in the last year for which figures are available. [177430]

Mr. Dhanda: My Department has not incurred any expenditure on English language classes for staff.

Fire Services: Costs

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the costs of support services as a percentage of total costs were for each fire authority in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [177437]

Mr. Dhanda: It is not possible to derive meaningful estimates of the cost of support services from the information collected from fire authorities, given the significant differences between years and between authorities in how support services costs are classified in their accounts.

Fire Services: Finance

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what factors were taken into account in determining the 2008-09 North Yorkshire fire and rescue provisional budgetary settlement. [178015]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 14 January 2008]:* The distribution of formula grant takes into account the relative needs and potential to raise income locally (resources) of an authority, relative to all other authorities providing the same service. It also contains a central allocation and a floor damping mechanism.

For North Yorkshire fire and rescue the needs component is measured through the Fire and Rescue Relative Needs Formula (RNF) and the Capital Finance RNF. The Fire and Rescue RNF takes into account the resident population, coastline, deprivation, high risk sites, property and societal risk and community fire safety. The capital finance RNF takes into account assumed outstanding debt and supported capital expenditure (revenue).

The resources element uses a measure of the council tax base (number of Band D equivalent properties).

From the proposals for the 2008-09 settlement announced on the 6 December, North Yorkshire will also benefit by £1.71 million from the floor damping mechanism. This will ensure that they receive a 1 per cent. increase in grant on a like for like basis.

Government Offices for the Regions: Consultants

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Government Offices of the Regions spent on *(a)* running costs and *(b)* programme expenditure on consultants in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06 and (iii) 2006-07. [178500]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 14 January 2008]:* The Government Offices for the Regions spent the following running cost amounts on consultancy:

	£
2004-05	4,133,464
2005-06	3,505,194
2006-07	2,427,162

The Government Offices receive financial delegations to incur programme expenditure on behalf of the sponsor Departments, however this is recorded against the accounts of the Departments and no central records are retained within the GOs of programme expenditure.

Housing Data Domain Group

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 16 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1035W, on the Housing Data Domain Group, whether her Department compiles neighbourhood or local statistics on family breakdown. [176454]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government does not compile neighbourhood or local statistics on family breakdown.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the provisions of the Housing Green Paper relating to house building targets are intended to be applied by planning authorities in determining planning applications currently under consideration or taken into account for planning applications currently subject to appeal before legislation is enacted. [177445]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local planning authorities must determine planning applications in accordance with the statutory development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Government national statements of planning policy, such as planning policy for housing policies set out in Planning Policy Statement 3, and other policy, such as the house building targets set out in the Housing Green Paper 'Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable', are capable of being material considerations to be taken into account by local planning authorities, the Planning Inspectorate Agency or other relevant decision taker, in determining planning applications.

It is for the relevant decision taker to determine the weight to be given to any material consideration depending on the circumstances of any individual case.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* houses and bungalows and *(b)* flats and maisonettes she expects to be built as part of her Department's target of 3,000,000 new homes by 2020; and if she will make a statement. [179247]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government target is in terms of net additional dwellings and is not divided between flats and houses. It is for regional and local planning authorities to plan for an appropriate mix of housing.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimates she has made of *(a)* the number of affordable houses that will be built by (i) 2010 and (ii) 2020 and *(b)* the proportion of those that will be accessible. [179348]

Mr. Iain Wright: We announced in the Housing Green Paper an increase of new affordable housing to at least 70,000 per annum by 2010-11. Of these 45,000 homes will be for social rent and 25,000 for low cost home ownership. We have a goal to go further in subsequent years to 50,000 new homes for social rent in the next spending review period.

The number of social rented homes to be provided from 2011-12 will be the subject of further spending reviews.

The Housing Corporation is committed to increasing the number of homes built to Lifetime Homes Standards (LHS) in their 2008 to 2011 Affordable Housing programme and are actively seeking to encourage bids to include LHS in the current bidding round. From 2011, public sector funded homes will be built to LHS.

Housing: Planning

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to amend planning regulations on the conversion of family homes into bed sits. [176739]

Mr. Iain Wright: Under existing planning regulations, the conversion of a dwelling house into bed sits may require planning permission, depending on the characteristics of the proposed domestic arrangements and whether these are deemed to result in a material change of use. The Government recognise that there may be instances where the use of dwelling houses in group occupation may have adverse impacts upon the character and amenity of existing neighbourhoods. We intend to conduct further research into the extent of this problem and possible ways of addressing it. There may be a case for amending the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 to strengthen the ability of local planning authorities to control the proliferation of houses in multiple occupation (HMOs). We propose to consult on possible amendments to the Use Classes Order in relation to HMOs later in the year.

Housing: Waiting Lists

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households were on waiting lists for housing in *(a)* Cleethorpes constituency and *(b)* Great Grimsby constituency in each year since 1997. [176873]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information is collected at the local authority level. Cleethorpes constituency and Great Grimsby constituency falls within North East Lincolnshire council. The number of households on the waiting list for social housing in North East Lincolnshire council in each year since 1997, as at 1 April each year, is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600. The figures for 2007 will be available by February 2008. The link for this table is as follows:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/144458

Specifically, the waiting list for social housing in North East Lincolnshire council in each year since 1997 is given in the following table:

Households on the waiting list (excludes households looking for transfers)—North East Lincolnshire UA

	Number
1997	5,545
1998	4,279
1999	4,480
2000	3,130
2001	2,851
2002	3,155
2003	3,735
2004	3,067
2005	3,948
2006	4,181

Note:
As reported by local authorities.
Source:
Communities and Local Government Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return (HSSA).

Local authorities in England report the numbers of households on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns. Not everyone on the waiting list is necessarily in urgent housing need. The waiting list includes those who consider social housing as their preferred or one of a number of housing options, and those who decide to get onto the waiting list ladder before they need or want to move house—particularly where the priority system is heavily based on waiting time. The size of the waiting list is not an indicator of absolute need, it is only useful as a broad indicator of housing demand in an area.

Local Authorities: Planning Permission

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in what circumstances an intention by a local planning authority to issue a temporary planning permission is called in by her Department; how many such call-ins have occurred since 1 January 2005; and if she will make a statement. [178163]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government's policy on calling-in planning applications, including those involving temporary planning permission, was set out by my right hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Central (Mr. Caborn) in reply to the former hon. Member for Sheffield, Heeley (Bill Michie) on 16 June 1999, *Official Report*, column 138. Since 1 January 2005, there has been one planning application seeking temporary planning permission called in for determination by the Secretary of State.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost of each bid for unitary status was in 2007, broken down by main budget heading. [174191]

John Healey: We do not hold information on the cost of preparing unitary proposals. The invitation to councils issued on 26 October made clear that it was wholly at the discretion of a council as to whether or not it responded to the invitation to make a proposal for future unitary local government structures in their area. It was for the authorities who submitted proposals to judge the level of resource they would apply to preparing proposals.

Local Government: Housing

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities managing their own housing stock are in *(a)* positive and *(b)* negative subsidy. [175008]

Mr. Iain Wright: Lists of authorities managing their own housing stock which were in positive and negative housing revenue account subsidy in 2005-06 (the last year for which we had audited data) are as follows.

Authorities which have retained their stock and are part of the subsidy system, but who had delegated the management of their housing stock to an arm's length management organisation at that time have been omitted from the lists.

Local authorities managing their own housing stock 2005-06

Negative Subsidy

Adur
Alnwick
Arun
Ashford
Aylesbury
Babergh
Barking
Berwick
Blaby
Bolsover
Bournemouth
Bracknell
Braintree
Brentwood
Bridgnorth
Broxbourne
Broxtowe
Cambridge
Cannock
Chase
Canterbury
Caradon
Castle
Morpeth
Castle Point
Chesterfield
Chester-le-Street
Chorley
City of York
Corby
Crawley
Croydon
Dacorum
Darlington
Dartford
Daventry
Doncaster
Dover
Dudley
Durham
East Devon
East Riding
Ellesmere Port
Epping Forest
Exeter
Fareham
Fenland
Gedling
Gosport
Gravesham
Great Yarmouth
Guildford
Halton
Harborough
Harlow
Harrogate
Harrow
Hinckley
Ipswich
Kettering
Kings Lynn
Kingston upon Thames
Lancaster
Lewes
Luton
Macclesfield
Medway Towns
Melton
Merton
Mid Devon
Mid Suffolk
Milton Keynes
Mole Valley
New Forest
Newark
North Cornwall
North Kesteven
North Lincoln
North Norfolk
North Shropshire
North Somerset
North Warwick
Northampton
Norwich
Nuneaton
NW Leicester
Oadby and Wigston
Oswestry
Oxford City
Pendle
Reading
Redditch
Ribble Valley
Richmondshire
Rochford
Rossendale
Rotherham
Rugby
Runnymede
Rutland

Salisbury
Sedgefield
Sefton
Selby
Shepway
South Bedfordshire
South Cambridge
South Derby
South Gloucestershire
South Holland
South Kesteven
South Northants
St. Albans
Stafford
Stoke-on-Trent
Stroud
Swindon
Tamworth
Tandridge
Taunton Deane
Teesdale
Tendring
Three Rivers
Thurrock
Torridge
Uttlesford
Wandsworth
Warwick
Watford
Waveney
Waverley
Wealden
Wear Valley
Wellingborough
Welwyn Hatfield
West Lancashire
Winchester
Woking
Wokingham
Wycombe.

Positive Subsidy

Birmingham
Brighton and Hove
Bristol
Camden
City of London
Greenwich
Hyndburn
Kingston upon Hull
Leicester
Lincoln
Liverpool
Mansfield
Middlesbrough
North Tyneside
Peterborough
Plymouth
Portsmouth
Preston
Redcar and Cleveland
South Norfolk
Southampton
Southwark
Thanet
Wakefield
Wansbeck
Wirral.

Minimum Wage

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many London-based staff are employed by her Department on the national minimum wage. [175974]

Mr. Dhanda: All of the staff employed by the Department are paid more than the national minimum wage.

Motor Vehicles: Arson

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many deliberate road vehicle fires occurred in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* the most recent year for which figures are available in Wales and each Government office region in England. [176179]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is in the following table, showing both the most recent financial year (2005-06) and the most recent calendar year (2006).

Deliberate road vehicle fires, England and Wales, England, and Government office regions, 1996-97, 2005-06 and 2006

	1996-97	*2005-06*	*2006*
England and Wales	39,315	42,068	37,838
England	36,454	38,935	34,893
Government office regions			
East	2,544	3,123	2,805
East Midlands	2,988	3,413	3,165
London	3,056	3,179	2,879
North East	3,131	2,707	2,515
North West	7,489	7,704	6,826
South East	4,119	4,879	4,344
South West	2,362	3,172	2,917
West Midlands	4,904	4,281	3,687
Yorkshire and Humberside	5,864	6,477	5,756

Note:
Data for 2006 are provisional.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes she proposes to make to the *(a)* precepting, *(b)* collection and *(c)* distribution of non-domestic business rates following the Lyons Report. [178466]

John Healey: The Lyons report did not recommend substantial changes and there are no plans to alter the current precepting, collection and distribution national non domestic rates regime. However, following the Lyons Report the White Paper "Business Rate Supplements", published in October 2007, set out the Government's plan to introduce powers for local authorities to levy a supplement on business rates.

Non-Domestic Rates: Tax Allowances

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will publish her Department's review of business rate reliefs and exemptions. [176254]

John Healey: Business rates reliefs and exemptions were reviewed as part of the ongoing maintenance of running the business rates system by Communities and Local Government. No document was drawn together for publication.

Planning Inspectorate: Consultants

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Planning Inspectorate spent in *(a)* running costs and *(b)* programme expenditure on consultants in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06 and (iii) 2006-07. [178971]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is as follows:

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Running costs	1,661,509.98	1,433,169.89	1,083,585.54
Capital	1,163,441.94	1,839,694.08	406,863.20
Total spend	2,824,951.92	3,272,863.97	1,490,448.74

Note
The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) is programme funded and therefore all PINS expenditure is classified as programme expenditure.

Planning Permission: Playing Fields

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications have been approved affecting playing field sites of *(a)* more than and *(b)* less than 0.4 hectares in each year since 2001-02; and if she will make a statement. [177054]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Sport England collect information on all planning applications affecting playing fields of 0.4 hectares or more through their status as a statutory consultee. The following table shows the number of approved planning applications for all years since 2001 for which we have published data. These figures do not necessarily represent the 'threat' to playing fields, as many applications are from clubs and schools wishing to improve the quality of their playing fields and sporting provision. The second column therefore shows the percentage of these applications that represent a benefit or no change to sporting provision.

	Number of approved planning applications	*Percentage representing a benefit or no change to sporting provision*
2001-02	695	92
2002-03	807	90
2003-04	959	95
2004-05	910	95

Information on planning applications affecting playing fields of 0.2 hectares or under is not collected centrally. However, the Department for Communities and Local Government has committed to consulting this year on reducing from 0.4 hectares to 0.2 hectares the threshold at which Sport England must be consulted when a planning application for development is submitted.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department plans to *(a)* consult on the proposals in the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 on playing fields of 0.2 hectares and above and *(b)* bring forward the changes recommended in the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 announced in her Department's press release Planning to Safeguard Open Spaces and Playing Fields of July 2002. [177055]

Mr. Iain Wright: We are committed to reducing the threshold for statutory consultation on the sale of playing fields from 0.4 ha to 0.2 ha and this topic will be included in the consultation paper on the review of statutory consultees to be published in due course. We hope to bring forward amendments to the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 following consultation.

Public Buildings: Fire Prevention

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will seek discussions with Cabinet colleagues on reviewing guidance on fire reduction *(a)* regulation and *(b)* technology in relation to publicly owned buildings; and if she will make a statement. [178242]

Mr. Dhanda: My Department has published technical risk assessment guidance for those responsible for fire safety under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. This order applies to all non-domestic buildings and includes publicly owned buildings. As with all guidance documentation, my Department will keep this under review.

Regional Planning and Development: East Midlands

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which hon. and right hon. Members made formal submissions to the public consultation on the draft East Midlands Regional Plan. [178204]

Mr. Dhanda: The following hon. and right hon. Members made formal representations on the Draft East Midlands Regional Plan:

Right hon. and learned Member for Rushcliffe (Kenneth Clarke);

Hon. Member for Bassetlaw (John Mann);

Hon. Member for Leicester South (Sir Peter Soulsby);

Hon. Member for South Derbyshire (Mark Todd).

Regional Planning and Development: Planning Inspectorate

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department issues to the Planning Inspectorate on the admission of oral representations from hon. Members during examinations in public of regional plans; and how many hon. Members were invited to make oral representations to the examination in public of the draft East Midlands Regional Plan. [178995]

Mr. Iain Wright: Guidance on examinations in public (EiP) of draft regional spatial strategies is set out in PPS11: regional spatial strategies.

It is the responsibility of the panel to select matters that it considers ought to be examined and participants in an examination are invited by the panel, having regard to the nature of the representations they made during the consultation on the draft RSS and the contribution they can be expected to make to the specific matters to be discussed. In the case of the East Midlands no hon. Members were invited to attend.

Social Services: Asylum

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what additional funds were made available to local authority social services to provide care for unaccompanied asylum seeking children in each of the last three years, broken down by local authority; and if she will make a statement. [176121]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 7 January 2008]*: I have been asked to reply.

The grant payments made by the Home Office to local authorities in respect of unaccompanied asylum seeking children over the past three years are set out in the tables placed in the House Library.

UK Location Strategy

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has for consultation on the UK Location Strategy. [175655]

Mr. Dhanda: Place Matters: The Location Strategy for the United Kingdom was submitted to Ministers by the UK Geographic Information Panel in October 2007. It was formulated following wide consultation across the UK geographic information industry and related interests. The strategy provides a framework for the better management and stewardship of public sector information.

Decisions will be made shortly on how best to take forward the recommendations contained within the strategy.

Unitary Councils

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for publication of the first draft unitary implementation orders. [171615]

John Healey: The first draft unitary implementation orders were laid on 17 December 2007.

Youth Services: Finance

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what schemes funded by her Department can be applied to by organisations that help young people in the community; [173468]

(2) what support her Department has given to voluntary organisations that work with young people in the community in each of the last five years. [173469]

John Healey: Communities and Local Government (CLG) is committed to supporting work to improve outcomes for young people. In October 2007 we published an Action Plan for Community Empowerment: Building on Success, with a key theme of empowering young people to shape their local services. Examples of current initiatives include the Young Advisors scheme which trains young people aged 15 to 21 to act as consultants to ensure the views of young people are considered in local authority decisions affecting them.

The total departmental budget comprises support from specific programmes, in addition to support through generic schemes such as the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and Supporting People. Many of these programmes support organisations that work with young people. The level of support through these programmes for the voluntary and community sector is not held centrally. We estimate that our specific funding programmes for the voluntary and community sector over the last five years have provided support totalling:

	Estimated total (£ million)
2003-04	21.5
2004-05	26.5
2005-06	29.5
2006-07	32.5
2007-08	29.5

Information about any future funding schemes will be posted on our Department's website.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what files are held by the Cabinet Office on *(a)* the Abortion (Amendment) Bill of Sessions (i) 1979-80, (ii) 1987-88 and (iii) 1989-90, *(b)* the Unborn Children (Protection) Bills of sessions (A) 1984-85, (B) 1985-86 and (C) 1987-88 and *(c)* the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill of session 1989-90; and if he will make a statement. [177570]

Gillian Merron: As indicated in the Guide to Legislative Procedures which is published on the Cabinet Office website, it is normal practice for all private Members' Bills to be considered by the Cabinet Committee on legislation.

Information on the proceedings of all Cabinet committees, including when meetings are held and what is discussed, is retained for the historical record but is not normally released until after 30 years.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether any of his Department's special advisers also work for organisations outside his Department. [178485]

Gillian Merron: Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the "Model Contract" and "Code of Conduct for Special Advisers", copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Publicity

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many full-time equivalent staff are responsible for brand management and marketing in his Department and its agencies; [165234]

(2) how much his Department and its agencies spent on staff working on *(a)* marketing and *(b)* branding in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167312]

Gillian Merron: In the last 12-month period for which figures are available (1 November 2006 to 31 October 2007) the Cabinet Office spent £23,800 on staff costs for work on marketing along with branding. From 1 April 2007, the Cabinet Office outsourced all its central external marketing function (including managing its brand) to the Central Office of Information (COI). Some general communications staff across the Department have marketing and branding functions, along with other communications functions such as strategy and planning, dealing with the media, internal communications and e-media.

Government Departments: Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the written statement of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS, on data handling procedures in Government and the Cabinet Secretary's interim progress report, how many Government Departments or agencies store data outside the UK; and how many people's details are stored in this way. [177166]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. The Cabinet Office published an interim progress report on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS. A further report is expected in spring 2008.

Ministers: Grace and Favour Housing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer of 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1135W, on Ministers: grace and favour housing, whether Lord Malloch-Brown moved into the same ministerial residence as previously occupied by the right hon. Member for Kingston upon Hull. [176899]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Edward Miliband) on 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 352W.

Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what planning applications the Cabinet Office has submitted in relation to requests for planning permission on its properties inside London in the last 12 months; in what buildings; and for what purposes. [176343]

Edward Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to him on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1084-85W.

Youth Volunteering

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for South Ribble of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 562W, on youth volunteering, how many young people *(a)* have undertaken voluntary work arranged by v since its establishment and *(b)* are in a voluntary role arranged by v. [178350]

Phil Hope: Young people do not volunteer directly through v, they volunteer through local, regional and national organisations that v commissions to provide volunteering opportunities.

v is currently collating up-to-date information on the number of young people who have volunteered through the projects that they fund. This information will be available in February 2008.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Publicity

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Prime Minister (1) how much his office spent on staff working on *(a)* marketing and *(b)* branding in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; [167298]

(2) how many full-time equivalent staff are responsible for brand management and marketing in his office. [169502]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron) today.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Industrial Health and Safety

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many nurses were *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed while on duty in accident and emergency wards in each of the last five years; [178931]

(2) how many ambulance paramedics were *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed while on duty in each of the last five years. [178932]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 14 January 2008]*: The information is not available. It is being collected and is expected to be available in spring 2008. We will arrange to place a copy of this information in the Library in due course.

Alcoholic Drinks: Health Education

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he intends to launch his Department's national communications campaign to raise awareness of alcohol, as described in paragraph 2.36 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy; and for how many years he anticipates the national communications campaign will run. [174680]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department of Health and Home Office will jointly launch a much expanded, multi-million pound public health and education campaign on alcohol from April 2008 to challenge public tolerance of drunkenness and drinking that causes harm to health.

As outlined in the Government's strategy 'Safe, Sensible, Social', the national campaign will aim to raise the public's knowledge of units of alcohol and the Department's sensible drinking guidelines, promote advice around drinking and pregnancy, and target drinkers who harm their health and that of their families and friends. The current campaign targeting 18 to 24-year-old binge drinkers will continue. We expect the overall national campaign to run over a number of years.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who he intends will develop the targeted information and advice for people who drink at harmful levels, as described in paragraph 2.36 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy. [174890]

Dawn Primarolo: Targeted information and advice for people who drink at harmful levels will be established based on research commissioned by the Central Office of Information and the Department.

Barnet Primary Care Trust: Drugs

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on drugs and pharmaceuticals by Barnet Primary Care Trust in 2006-07; what estimated expenditure on such products is for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [178072]

Mr. Bradshaw: Barnet primary care trust (PCT) spent a total of £46,984,000 on drugs and prescribing in 2006-07. Estimated expenditure for 2007-08 and 2008-09 is not collected centrally.

Source: 2006-07 audited summarisation schedules and financial returns for the PCT.

Barnet Primary Care Trust: Finance

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage change in revenue allocation Barnet primary care trust will receive for 2008-09; and what progress has been made in returning top sliced and other withheld funds relating to previous years to Barnet primary care trust. [178074]

Mr. Bradshaw: In 2008-09, all primary care trusts (PCTs) will receive an above-inflation cash increase of 5.5 per cent. Barnet PCT will receive a 2008-09 revenue allocation of £485.8 million, a cash increase of £25.2 million from 2007-08.

In 2006-07 Barnet PCT had £12.8 million funds topsliced. £2.9 million of this topslice was returned at the end of 2006-07 and a further £7.8 million has been returned in the current financial year.

Cancer: Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date his Department initiated its review of customer experience information, as described in paragraph 5.73 of his Department's Cancer Reform Strategy; what the cost to the public purse has been of his Department's review of customer experience information; and if he will make a statement. [175113]

Ann Keen: The review of customer experience information started in October 2007. This review fulfils a commitment made in the 'Our Health, Our Care, Our Say' White Paper:

"To facilitate the better use of surveys, the Department of Health will review the (national patient) survey programme" (paragraph 7.21).

The cost of this work is £249,000 and it is due to conclude in February 2008.

The project scope is to look at how we might collect the most appropriate feedback from patients and users and ensure it is being used at all the right levels, such as policy making, commissioning, provision, staff accreditation and reward.

Care Homes: Closures

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many care homes closed in England in each of the last five years, broken down by region. [178290]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have been informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that it is only able to provide data on the number of homes de-registered. De-registration includes not only homes permanently closed but also temporary closures, due, for example, to a change of ownership, an application to change the service a home provides or while refurbishment takes place. In instances such as these, a home will de-register and then re-register at a later date.

The following table shows the number of care homes deregistered by CSCI in each year and by each region for the years 2002-03 to 2006-07.

CSCI region	Year				
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
East Midlands	147	273	167	163	155
Eastern	136	210	156	169	151
London	135	238	136	172	154
North East	76	140	76	130	111
North West	430	480	277	224	213
South East	579	520	342	367	321
South West	526	547	285	293	232
West Midlands	188	281	200	220	183
Yorkshire and Humberside	226	332	172	183	161
Total	2,443	2,941	1,811	1,921	1,681

Source:
CSCI registration and inspection database (data as at 10 December 2007)

Care Homes: Standards

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nursing homes receiving local authority-funded residents have been placed on a caution list in the last 12 months, broken down by local authority. [177528]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 10 January 2008]*: The Department is not aware of the use of caution lists in respect of nursing homes. All care and nursing homes in England are regulated and inspected by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI). The table shows data provided by CSCI on the numbers of nursing homes per local authority which are rated as 'poor' or 'undergoing enforcement' as at 9 January 2008.

All services which CSCI rates in these categories become part of its regional enforcement strategy. For any such services, CSCI will undertake a management review and request a mandatory improvement plan. These services will also receive a greater number of inspections—a minimum of two key inspections a year—as a result of their rating. As data are not collected on homes catering for local authority-funded residents, the numbers shown are in respect of all nursing homes in England.

Number of nursing homes with a CSCI quality rating of 'poor' or 'undergoing enforcement' as at 9 January 2008

Local authority	Number of homes
Barnsley	1
Bath and North East Somerset	1
Bedfordshire	7
Birmingham	12
Blackpool	1
Bournemouth	2
Bradford	1
Brighton and Hove	2
Bristol	1
Bromley	2
Buckinghamshire	3
Bury	1
Calderdale	4
Cambridgeshire	4
Cheshire	3
Cornwall	5
Croydon	4
Cumbria	2
Derbyshire	3
Devon	3
Doncaster	1
Dorset	1
Dudley	3
Durham	1
East Sussex	2
Essex	3
Gloucestershire	10
Greenwich	2
Hammersmith and Fulham	1
Hampshire	3
Harrow	1
Havering	1
Herefordshire	1
Hertfordshire	4
Kensington and Chelsea	1
Kent	3
Kingston upon Thames	1
Kirklees	2
Lancashire	5
Leeds	3
Leicestershire	3
Lewisham	2
Lincolnshire	2
Liverpool	5
Luton	1
Manchester	2
Newcastle upon Tyne	2
Norfolk	3
North Somerset	3
North Tyneside	2
North Yorkshire	3
Northamptonshire	1
Northumberland	1
Nottingham	3
Nottinghamshire	11
Oldham	1
Oxfordshire	2
Peterborough	1
Plymouth	1
Poole	1
Portsmouth	1
Redbridge	1
Rotherham	1
Salford	2
Sandwell	1
Sefton	1
Sheffield	2
Shropshire	4
Somerset	14
South Gloucestershire	1
Southwark	3
Staffordshire	6

Number of nursing homes with a CSCI quality rating of 'poor' or undergoing enforcement, as at 9 January 2008

Local authority	Number of homes
Stockport	1
Suffolk	3
Sunderland	1
Surrey	3
Sutton	5
Tameside	1
Telford and Wrekin	1
Torbay	2
Trafford	2
Wakefield	3
Walsall	3
Waltham Forest	1
Wandsworth	2
Warwickshire	5
West Sussex	8
Wiltshire	2
Windsor and Maidenhead	1
Wolverhampton	1
Worcestershire	5
Total	248

Source:
CSCI registration and inspection database

Care UK: Newcastle

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the central NHS commissioners to agree to meet the hon. Member for Newcastle upon Tyne, Central to discuss the hours of operation of CARE UK's Newcastle central walk-in centre. [172002]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has received a request on 7 November 2007 from the hon. Member for Newcastle Upon Tyne, Central to meet to discuss the hours of operation of the Newcastle walk-in centre. I understand that the Department will be writing to the hon. Member shortly to arrange a meeting.

Chlamydia: Screening

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 235-6W, on Chlamydia: screening, when he plans to establish his Department's development priorities for sexual health payment by results; whether these development priorities will be published; what newly emerging recommendations have been made in relation to sexual health payment by results by interested parties, other than the Health Protection Agency; and if he will make a statement. [174003]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department will publish its response to the 'Options for the Future of Payment by Results: 2008-09 to 2010-11' consultation in January 2008.

When we publish the Department's response to the consultation we will be making available electronically all the replies to the consultation, so it will be possible to see what respondents have said on sexual health. We will also provide an update on the progress of payment development sites, which are piloting new classifications and currencies for services such as sexual health.

Deloitte and Touche

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on services from Deloitte and Touche in each of the last 12 months; and on which of his Department's (*a*) programmes and (*b*) areas of work Deloitte has provided consultancy services in that period. [171771]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is included in the following table:

Expenditure for Deloitte and Touche in the last 12 month period

Period	Total expenditure £
December 2006	2,153,145
January 2007	1,530,177
February 2007	1,768,592
March 2007	1,536,192
April 2007	1,827,561
May 2007	1,988,210
June 2007	1,828,684
July 2007	1,825,577
August 2007	2,356,355
September 2007	1,750,315
October 2007	1,863,407
November 2007	1,228,848
Total	21,657,063

Departmental Christmas

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether it is his Department's policy to use (*a*) incandescent light bulbs and (*b*) LED lights for festive decorations on departmental premises. [173501]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has a mix of incandescent and LED lighting for its Christmas tree decorations used in departmental premises. When the trees are removed the supplier retains the lights, and tests and reuses them.

Departmental Equality

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to paragraph 28, page 35 of his Department's resource accounts for 2006-07, (1) on what date the Commission for Racial Equality completed its report, and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report; [178277]

(2) for what reasons the Commission for Racial Equality was concerned about his Department's production of race equality impact assessments. [178278]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 510W. The answer on 11 December, explained that the Commission for Racial Equality published its report on the Department on 27 September and reported on the outcome of the Commission's investigation. A copy of the Commission's report has been placed in the Library. The reasons for the Commission's concerns are set out in the report.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what amendments have been made to Wikipedia entries from computers with departmental IP addresses in the last 12 months. [174508]

Mr. Bradshaw: Using information available from the Wikipedia site, between 22 August 2005 and 3 August 2007, there have been close to 1,500 occasions when the Department's IP address has been associated with the creation or amendment of entries on the Wikipedia website.

Information on which particular entries have been amended is not held by the Department and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Minimum Wage

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many London-based staff are employed by his Department on the National Minimum Wage. [175982]

Mr. Bradshaw: All Departmental employees earn more than the national minimum wage.

Departmental Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff work in his Department's parliamentary branch; and what proportion of their time is spent on dealing with *(a)* parliamentary questions and *(b)* correspondence from hon. Members and Peers. [174952]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are 10 staff in the parliamentary branch, of whom six deal exclusively with parliamentary questions. The four other post holders deal with parliamentary questions as part of their duties, equating to approximately one post. Staff in the parliamentary branch do not deal with correspondence.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 822W, on departmental public participation, if he will place in the Library copies of the *(a)* summary and *(b)* full reports of findings for each of the three listed surveys. [173147]

Mr. Bradshaw: Perceptions of 'Our NHS Our Future and Public Attitude to NHS' will be laid before Parliament in February 2008. The small-scale staff survey will not be made available as it covers a small piece of work relating to the internal management of the Department. However, we will make available our next annual staff survey which we expect to report on in the summer of 2008.

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to consult service users and their families on Valuing People Now. [177891]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The consultation 'Valuing People now: from progress to transformation—a consultation on the next three years of learning disability policy', is open to service users and their families to respond. It is also available in easy read format. The deadline for response is 28 March 2008 after which time we will be collating responses to inform future policy development.

The valuing people support team within the Care Services Improvement Partnership is working with local groups including learning disability partnership boards to support locally led consultation events.

Copies of the consultation papers are available in the Library.

Departmental Supply Estimates

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Winter Supplementary Estimates (HC 29), if he will break down his Department's *(a)* main estimate and *(b)* winter supplementary estimate provision by subhead in (i) near cash and (ii) non-cash terms. [174997]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department did not seek Parliament's approval to a Winter Supplementary Estimate. Near-cash and non-cash are essentially used as departmental expenditure limit (DEL) budgetary control concepts and are not specifically identified with voted resources in Estimates. However, we have been able to break down net total resources for each section in the Part II: Subhead detail table of our main estimates as follows:

	Resource DEL £000	
Main Estimates 2007-08	*Near-cash*	*Non-cash*
R1R1 Securing health care for those who need it		
Strategic health authority and primary care trust unified budgets and central allocations[1]	80,904,795	3,537,004
Pharmaceutical services	1,059,345	- 0
Prescription charges	-451,845	0
General ophthalmic services	379,000	0
Strategic health authorities and primary care trust grants to local authorities[1]	248,788	0
R1R2 Securing social care and child protection for those who need it and at national level, protecting, promoting and improving the nation's health		
Central department	217,473	19,223
National Health Service Purchasing and Supplies Authority	28,222	765
Other services including medical, scientific and technical services, grants to voluntary bodies, research and development and information services	305,880	0

Main Estimates 2007-08	Resource DEL £000	
	Near-cash	Non-cash
Welfare food and European Economic Area and other countries medical costs	321,500	428,492
Other personal social services	179,581	0
Medicines and Healthcare Product Regulatory Agency interest on loans	-1	0
AIDS support grant[1]	16,500	0
Services for people with a mental illness including service under the mental capacity act	147,525	0
Carers' grant	185,000	0
Preserved rights grant	275,248	0
National training strategy	107,859	0
Access and systems capacity grant	546,000	0
Human resources development strategy	49,750	0
Children and adolescents mental health grants	90,539	0
Delayed discharge grant	100,000	0
Assistive technology: older people	50,000	0
Prevention service pilots: older people	40,000	0
Individual budget pilots	6,000	0

[1] The near-cash and non-cash elements for some subheads do not add up to the voted provision since the Estimate also includes provision for capital grants which are part of the capital DEL.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding was provided for drug treatment and rehabilitation in Wakefield district in each of the last five years. [177296]

Dawn Primarolo: The information has been set out in the following table:

	Total Wakefield funding for drug treatment and drugs intervention programme / DIP delivery[3]	Money allocated for drug treatment residential rehabilitation[4]
2003-04[1]	3,098,859	40,000
2004-05[1]	3,567,151	40,000
2005-06[1]	4,128,396	50,000
2006-07[2]	4,488,018	52,000
2007-08[2]	4,645,343	84,400

[1] Figures taken from the 2006-07 treatment plan.
[2] Figures taken from the 2007-08 treatment plan.
[3] Total funding for drug treatment and drug intervention programmes (DIP) delivery includes pooled treatment budget allocation, mainstream funding (in Wakefield 'mainstream' funding includes financial contributions from police, local authority, Primary Care Trust and probation) and young people budgets.
[4] These figures represent ring-fenced amount the Wakefield partnership identifies for drug treatment residential rehabilitation within the annual treatment plan. This ring fenced pot is accessed by the partnership on an individual needs basis. As a result, the money allocated for drug treatment residential rehabilitation may be amended through the year based on demand.
Source:
National Treatment Agency

East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust: Hospitals

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospitals there are in the *(a)* East Kent hospitals NHS trust area and *(b)* Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS trust area; how many bed spaces there are in each hospital in each area; and how many cases of clostridium difficile there were in each such hospital in (i) 2004, (ii) 2005 and (iii) 2006. [177949]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 14 January 2008]:* There are five hospitals in the East Kent hospitals NHS trust. These are Buckland hospital, Kent and Canterbury hospital, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother hospital, Royal Victoria hospital and William Harvey hospital.

There are three main hospitals in the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS trust. These are Maidstone hospital, Pembury hospital and Kent and Sussex hospital. In addition to the listed sites the trust also provides services at Crowborough War Memorial hospital, Hawkhurst hospital and Uckfield hospital.

The data for bed spaces are not held centrally.

The data for Clostridium difficile are only held at trust level. The following table shows the data held for each trust for the over-65s only.

	Number of C. difficile cases reported in patients aged 65 years and over		
	2004	2005	2006
East Kent hospitals NHS trust	638	705	528
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS trust	484	464	545

Food: Contamination

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what checks are made for illegal drug residues in seafood being imported from China; what monitoring takes place to prevent contaminated Chinese seafood being offered for sale in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [178432]

Dawn Primarolo: We are advised by the Food Standards Agency, which has responsibility for food safety matters, that the regulatory controls in respect of imports from non-European Union (EU) countries are comprehensive, and operate EU wide. Imported foods from non-EU countries are subject to checks at United Kingdom ports of entry by local authorities under EU food legislation.

These official controls ensure that products of animal origin such as fishery products from approved countries outside the EU, including China, have come from approved establishments. Such products must enter the UK through designated border inspection posts under the control of veterinary inspectors, where they undergo documentary and identity checks, and prescribed proportions are subject to physical checks, which may include testing for contaminants.

Since September 2001 EU legislation has prohibited the importation of aquaculture fishery products from China due to concerns regarding illegal residues of veterinary medicines. Since then, and as a result of EU inspections, the controls on aquaculture fishery products have been reduced and from August 2004 imports of certain aquaculture fishery products are permitted, if accompanied by an attestation from the competent Chinese authorities that the product has been tested and is free from illegal residues of chloramphenicol and nitrofurans.

The Veterinary Medicines Directorate carries out surveillance of imported foodstuffs. Since August 2004, 43 samples of farmed fish and 25 samples of crustaceans from China have been tested for illegal residues. In 2006 a sample of fish contained non-compliant residues of nitrofuran metabolites. In 2007 a sample of fish contained non-compliant residues of crystal violet – which is a dye not authorised for use as a veterinary medicine in the EU and therefore should not be present in imports.

Food: Genetically Modified Organisms

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Food Standards Agency has taken to ensure that genetically modified organisms which have not received EU approval can be detected in cargoes imported into the UK from non-EU countries. [179176]

Dawn Primarolo: At national level, the Food Standards Agency is responsible for overseeing the food law enforcement activities of local authorities, including those related to imported products. It supports local authorities by funding training, providing grants and making other resources available. In the case of genetically modified food, the European Commission through its Joint Research Centre (JRC) is also able to provide practical support for laboratories involved in analysing food and feed for unauthorized material. The Food Standards Agency is encouraging the Commission and the JRC to expand this work.

Food: Labelling

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received from *(a)* Sainsbury's *(b)* Asda, *(c)* Tesco, *(d)* Waitrose and *(e)* Marks and Spencer on food labelling in the past 12 months. [178435]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency has consulted publicly on a number of labelling issues including the European Commission Review of Food and Nutrition Labelling legislation and other issues such as voluntary front of pack nutrition labelling and the revision of voluntary guidance on clear labelling, country of origin labelling and marketing terms. The agency has received representation both as written submissions and in face to face meetings from the named supermarkets or their representative trade associations.

Funding of Primary Care Trusts

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will review the funding of primary care trusts where the number of general practitioners per capita is significantly at variance with the national median; and if he will make a statement. [177921]

Mr. Bradshaw: On 10 October, following publication of the 'Our NHS Our Future' Next Stage Review Interim Report, my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Health, (Alan Johnson) announced a £250 million access fund to deliver at least 100 new general practitioners (GP) practices in the most deprived areas (i.e. those with fewest GPs and nurses, poorest health outcomes and lowest patient satisfaction) and 152 GP-led health centres, one in each primary care trust (PCT) area.

On 23 November, the Secretary of State subsequently announced the final list of 38 PCTs where at least 100 new GP practices will be located.

The Department is currently working with strategic health authorities and PCTs to develop performance management arrangements and to establish the distribution of funding and potential time scales for delivery based on local plans.

In addition, the 2008-09 revenue allocations were announced on 13 December. These represent £74.2 billion investment in the national health service, nearly £4 billion more than 2007-08. All PCTs will receive an above-inflation cash increase of 5.5 per cent., a total cash increase of £3.8 billion.

The weighted-capitation formula used to inform PCT revenue allocations is continually overseen by the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA). ACRA's current review of the formula will be used to inform revenue allocations post 2008-09.

General Practitioners: Leicester

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs are practising in Leicester. [177935]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is shown in the following table:

All general practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] in selected area, as at 30 September 2006

Numbers (headcount)

	Area	*Number*
5PA	Leicestershire County and Rutland primary care trust (PCT)	374
5PC	Leicester City PCT	154

[1] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes GP providers and GP others.

Source:
The information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

General Practitioners: Standards

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of general practitioners' premises were above minimum standards on the most recent date for which figures are available in *(a)* England and *(b)* each primary care trust area; and what percentage in each primary care trust area failed to meet minimum standards through not complying with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. [164595]

Mr. Bradshaw: Details of the minimum standards for general practitioner (GP) practice premises are set out in Schedule 1 of The National Health Service (General Medical Services—Premises Costs) (England) Directions 2004, a copy of which has been placed in the Library. Compliance with these standards is a matter for local primary care trusts (PCT) and each make their own arrangements for undertaking this assessment.

The most recent relevant data collected centrally comprised a snapshot return as at 31 March 2005 which was provided by PCTs. It has not been collected centrally since then. A copy was placed in the Library on 12 May 2006. The data are now almost three years out of date and do not reflect the investment in primary care premises that has taken place in the intervening period.

New premises that fully satisfy minimum standards are being provided under the NHS Local Finance Investment Trust (NHS LIFT) initiative. Some £1.3 billion in private sector capital has already been injected into GP premises and community facilities across the country with 45 NHS LIFT schemes established and another three in procurement. This has, to date, delivered 149 new buildings open to patients with another 61 under construction.

The NHS ProCure21 initiative has also provided premises that fully satisfy minimum standards. Over £221 million has already been invested in 49 GP and community facilities across England. Of that amount, 28 projects with a value of £98 million have been completed and 21 projects with a value of £123 million are currently in the early stages of development.

Healthy Start Programme: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women in *(a)* Hendon and *(b)* Barnet participated in the Healthy Start programme in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [178178]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of women eligible for Healthy Start at any given point in time varies. However, we estimate that take up of the scheme in England is currently approximately 87 per cent. This is equivalent to around 342,000 beneficiary households.

Information on take up at a local level is not yet available.

HIV Infection

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of HIV prevention work in London primary care trusts; and if he will make a statement. [176979]

Mr. Bradshaw: This is a matter for the local national health service, who are responsible for the commissioning of HIV prevention services in London.

Hospitals: Admissions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group admitted to each hospital in (i) Southend, (ii) Essex and (iii) England died as a consequence of (i) alcoholic liver disease and (ii) cirrhosis in each of the last 10 years. [177130]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Hospitals: Cleaning Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether a deep cleaning plan has been submitted to the East of England strategic health authority in respect of *(a)* Peterborough district hospital and *(b)* Edith Cavell hospital; and if he will make a statement. [177913]

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospitals and what percentage of wards at each hospital in Greater London have undergone a deep clean as a measure against hospital acquired infections since 24 September 2007. [178058]

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which hospitals have *(a)* had at least one ward deep-cleaned and *(b)* been fully deep-cleaned. [178309]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 14 January 2008]:* All trusts were required to submit and agree their deep clean plans with primary care trusts and providers in their area by 14 December 2007 and this process has been monitored and assessed by strategic health authorities (SHAs). An interim local progress report about the implementation of deep cleans will be published by SHAs shortly. All deep cleans will be complete by the end of March 2008.

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made with concluding the review of the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances; and if he will make a statement. [179103]

Dawn Primarolo: The latest consultation closed on 28 December 2007 and officials are in the process of evaluating the responses. They will also be meeting with a number of interested parties to discuss the conclusion of this review.

A summary of the responses—and an indication of next steps—will be published no later than 28 March 2008.

Maternity Units: Greater London

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many consultant-led maternity units at hospitals in each primary care trust in Greater London have closed since 1997. [179346]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held centrally.

Any decisions on changes to improve services are locally led, with full consultation with local people. It is only right that decisions about services are matters for local national health service trusts to determine how to best provide services for the communities they serve.

Medical Records: Data Protection

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many patients have had confidential medical data lost in each of the last 12 months; [178453]

(2) how many incidents involving the loss of patients' confidential medical data there have been in transfer between medical institutions in each of the last 12 months. [178454]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 14 January 2008]:* Each national health service body is responsible for compliance with data protection legislation and their boards are legally accountable. The Department provides clear guidance to help them do this. It does not routinely collect information about incidents of loss of patient data. Comprehensive information for the period concerned is not held centrally, and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department is committed to ensuring that good practice is followed and that lessons are shared in the interests of improving protection of patient data across the NHS.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* guidance and *(b)* standards his Department has in place for the transfer of confidential medical data between medical institutions. [178460]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 14 January 2008]:* The Department has published clear rules and guidelines on the management of personal data by national health service bodies. These are in the form of three codes of practice on maintaining data confidentiality, security, and good records management, supported by numerous good-practice guidelines. An internal web-based resource, the NHS information governance toolkit, makes this guidance accessible to all parts of the NHS, and all major NHS organisations are required to provide an annual performance assessment against the standards derived from the three codes of practice.

Mental Health Services

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the level of demand for NHS services for dual-diagnosis patients who abuse substances and have a mental illness; what assessment he has made of whether that demand is being met; and what plans he has for future provision of services. [179175]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has undertaken a substantial programme of work to ensure that the needs of this group are met. The implementation of this has been supported by substantial increases in funding across the NHS over the past 10 years and specific funding increases for substance misuse services through the introduction of the pooled drug treatment budget, which has tripled in size since it was introduced in 2001 (£129 million to £398 million in 2007-08).

Examples of work undertaken to support improvements in this area include:

In the "Mental Health Policy Implementation Guide: Dual Diagnosis Good Practice Guide" (Department of Health, 2002) it was made clear that people who have both drugs misuse and mental health problems need high quality, patient focused and integrated care, which should be delivered within mental health services. It charged local implementation teams in partnership with drug action teams with implementing the policy requirements.

The 2002 Good Practice guide alongside guidance published in 2006, "Dual diagnosis in inpatient and day hospital settings" represents a summary of current Government policy on this issue. The key message is the need for mainstreaming—the recognition that substance misuse is usual rather than exceptional among people with mental health problems, and that the relationship between the two is complex.

The updated "Drug Misuse and dependence - UK guidelines on clinical management" (the 'clinical guidelines'), published in September 2007 identifies that patients in drug treatment services with common mental illness problems additional to their drug misuse are often treated in drug treatment services, although clarity on competencies and shared care models is important. For all those with mental health problems, it is important that competent practitioners make adequate assessment and appropriate treatment be organised.

Proper assessment is the key to establishing a comprehensive care plan for dual diagnosis. Adequate risk assessment of mental health should be undertaken at initiation of treatment and at appropriate times during management. Specific psychological management in line with appropriate guidance, such as National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and other psychiatric and drug misuse guidelines can then be provided.

MRSA: Greater London

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* MRSA and *(b)* clostridium difficile have (i) been reported and (ii) resulted in death, (A) in total, (B) of those under the age of one, (C) of those under the age of five and (D) of those aged over 65 years at each hospital in Greater London in each year since 2000. [178059]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 14 January 2008]:* The requested data are not available and the best source is the mandatory surveillance system. Surveillance of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) blood stream infections (bacteraemia) started in April 2001 and surveillance for *Clostridium difficile* infection began in January 2004. Data for individual trusts in the London region are shown in the following tables.

Figures on deaths involving MRSA or *C. difficile* in individual hospitals are not currently available

The total of MRSA bacteraemia reported in each trust for all age groups in the London region:

	MRSA bacteraemia reports					
Name of NHS trust	*April 2001-March 2002*	*April 2002-March 2003*	*April 2003-March 2004*	*April 2004-March 2005*	*April 2005-March 2006*	*April 2006-March 2007*
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals	92	77	116	98	69	71
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals	62	94	94	102	78	62
Barts and the London	62	74	62	64	67	50
Bromley Hospitals	37	32	18	16	25	27
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital	36	32	38	47	28	23
Ealing Hospital	40	38	36	26	39	22
Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals	84	72	88	58	45	62
Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children	7	13	4	7	6	5
Guy's and St. Thomas'	124	155	165	102	80	72
Hammersmith Hospitals	89	115	125	81	69	62
Homerton University Hospital	14	19	15	5	20	17
King's College Hospital	92	108	107	64	90	70
Kingston Hospital	55	59	47	52	57	32
Mayday Healthcare	39	48	56	40	48	43
Moorfields Eye Hospital	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newham University Hospital	25	33	24	17	18	25
North Middlesex University Hospital	46	48	53	29	39	35
North West London Hospitals	59	44	55	54	56	51
Queen Elizabeth Hospital	19	35	32	41	23	22
Queen Mary's Sidcup	30	32	28	41	23	18
Royal Brompton and Harefield	9	9	5	7	4	4
Royal Free Hampstead	122	101	98	84	93	75
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital	2	6	1	5	3	2
St. George's Healthcare	115	75	93	63	62	85
St. Mary's	64	72	59	48	67	44
The Hillingdon Hospital	33	36	24	30	24	35
The Lewisham Hospital	54	45	49	60	31	23
The Royal Marsden	6	7	4	1	2	11
The Whittington Hospital	27	30	29	24	35	32
University College London Hospitals	95	114	86	63	68	56
West Middlesex University Hospital	32	41	34	30	27	38
Whipps Cross University Hospital	45	43	37	48	16	29

Note:
Data are provisional

The total number of *C. difficile* reports received for patients aged 65 years and over in each trust in the London region:

	Number of C. difficile reports for patients 65 years		
Name of NHS trust	*January to December 2004*	*January to December 2005*	*January to December 2006*
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals	648	927	622
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals	514	692	723
Barts and the London	[illegible]	1183	402
Bromley Hospitals	169	275	319

Name of NHS trust	Number of C. difficile reports for patients 65 years January to December 2004	January to December 2005	January to December 2006
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital	117	97	116
Ealing Hospital	218	210	119
Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals	366	551	404
Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children[1]			
Guy's and St. Thomas'	140	141	153
Hammersmith Hospitals	323	317	235
Homerton University Hospital	50	153	195
King's College Hospital	236	177	248
Kingston Hospital	227	363	278
Mayday Healthcare	125[2]	161	319
Moorfields Eye Hospital	0	0	0
Newham University Hospital	[2]	93	185
North Middlesex University Hospital	81	185	196
North West London Hospitals	438	361	314
Queen Elizabeth Hospital	206	262	306
Queen Mary's Sidcup	160	251	172
Royal Brompton and Harefield	25	21	20
Royal Free Hampstead	133	107	132
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital	5	1	3
St. George's Healthcare	484	386	390
St. Mary's	219	172	262
The Hillingdon Hospital	219	140	196
The Lewisham Hospital	361	321	132
The Royal Marsden	29	30	26
The Whittington Hospital	71	174	189
University College London Hospitals	89	77	104
West Middlesex University Hospital	201	212	204
Whipps Cross University Hospital	271	318	403

[1] Missing data for all four quarters
[2] Missing data for one quarter
Children's trust
Note
Data are provisional

Obesity

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the locations are of the 13 specialist NHS obesity clinics located across England. [179147]

Dawn Primarolo: There are 12 obesity clinics, locations of which are shown in the following tables.

National health service operated obesity clinics for children in England

Clinic	Address
The Royal London Hospital	Nutrition and Dietetic Department, 59 Philpot Street, London E1 1BB
Surrey Hampshire Borders NHS Trust	Jarvis Centre, 60 Stoughton Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 1LJ
Royal Hospital for Sick Children	St. Michael's Hill, Bristol BS2 8BJ
Birmingham Heartlands Hospital	Department of Paediatrics, Bordesley Green East, Birmingham B9 5SS
Alder Hey Hospital	Eaton Road Liverpool L12 2AP
University of Leeds	Belmont House, 3-5 Belmont Grove, Leeds LS2 9DE

NHS operated obesity clinics for adults in England

Centre	Address
University Hospital Aintree	University Clinical Department, Longmoor Lane, Liverpool L9 7AL
Leeds General Infirmary	Great George Street, Leeds LS1 3EX
Birmingham Heartlands Hospital	Department of Medicine, Diabetes and Endocrinology, Bordesley Green East, Birmingham B9 5SS
Queens Medical Centre	The Clinical Nutrition Unit, Nottingham NG2 7HU
The Royal Hospitals NHS Trust	Medical Unit, Whitechapel, London E1 1BB
Luton and Dunstable Hospital	Centre for Obesity Research, Lewsey Road, Luton LU4 0DZ

Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust: Clostridium

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of clostridium difficile were reported in the Peterborough and Stamford hospitals NHS foundation trust in each month in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [177919]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. However, the following table shows the number of clostridium difficile reports for patients aged 2 to 64 years old and for those patients aged 65 and over at Peterborough and Stamford hospitals NHS foundation trust (which are the latest data available).

C. difficile reports for patients

	Number
Aged >65 years	
January to March 2007	63
April to June 2007	54
Aged 2-64 years	
April to June 2007	2

Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust: Orthopaedics

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for elective orthopaedic surgery in the Peterborough and Stamford hospitals NHS foundation trust in each month in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [177920]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not available in the format requested. However, the following table shows the average time waited by patients for in-patient treatment for trauma and orthopaedics for 2007 at Peterborough and Stamford hospital NHS foundation trust (these are the latest data available).

Month end as at 2007	*Median waiting time (weeks)*
January	13.1
February	14.6
March	15
April	14.9
May	15
June	14.3
July	13.2
August	12.4
September	12.1
October	11.8
November	10.6
December	will be published on 1 February 2008

Source:
MMRPROV Monthly Monitoring Return

Pharmacy

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the total difference, in respect of pharmacies in England, between the acquisition price of generic medicines and the reimbursement provided by his Department *(a)* in 2005-06 and *(b)* in 2006-07; and what the estimated amount is for 2007-08; [179134]

(2) what the total profit margin of pharmacists was in 2006-07 in respect of the reimbursement of generic medicines; [179135]

(3) what profit margin is allowed under the reimbursement arrangements for pharmacies for generic medicines, in line with the Pharmacy Contract. [179136]

Dawn Primarolo: The community pharmacy contractual framework allows pharmacy contractors to retain £500 million difference between the acquisition price of all medicines and the reimbursement. It makes no distinction between generic and branded medicines. The framework also provides for surveys to assess the level of this retained margin. Surveys in 2005-06 showed a net excess of £411 million on generic medicines, and surveys in 2006-07 showed a net excess of £558 million on generic medicines. Surveys are in progress for 2007-08, but no results are yet available.

Physiotherapy

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information the Department holds on the number of physiotherapy graduates who have graduated in the last two years and who have not found employment as physiotherapists. [178988]

Ann Keen: The number of physiotherapy graduates from 2006 and 2007 registered in the newly qualified health care professionals pools as looking for their first post in the national health service has fallen from a peak of 771 on 10 September 2007 to its current figure of 498 on 10 January 2008.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish the results of his review of prescription charges. [179133]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1406W.

Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Prime Minister's announcement of 8 January 2008, what form of test will be used to screen people for *(a)* heart disease, *(b)* kidney disease, *(c)* stroke and *(d)* diabetes; and what criteria will apply to whether people will be offered surgery in each case. [179951]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 14 January 2008]:* As the Prime Minister announced on the 7 January, the Department is currently developing proposals for a screening programme. Any such programme will use an assessment of risk based on a range of known predictive factors including age, gender, smoking status, body mass index, high blood pressure, and cholesterol and glucose, as appropriate. The subject of developmental work at the moment is to make an assessment of the most clinically and cost effective way of offering an integrated set of these tests and measurements. The purpose of the screening programme will be to identify people's levels of risk for cardiac and vascular disease so that they can be offered preventive measures. Should already established disease be uncovered in the process treatment will be offered as usual in accordance with clinical need and on the basis of current national clinical standards and guidelines.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Health Education

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what expenditure on sexual health campaigns has been in each year since 1979 in *(a)* nominal and *(b)* real terms. [174058]

Dawn Primarolo: Direct comparisons of annual expenditure on sexual health campaigns over the last 20 years are not possible because expenditure in the 1980s and early 1990s reflected the high cost of mainstream television and cinema advertising on AIDS awareness campaigns which targeted the whole population. The move in the mid-1990s to targeted HIV health promotion programmes for high-risk groups, in line with the evidence on HIV transmission, resulted in a reduction in expenditure.

Expenditure on sexual health campaigns including HIV public education, contraception awareness, prevention of sexually transmitted infections plus helplines[1] is set out in the following table. Information is not available before 1985-86.

	£ million nominal	£ million real terms in 2006-07 prices
1985-86	0.52	1.09
1986-87	7.60	15.44
1987-88[1]	11.21	21.57
1988-89	10.00	17.99
1989-90	12.00	20.14
1990-91	10.00	15.56
1991-92	11.00	16.13
1992-93	11.23	15.95
1993-94	9.41	13.03
1994-95	9.87	13.46
1995-96	8.06	10.67
1996-97	5.25	6.72
1997-98	4.70	5.85
1998-99	4.80	5.83
1999-2000	6.00	7.14
2000-01	4.60	5.40
2001-02	4.60	5.27
2002-03	6.60	7.33
2003-04	6.60	7.12
2004-05	6.60	6.93
2005-06	5.12	5.27
2006-07	11.25	11.25
2007-08[2]	10.25	10.53

[1] Expenditure from 1987-88 to the early 1990s reflects the high cost of HIV television and cinema advertising for the whole population. Expenditure on mainstream HIV campaigns is not separately identified but it would have accounted for the majority.
[2] Identified spend so far.
[3] Contract for the Sexual Health Information Line (formerly the National AIDS Helpline) is delivered as part of a contract which also includes Drinkline and Frank.

Thrombosis: Medical Treatments

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 261W, on thrombosis: medical treatment, what plans he has for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to assess rivaroxaban for the prevention of venous thromboembolism in patients undergoing major orthopaedic surgery of the lower limbs. [177439]

Dawn Primarolo: Rivaroxaban for the prevention of venous thromboembolism after major orthopaedic surgery is currently being considered for referral to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence for appraisal.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Christmas

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* postage of Christmas cards in 2007. [176760]

Mr. Lammy: Design: DIUS held a competition for further education college students to design an electronic Christmas card for the Department. The competition was won by Matthew Boulton College. This incurred no significant cost to the Department as colleges were individually invited to participate. The prize—a trip to a design centre or space centre—was donated by our partners.

Distribution: The DIUS Christmas Card was distributed electronically through existing email routes and therefore incurred no significant costs.

Education: Cleethorpes

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of 18 to 24-year-olds in Cleethorpes constituency were in full-time education in each year since 1997. [176869]

Bill Rammell: Annual average estimates of the proportion of people in full-time education by age are available at a local level from the annual population survey (APS) and its predecessors the local labour force survey (LLFS) and the labour force survey local area data base (LFS LADB). Estimates for Cleethorpes for 18-24 year-olds for 2006 and back to 2000 are shown in the following table. The data are not available for earlier years at constituency level. These small area estimates are based on very small samples and are therefore subject to high sampling variability. They should therefore be treated with caution and in particular changes from year to year should not be used in isolation from the figures for a run of years. Regional and national estimates have been shown for comparison. These are available back to 1997.

Percentage of 18-24 year-olds[1] in full-time education

	Cleethorpes	Yorkshire and the Humber	England
1997-98[2]	n/a	23	24
1998-99[2]	n/a	25	25
1999-00[2]	n/a	26	26
2000-01[3]	16	24	26
2001-02[3]	19	24	26
2002-03[3]	24	28	26
2003-04[3]	18	27	27
2004[4]	17	28	27
2005[4]	16	30	28
2006[4]	21	24	27

n/a = Not available.
[1] Based on age as at the time of the survey.
[2] LFS LADB estimates based on the average of the 12 months from March to the following February.
[3] LLFS estimates based on the average of the 12 months from March to the following February.
[4] APS estimates are for the average of the calendar year from January to December.

Educational Institutions: Sports

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his policy is on encouraging sport at establishments within the responsibilities of his Department; and if he will make a statement. [178247]

Bill Rammell: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills recognises the importance of sport and physical activity to us all, for our good health, positive leisure and for our economy.

We are working closely with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Department for Children, Schools and Families to maximise the Government's substantial investment in school sport and sport for young people.

Further education colleges and higher education institutions are helping to build on the foundations of the Government's school sport strategy by sustaining participation and supporting talent development for young people beyond school, and by maximising the contribution of their facilities, staff and other resources to sport in schools and the wider community.

We are increasing the number of sport and physical activities available to our young people through the introduction of almost 400 FE sports co-ordinators during 2008-09, linked to the existing national network of School Sport Partnerships. Young people will be encouraged to access an offer of three hours of sporting activity. At the same time, our vocational learning programmes linked to the 14-19 and skills strategies, including the young apprenticeship in sports coaching and the advanced apprenticeship in sporting excellence, aimed at high performing young athletes, will support the growing demands from across the sport and leisure sectors.

We believe that sport can be an agent of regeneration. Through skills development, the sharing of facilities and sporting opportunities, and research and liaison with key partners, our further and higher education institutions are enhancing the education and the quality of life of their students and the wider communities they serve.

In addition, many further and higher education institutions are widening access to their often excellent sports facilities so that more people can enjoy the health and social benefits that participation in sport brings. Where colleges are undertaking substantial new builds, Sport England in association with the Learning and Skills Council are working with colleges to identify opportunities to expand and enhance original planned sports facilities with the aim of opening the facilities to the wider community.

Gemini Observatory: Finance

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what factors were taken into account by the Science and Technology Funding Council in making its decision to withdraw funding from the Gemini Observatory consortium; [171951]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the decision by the Science and Technology Funding Council to withdraw funding from the Gemini Observatory consortium; and if he will make a statement. [171952]

Ian Pearson: The Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) has recently reviewed its participation in the Gemini Observatory in the light of its scientific priorities and overall budget. The Council has indicated that it is planning to withdraw from the Observatory project, but before doing so, it will discuss the implications with its consortium partners.

Higher Education: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of young people who left school at the age of 18 years in (*a*) Cumbria and (*b*) Copeland entered (i) higher education and (ii) further education in 2007. [175613]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is as follows:

(i) Higher education

The main measure for tracking progress on increasing participation in higher education is currently the higher education initial participation rate (HEIPR). This is the sum of the HE initial participation rates for individual ages between 17 and 30 inclusive. It covers English-domiciled first time entrants to HE courses, which are expected to last for at least six months, at UK higher education institutions and English, Scottish and Welsh further education colleges, and who remain on their course for at least six months. The earliest figure is 39.3 per cent. for 1999-2000 and the latest available figure is 42.8 per cent. for 2005-06.

Equivalent figures for 18-year-olds only are 19.3 per cent. for 1999-2000 and 21.3 per cent. for 2005-06.

Figures for 2006-07 will become available in 2008. The HEIPR is not disaggregated below national level.

HEFCE's 'Young participation in Higher Education' publication includes the proportion of young people who enter higher education at age 18 or 19 by parliamentary constituency, although this only covers the years up to 2000. Participation rates based on this work are given on the supporting POLAR website (www.hefce.ac.uk/polar).

For England: these indicate that, for the cohort reaching 18 in 1997, the proportion of young people in England who entered higher education at age 18 or 19 was 29 per cent. For the cohort reaching 18 in 2000, the proportion of young people in England who entered higher education at age 18 or 19 was 30 per cent.

For Cumbria: these indicate that, for the cohort reaching 18 in 1997, the proportion of young people from Cumbria who entered higher education at age 18 or 19 was 27 per cent.

For the cohort reaching 18 in 2000, the proportion of young people from Cumbria who entered higher education at age 18 or 19 was 28 per cent.

For Copeland: for the cohort reaching 18 in 1997, the proportion of young people from Copeland who entered higher education at age 18 or 19 was 22 per cent. For the cohort reaching 18 in 2000, the proportion of young people from Copeland who entered higher education at age 18 or 19 was 23 per cent.

(ii) Further education

The Department's estimates of the proportion of young people in education and training at a local level are only available for young people of academic age 16 and 17. Figures for 18-year-olds are not available.

The proportion of 16 and 17-year-olds in Cumbria who were in education or work-based learning at the end of 2005 was 84 per cent. This compares to 76 per cent. in England overall. Figures are not available for Copeland.

Further information can be found at the following link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000734/index.shtml

Higher Education: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect on the lifelong learning of Peterborough residents of the reduction in funding for equivalent or lower qualifications. [178094]

Bill Rammell: No students currently studying equivalent or lower qualifications will be affected by these changes. In future, our policy of redistributing grant will widen participation and mean that, as elsewhere, more of the majority of Peterborough residents who do not have a first higher-level qualification, especially those from non-traditional backgrounds, will be able to benefit from participating in higher education.

Higher Education: Standards

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his policy is on the decertification of university courses deemed not to be of adequate academic quality; and if he will make a statement. [178223]

Bill Rammell: Higher education institutions, as autonomous bodies, are responsible for the quality of their provision and the academic standards of the qualifications which they award. Individual institutions are therefore responsible for the quality of their courses. HE institutions are supported by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) for higher education, which exists to safeguard the public interest and to help improve the academic standards and quality of higher education in the UK. QAA reviews since 1997 have consistently shown that high quality and standards are being maintained.

Minimum Wage

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many London-based staff are employed by his Department on the national minimum wage. [175964]

Mr. Lammy: All London-based staff in the Department are employed above the national minimum wage level.

Student Loans Company: Complaints

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many complaints have been received by the Student Loans Company on loan repayments made via HM Revenue and Customs not being recorded by the Student Loans Company or appearing on Student Loans Company statements in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [175398]

Bill Rammell: The Student Loans Company's (SLC) data on complaints do not record this level of detail. The SLC received a total of 343 complaints about the Income Contingent Loan scheme in the year ending 30 November 2007, details of which are set out in the following table.

Within the total number of complaints, the SLC have categorised 109 as being about deductions taken, although a number of complaints recorded under other categories may also relate to loan repayment deductions. In addition HMRC receives and responds to MP enquiries on behalf of individual borrowers where there is a mismatch between deductions taken and annual statements. The number made in 2006-07 was 41; for 2007-08 it stands at 21 to date.

Complaints received by SLC about ICL repayments

	Category of complaint				
	Deductions taken	*Incorrect advice via telephone or correspondence*	*Misunderstood scheme*	*System/clerical error*	*Total*
2006					
December	10	0	5	7	22
2007					
January	10	1	13	8	32
February	10	3	20	8	41
March	9	2	19	3	33
April	7	1	11	5	24
May	15	1	18	8	42
June	8	0	12	9	29
July	9	1	20	7	37
August	11	1	17	4	33
September	1	1	2	0	4
October	2	0	4	3	9
November	17	0	7	13	37
Total	109	11	148	75	343

JUSTICE

Chorley Magistrates Court

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many courts operate on a regular basis at Chorley magistrates court. [177071]

Maria Eagle: Chorley magistrates court is part of the South West Lancashire magistrates courts. South West Lancashire magistrates courts are administered from the courthouse at Chorley, and courts sit at courthouses in Chorley, Leyland and Ormskirk.

Chorley magistrates court has three actual courtrooms, which are in regular use. Currently three courts sit three days a week, with two courts sitting two days a week. One court sits on each Saturday and bank holiday.

One of the courtrooms at Chorley will be temporarily out of commission between 28 March and 16 May 2008. This is to enable staff to be trained on site, for the new IT system, Libra, which goes live at the court on 9 May 2008. The Libra IT system is being rolled out to all magistrates courts nationally.

Work that would ordinarily be accommodated in this courtroom will be allocated to the neighbouring courthouses, namely at South Ribble and Ormskirk (primarily to South Ribble). This arrangement will be monitored to ensure it is operating effectively, and any disruption to court users is kept to a minimum.

Clearsprings Management: Approved Premises

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many defendants on (*a*) bail and (*b*) home detention curfew have been released into accommodation provided by Clearsprings HDC under the bail and accommodation support services in each month since August 2007, indicating the numbers that relate to (i) pre- and (ii) post- conviction remand. [179351]

Mr. Hanson: From 18 June 2007 to 14 January 2008 a total of 467 people have been released under the Clearsprings service; 298 on bail and 169 on home detention curfew. I will provide the monthly data requested as soon as possible. Information on the breakdown of bail cases between those untried and those convicted but unsentenced cannot be obtained except at disproportionate cost.

Coroners Act 1988

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were (*a*) charged and (*b*) convicted in each of the last 10 years under the Coroners Act 1988. [178571]

Bridget Prentice: Coroners, jurors and medical practitioners may be charged and convicted under sections 3, 9, 10 and 21 of the Coroners Act. Records are not held centrally of any offences under the Act and as a result we are unable to provide details of the numbers of jurors and medical practitioners who have been charged or convicted. We do know, however, that during the past 10 years no coroner has been charged or convicted under section 3(5) of the Coroners Act which provides that a coroner found guilty of corruption, wilful neglect of duty or misbehaviour in the discharge of his duty shall be liable to conviction on indictment to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or a fine or to both.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what meetings he had with his officials on the subject of the Coroners Act 1988 in each of the last three months, and what was discussed at these meetings. [178574]

Bridget Prentice: Ministers regularly have meetings with and receive advice from officials on the whole range of the Department's portfolio.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 138W, on the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme, what the 18 broad categories are; and what proportion of successful claims were awarded under each category. [178182]

Mr. Straw: The following table gives the 18 broad categories of occupational type, and shows the number of successful claims awarded under each category in the last 10 years.

Criminal injuries compensation scheme: awards made by occupational type

Occupations recorded	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Armed forces	153	206	198	194	197	205	211	187	207	159
Clerical	559	651	751	724	753	753	689	586	667	724
Educational worker (teacher etc.)	138	167	212	175	231	232	275	240	246	254
Fire Fighter	54	61	69	54	53	63	64	57	56	50
Housewife/Husband	780	1,195	1,115	944	986	976	959	789	684	597
Medical worker (Doctor/Nurse etc.)	451	624	693	711	744	745	725	640	574	580
Miscellaneous	9,588	13,007	13,341	11,673	12,194	13,315	12,846	10,994	9,653	8,495
Police officer	1,405	1,848	1,705	1,651	1,669	1,741	1,664	1,411	1,286	1,176
Prison officer	133	216	239	244	274	298	392	275	302	262
Professional/Managerial	5,611	995	1,017	945	1,091	1,142	1,067	1,133	1,299	1,224
Retired	1,223	1,302	1,524	1,485	1,491	1,608	1,441	1,145	1,002	858
Security officer	239	342	301	295	332	323	376	288	270	256
Self Employed	351	440	421	387	408	423	378	346	404	418

Criminal injuries compensation scheme: awards made by occupational type

Occupations recorded	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Skilled Worker	563	813	905	1,251	1,366	971	907	883	1,023	1,247
Student	2,440	3,238	3,347	3,013	3,325	4,473	3,577	3,593	3,644	3,514
Taxi Driver	224	296	335	302	318	310	324	279	283	276
Unemployed	3,878	5,204	5,166	4,418	4,492	4,594	4,177	3,615	3,533	3,240
Unskilled/Manual worker	281	452	382	567	629	569	470	548	814	777
Total successful cases resolved with an occupation type recorded	23,021	31,383	31,717	29,033	30,553	31,681	30,542	26,995	25,967	24,107
Total successful resolved cases	31,365	39,994	39,529	36,760	39,652	42,159	41,235	35,371	33,724	31,455
Percentage resolved cases with occupational type recorded	73	78	80	79	77	75	74	76	77	77

Departmental ICT

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what date each IT system or systems replacing those that are redundant or not fit for purpose within the GNOMIS system will be operational; and how much each replacement or adapted system is expected to cost. [179141]

Mr. Hanson: There are no redundant or not fit for purpose IT systems or systems within the NOMIS programme. GNOMIS is not a name recognised within the programme. C-NOMIS is now going to be limited to use within HMPS, rather than also including use within NPS. This has had minimal impact on the C-NOMIS software requirements. Commercial negotiations for this programme are on-going; therefore we are currently unable to reveal detailed costings of the individual elements of the overall programme.

Following on from commercial negotiations, detailed and assured delivery plans that reflect the new approach and ensure constituent projects are delivered effectively to prisons and probation areas will be available from the spring.

Driving Offences: Surrey

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many persons in Surrey were *(a)* convicted for speeding and *(b)* received a fixed penalty for speeding in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [178096]

(2) how many persons in Surrey were convicted of drink driving in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [178097]

Maria Eagle: Available information from 2001 to 2005 (latest available) is provided in the following table.

2006 data will be available later this year.

Fixed penalty notices issued[1], findings of guilt at all courts for speeding[2] and driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[3] within Surrey police force area, 2001 to 2005

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Total found guilty at all courts for speed limit offences	3,478	2,021	1,508	4287	2,886
Total fixed penalty notices issued for speed limit offences	10,424	6,052	7,057	8,200	417,500
Total found guilty at all courts for drink-driving offences	1,592	1,614	1,464	1,425	1,503

[1] Only covers notices paid where there is no further action.
[2] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regs 1973.
[3] Data cover summary offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs (which cannot reliably be distinguished separately).
[4] The Court Proceedings database from which this figure is derived only held 344 prosecutions in 2004 for this offence.
[5] Safety Camera Partnership went live in the force area on 1 April 2005.

Notes:
1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular summary motoring offences, is less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Drugs: Re-offenders

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the re-offending rate was for offenders given a drug rehabilitation requirement by the courts in the most recent period for which figures are available. [178105]

Mr. Hanson: Community orders were introduced for adult offenders in April 2005. The currently published statistics on re-offending do not include data on community orders (of which one possible requirement is the drug rehabilitation requirement). Re-offending data on community orders will be published for the first time in summer 2008. This publication will be based on offenders discharged from prison or commencing community orders in the first quarter of 2006.

Electoral Register

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he intends to pilot the use of individual electoral registration in *(a)* Peterborough city council and *(b)* any other English local authority in May 2008 or thereafter; and if he will make a statement. [178578]

Mr. Wills: The Representation of the People Act 2000 does not allow local authorities to pilot changes to registration. The legislation provides for three different types of pilot scheme: *(a)* when, where and how voting at the elections is to take place; *(b)* how the votes cast at the elections are to be counted; and *(c)* the sending by candidates of election communications free of charge for postage.

On 7 January, I confirmed in a response to a parliamentary question from the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) that there is no intention to undertake further electoral innovation pilot schemes in 2008.

The Government are committed to increasing registration rates. The Electoral Administration Act 2006 contained a number of measures to increase levels of electoral registration. These include:

Imposing a new duty on Electoral Registration Officers to take all necessary steps to ensure a comprehensive register;

Increasing the time available for registration by enabling people to register up to 11 days before the election; and

Introducing performance standards for Electoral Registration Officers. Electoral registration indicators were launched by the Electoral Commission during December 2007.

The Government are currently evaluating the effectiveness of these new measures.

Electronic Tagging

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many defendants have been remanded on bail while subject to electronically-monitored curfew *(a)* before and *(b)* after conviction in each of the last seven years for which figures are available. [179352]

Mr. Hanson: The following table sets out the number of separate occasions on which courts imposed an electronically monitored curfew requirement as a condition of bail in each of the last seven financial years in England and Wales. The figures have been provided by the two electronic monitoring suppliers, G4S and SERCO.

Financial year	*Total number of times courts imposed a curfew with electronic monitoring as a bail condition*
2001-02[1]	42
2002-03	2,444
2003-04	4,427
2004-05	5,844
2005-06	8,548
2006-07	18,321
2007-08[2]	18,338

[1] Year of introduction.
[2] April to December 2007.

The caseload for tagging on bail has increased significantly after September 2005, when the Home Office advised the courts of the availability of curfew monitoring for adult defendants under the Bail Act 1976.

Information on the breakdown of the above cases between those untried and those convicted but unsentenced cannot be obtained except at disproportionate cost.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he will reply to the hon. Member for Walsall North's letter of 27 November 2007 on a constituent, reference 182213/33215. [179246]

Mr. Hanson: I wrote to the hon. Member on 7 January.

Ministry of Justice

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish the Brennan Review of the Ministry of Justice. [179364]

Mr. Straw: The review of the organisation to my Department, following the creation of the Ministry of Justice and then the Carter Report, is continuing. I will inform Parliament of the findings when the work of the review is complete.

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many non-UK prisoners were returned to serve their sentence in *(a)* EU and *(b)* non-EU home countries in each year since 1997; which 10 non-EU countries received the most prisoners in that period; and how many of those returned to non-EU countries did not have leave to remain in the UK. [177458]

Mr. Hanson: The number of prisoners returned to EU and non-EU home countries in each year since 2003 is given in the following tables. Figures for years prior to 2003 are not available. Nine non-EU countries have had prisoners repatriated to them since 2003. The figures are given in table 2.

Information relating to immigration status is not centrally available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Number of prisoners repatriated from England and Wales in each year since 2003

Table 1: From England and Wales to other EU member states

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Austria	—	—	—	—	—
Belgium	13	1	16	12	10
Bulgaria[1]	—	—	—	—	—
Cyprus[2]	1	1	1	—	2
Czech Republic[2]	1	—	—	—	—
Denmark	—	—	2	—	—
Estonia	—	—	—	—	—
Finland	—	—	1	1	—

Number of prisoners repatriated from England and Wales in each year since 2003.

Table 1: From England and Wales to other EU member states

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
France	3	1	1	4	3
Germany	3	1	1	—	2
Greece	1	—	1	—	—
Hungary	1	—	—	—	—
Ireland	8	9	5	13	5
Italy	1	1	—	—	1
Latvia[2]	—	—	—	—	—
Lithuania[2]	—	—	—	—	1
Luxembourg	—	—	—	—	—
Malta[2]	—	—	—	—	—
The Netherlands	8	83	92	70	75
Poland[2]	1	—	1	—	1
Portugal	—	—	1	1	—
Romania[1]	—	—	—	—	—
Slovakia[2]	—	—	—	—	—
Slovenia[2]	—	—	—	—	—
Spain	5	7	5	6	2
Sweden	—	—	1	—	—
Total	46	100	128	107	102

[1] Member state of the EU since 1 January 2007
[2] Member state of the EU since 1 May 2004

Table 2: To non-EU states

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Australia	—	—	—	1	—
Brazil	—	—	—	1	—
Canada	—	—	3	—	—
Dutch Antilles	—	—	2	1	5
Norway	—	—	—	—	2
Serbia	—	—	—	1	—
Switzerland	1	—	—	—	1
Turkey	2	—	3	—	1
United States of America	1	—	—	—	—
Total	4	—	8	4	9

Offensive Weapons: Sentencing

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people were given a *(a)* custodial sentence and *(b)* fine or conviction for the offence of carrying and using a knife in a violent attack in 2007; [178051]

(2) how many people were given a *(a)* custodial sentence and *(b)* fine or conviction for the offence of carrying a knife in 2007. [178052]

Mr. Hanson: There are no specific offences for:

carrying and using a knife in a violent attack

carrying a knife in a violent attack.

For offences of wounding it is not possible to tell if a knife was used without going through court records. This would incur disproportionate costs to answering this question.

Political Levy

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the performance of trade unions on payment of individual affiliation fees for those members of the union that are also members of the Labour Party. [175994]

Mr. Straw: I have made no such assessment. The responsibility for determining complaints from union members about trade unions in their application of funds for political objects is principally a matter for the Certification Officer, (for which the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform is responsible) and the Electoral Commission. I am aware that in the period over the last 10 years, the Certification Officer had received just 10 complaints in respect of trade union political funds, of which two have been upheld, and that the Electoral Commission have reported having received no complaints in this regard since their establishment.

Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Southend, West of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 594-96W, on the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, what sentencing guidelines have been produced in relation to offences under the Act. [177699]

Mr. Straw: Sentencing guidelines are issued by the Sentencing Guidelines Council, a non-departmental public body.

The council has informed us that no sentencing guidelines have been issued in relation to the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA).

Prison Accommodation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the net impact on demand for prison places of remitting prison sentences in respect of time spent on remand on electronically monitored curfew *(a)* before and *(b)* after conviction in respect of offences committed on or after 4 April 2005. [179350]

Mr. Hanson: Remitting prison sentences in respect of time spent on remand on electronically monitored curfew as proposed in the Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill will result in an estimated saving of 200 prison places. The impact will be after conviction as remand time will be deducted from any prison sentence imposed.

Prisoners

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* non-UK citizens and *(b)* non-UK citizens without leave to remain in the UK were sentenced to custodial sentences in each year since 1997; what proportion of the prison population serving sentences fell into each of those categories in the same period; and what estimate he has made of the cost of detaining prisoners in each category in each of those years. [177457]

Mr. Hanson: The following table gives the numbers of foreign national prisoners received into all prison establishments in England and Wales under immediate custodial sentence between 1997 and 2006 showing their proportion against all receptions:

Immediate custodial sentenced receptions into prison establishments in England and Wales by nationality 1997-2006

	All nationalities	*British nationals*	*Foreign nationals*	*Unrecorded nationality*	*Foreign national receptions (percentage)*
1997	80,832	76,321	4,167	344	5.2
1998	85,908	80,772	4,895	241	5.7
1999	90,238	85,126	4,927	185	5.5
2000	91,195	85,712	5,237	246	5.7
2001	90,523	84,217	6,026	280	6.7
2002	93,615	86,114	7,018	483	7.5
2003	92,245	84,251	7,482	512	8.1
2004	93,326	84,579	8,355	392	9.0
2005	90,414	80,418	9,612	384	10.6
2006	88,134	77,975	9,832	327	11.2

This information is derived from table 7.5 of the supplementary tables of the recently published Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2006, a copy of which will be placed in the House of Commons Library and which is available at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonaandpobation.htm

The following table gives the numbers of sentenced foreign national prisoners held in all prisons in England and Wales over the same period, ie the population by category at each year specified:

Sentenced population in prison establishments in England and Wales by whether foreign national 1997-2006 (as at June each year)

	All	*British*	*Foreign nationals*	*Foreign national sentenced population (percentage)*
1997	48,674	45,311	3,250	6.7
1998	52,159	48,442	3,546	6.8
1999	51,293	47,377	3,862	7.5
2000	53,093	49,059	3,918	7.4
2001	54,169	49,471	4,576	8.4
2002	57,272	51,471	5,607	9.8
2003	58,190	51,791	6,168	10.6
2004	60,924	54,453	6,256	10.3
2005	62,179	55,497	6,509	10.5
2006	63,404	55,956	7,283	11.5

Comparable information for Scotland and Northern Ireland is the responsibility of the Scottish Executive and the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

This information is derived from tables 6.4 and 6.5 in Prison Statistics in England and Wales for years 1997-2002 and from table 8.29 in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics for the years 2003-06. Website versions of these tables can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/omcs/html

for years up to 2005 and at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

for 2006. Paper copies of these publications can be found in the House of Commons Library.

Information relating to immigration status is not centrally available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

There are no separate estimates of the cost of detaining prisoners according to whether UK or foreign national. The average cost per prisoner in 2006-07 was approximately £37,500, taking account of all establishment types.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the average cost of a new prisoner place in a new building; and if he will make a statement. [179077]

Mr. Hanson: The capital cost of building each new prisoner place is dependent on the type of accommodation constructed. The following table shows the current approximate capital cost per place for different construction types.

Construction type	*Capital cost per place[1] (£)*
Houseblock	219,000
Ready built residential unit	178,000
Temporary custodial module	108,000
Temporary custodial facility	122,000
New prison	152,000

[1] Public sector prisons.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what projection has been made of the prison population in 2020; and if he will make a statement. [179095]

Mr. Hanson: No prison population projections have been made for 2020. The latest published prison population projections, which cover the period 2007-14, were published in August 2007 ("Prison population projections 2007-2014 England and Wales", N. de Silva, et al. Ministry of Justice, 2007). A copy is available in the Library of the House. When the methodology for projecting the prison population was developed ("Forecasting the prison population", P. Grove, J. Macleod and D. Godfrey, OR Insight, 11(1), 1998, pp. 3-9) seven years was the period chosen as a reasonable period for the projections. The further into the future a projection is made, the less accurate it becomes.

Prisoners Transfers

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many managed moves were authorised by Michael Spurr, Deputy Director General of HM Prison Service, in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006; what proportion of these involved (i) male, (ii) female, (iii) white and (iv) ethnic minority personnel; and if he will make a statement. [175630]

Maria Eagle: All managed appointments of operational senior managers in the Prison Service are authorised by the Succession Planning Committee chaired by the deputy director general. Michael Spurr was appointed deputy director general in December 2006, therefore the figures for managed moves in the years in question include those overseen by the previous DDG. The number of managed appointments authorised in the years in question are as follows:

	Male	*Female*	*White*	*Ethnic minority*	*Total*
2004	12	4	16	0	16
2005	35	19	52	2	54
2006	34	14	46	2	48
Total	81	37	114	4	118

These figures do not cover all managed appointments within the service as the SPC oversees only operational senior managers.

To place this in context, the composition of operational senior managers as of 31 December 2007 broken down by gender and ethnicity, is as follows:

	Number
Male	231
Female	35
White	300
Ethnic minority	12
No data	4

Prisoners: Foreigners

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners serving sentences of less than 12 months have a court recommendation for deportation. [174904]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the number of defendants for whom a judicial recommendation for deportation was issued at their trial or sentence hearing in the Crown court in England and Wales. This covers the last five calendar years for which data are available.

Defendants with judicial recommendations for deportation in the Crown court 2002-06

	Number
2002	1,073
2003	889
2004	935
2005	1,439
2006	1,882

Of the 1,882 defendants issued with a judicial recommendation for deportation in the Crown court in 2006, 1,422 were sentenced to at least 12 months imprisonment. Therefore 24 per cent. (460) of those recommended for deportation in the Crown court in 2006 were sentenced to less than 12 months or given a non-custodial sentence.

The above figures include defendants who were tried in the Crown court, as well as those who were committed for sentencing by the Crown court following summary trial in a magistrates court. Separately, there were a further 18 recommendations for deportation made in cases disposed of in the magistrates courts in 2006. However, the maximum possible custodial sentence that can be handed down in the magistrates courts is six months.

Prisoners: Muslims

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any faith-based organisations make weekly visits to Muslim inmates in HMP Highpoint. [177077]

Maria Eagle: There is one faith-based organisation which makes weekly visits to Highpoint. Muslim mentors from a scheme based at a London mosque visit two or three prisoners on a weekly basis. The aim of this scheme is to help resettle Muslim offenders into their community and is available to prisoners who are due to resettle in the London area.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what schemes are in place in prisons in England and Wales aimed at preventing Muslim inmates being exposed to extremist *(a)* views and *(b)* indoctrination. [177078]

Maria Eagle: The Prison Service is delivering a programme of work to address the risks associated with violent extremism and radicalisation in prisons including: training and awareness raising for staff; intelligence gathering; and enhancing faith provision through Muslim chaplains. Decisions on the management of individual prisoners are taken on a case-by-case basis.

Prisoners: Self-Mutilation

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners in open prisons have been judged as posing a *(a)* high and *(b)* very high risk of causing serious harm. [174905]

Mr. Straw: Only prisoners classified as category D, the lowest security category, and thus assessed as presenting a low risk, are eligible for open conditions.

In the case of offenders sentenced to indeterminate sentences, they may be placed in open conditions only on a recommendation of the Parole Board, which has been accepted by the Secretary of State.

In either case, offenders will only be placed in an open prison following an individual and rigorous risk assessment. In all cases, the protection of the public is paramount.

The National Offender Management Service now also uses the Offender Assessment System (OASys) to assess the risk of serious harm presented by offenders. Probation officers have been undertaking OASys assessments for relevant offenders already placed in open prisons, following the risk assessment processes that were in place at the time.

As at 9 January, there were no offenders in open prisons who were assessed on the OASys system as very high risk of serious harm and 280 who had been assessed as high risk of harm.

Prisoners such as those who are now being assessed as high or very high risk on OASys have been successfully managed in open conditions for many years and open prisons provide an ideal environment to prepare prisoners for the transition from custody to management in the community.

It should also be noted that, for those prisoners who are subject to Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements, release plans are in place to address risk to the public when the prisoner reaches their release date, and open prisons provide an ideal bridge between custody and management in the community.

Prisons

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost of *(a)* the land and sites for and *(b)* the building of the three titan prisons announced on 5 December 2007; and whether funding to cover these costs has been allocated to his Department. [178559]

Mr. Hanson: The cost of the land and sites for the Titan prisons has been estimated at £122 million, and funding for this has been provisionally earmarked.

The cost of construction of the Titan prisons has been estimated to be around £350 million each at 2007-08 prices.

As I informed the Joint Select Committee on 17 December 2007 the cost of building and operating the Titan prisons, which will be post 2011 spending review period, will be subject to the usual Comprehensive Spending Review processes.

Rehabilitation: Young People

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Defence the provision of training programmes by the armed services for young people as an alternative to court *(a)* proceedings and *(b)* sentences under (i) voluntary and (ii) court-ordered arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [178438]

Mr. Hanson: We will be consulting with a range of organisations which have an interest in youth justice and the provision of youth justice services as part of the Youth Crime Action Plan which will be published in the summer.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

British Franchise Association

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the British Franchise Association's compliance with the European code of ethics for franchising. [178013]

Mr. Timms: The Department has made no assessment of the British Franchise Association's (BFA) compliance with the European code of ethics for franchising. The BFA is a voluntary body, and its compliance with the code is a matter for the association.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations he has received on the British Franchise Association's mediation in disputes with its members. [178014]

Mr. Timms: The Department has received no such representations.

Business: Inspections

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when inspectors' reports into *(a)* Graylaw Holdings Ltd, *(b)* Link Service Stations Ltd, *(c)* British Anzani plc, *(d)* Bank Street Securities Ltd, *(e)* Medway Secondary Metals Ltd and *(f)* Pennine Commercial Holdings plc were completed; and what plans he has to publish the report in each case. [177063]

Mr. McFadden: The inspectors' reports into Graylaw Holdings Limited, Link Service Stations Limited and Bank Street Securities Limited were all completed on 26 July 1996; the report into British Anzani plc was completed on 28 November 1986, the report into Medway Secondary Metals Limited was completed on 21 October 1987 and the report into Pennine Commercial Holdings plc was completed on 26 July 1996. There are no plans to publish the reports; in 1996 the Secretary of State concluded that publication was not justified.

Carbon Sequestration

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how carbon capture and storage technology will be considered in Government negotiations on the clean development mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol. [175420]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The Government believe that carbon capture and storage forms an important part of the portfolio of mitigation options needed to tackle climate change. Carbon finance, channelled through instruments such as the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), offer a useful incentive to this technology, notably in key developing countries. In international negotiations, the UK has consistently argued, through the EU, that such projects should be considered under the CDM.

Governments agreed at the Second Meeting of Kyoto Parties (COP/MOP2) that after the opportunity to consider outstanding issues at the recent meeting in Bali, we should seek agreement this year in Poznan to a decision providing guidance to the CDM Executive Board. We will continue to press at the Fourth Meeting of Parties (COP/MOP4) for a decision clarifying how the board should consider such projects.

Certification Officer: Expenditure

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the Certification Officer's expenditure was on *(a)* hospitality and *(b)* travel in the latest year for which figures are available. [179235]

Mr. McFadden: In 2006-07, the Certification Officer spent *(a)* £65 on hospitality and *(b)* £3,183 on travel and subsistence for himself and his staff.

Certification Officer: Finance

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the Certification Officer's budget is for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [178989]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 14 January 2008]:* The Certification Officer's budget is for 2007-08 is £697,883. The budget for 2008-09 has not yet been agreed.

Certification Officer: Manpower

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many full-time equivalent staff work in the Certification Office. [178990]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 14 January 2008]:* In addition to the Certification Officer, who works three days a week, the Certification Officer has nine full-time equivalent staff.

Regional Development Agencies: Planning

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans there are to designate regional development agencies (RDAs) as regional planning bodies; how conflicts of interest between RDAs' planning and economic roles will be prevented; and what estimate he has made of the likely costs to RDAs of making such changes. [178008]

Mr. Timms: The Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration, which was published in July 2007, indicated that the RDAs outside London would in future be responsible for producing a single integrated regional strategy for their regions, encompassing the existing economic and spatial strategies; and that they would be designated as the regional planning body. These integrated strategies will result in greater alignment of economic and spatial planning at the regional level and will need legislation. A consultation document on how this will be implemented will be issued shortly. The Government will consider the likely costs to the RDAs in the light of the responses to consultation but intend that overall the process of producing the single strategy will be streamlined, compared with the current process for producing two separate strategies.

Regional European Offices: Expenditure

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the expenditure was of the East Midlands European Office in the last year for which figures are available; [176603]

(2) what the expenditure was of the South West UK Brussels Office in the last year for which figures are available; [176605]

(3) what the expenditure was of the North East of England Brussels Office in the last year for which figures are available; [176608]

(4) what the total expenditure was of the North West Brussels Office in the last year for which figures are available; [176613]

(5) what the expenditure was of the West Midlands in Europe office in the last year for which figures are available. [176620]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1164W, which provides the expenditure of UK Regional European Offices in the last year (2006-07).

Renewable Energy: Technology

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect on the volume of exports of the support given by UK Trade and Investment and the Renewables Trade Promotion Service to UK renewable technology manufacturers and developers. [175685]

Malcolm Wicks: Over the period 2005-07 the return on investment for the support given by UKTI and RETPS has been significant. For every £1 invested UK companies have won £18 of business.

Rover Group

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what fees have been paid to inspectors investigating MG Rover; and when he expects to publish their report. [178528]

Mr. Timms: The costs as at 31 December 2007 are £9,068,693 plus VAT of £1,661,501 and disbursements of £425,596. The inspection is continuing and I am unable to say when the report will be submitted. The Secretary of State will then consider publication.

South East England House

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the expenditure of South East England House was in the last year for which figures are available. [176525]

Mr. Timms: South East England House received a contribution of £65,000 from the South East England Development Agency in 2006-07. Office costs are shared with the South East England regional assembly, all principal local authorities in the south-east, and with a range of other partners including several of the region's universities.

Trade Unions: Audit

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform by what means the Certification Officer scrutinises annual returns from trade unions. [179233]

Mr. McFadden: The Certification Officer's staff examine all annual returns received from trade unions to ensure that they meet the statutory requirements.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how the Certification Officer audits trade unions. [178991]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 14 January 2008]*: The Certification Officer does not audit trade unions. Trade unions are required to submit to the Certification Officer annual returns relating to their affairs which must contain certain accounts. The accounts in the annual return must be audited. There are specific statutory provisions as to who can carry out this audit.

Trade Unions: Complaints

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many complaints about trades unions the Certification Officer received in each year since 2002; what the substance was of each complaint; and how many the Certification Officer responded to. [179234]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 487. That answer gave details on the numbers of complaints accepted by the Certification Officer and determined in each year since 2002. The Certification Officer responds to all complaints he receives about trades unions. All decisions made by the Certification Officer after 2001 and a selection of key decisions made before are available on the Certification Officer's website www.certoffice.org. Those decisions provide detail on the substance of complaints.

TREASURY

Banks: Switzerland

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to bring subsidiaries of Swiss banks operating in the UK under equivalent banking regulatory arrangements as apply to those of EU member states. [177373]

Angela Eagle: UK registered subsidiaries of Swiss banks are subject to the EU regulatory arrangements and requirements relevant to the business they carry out. Any UK subsidiary carrying out banking business will be subject to regulatory oversight by the Financial Services Authority (FSA). The FSA will apply the relevant directives, including supervision of capital adequacy in accordance with the EU capital requirements directive, at the level of that subsidiary.

Buildings: Cabinet Office

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 613W, on buildings: Cabinet Office, what vacant space in the Prime Minister's Offices there was in each of the last 10 years; [178346]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 613W, on buildings: Cabinet Office, what the total area of the Prime Minister's offices was in each of the last 10 years. [178348]

Angela Eagle: The total area and vacant space in the Prime Minister's Offices recorded on e-PIMS since 2005-06, the earliest date from which data are available, is as follows:

	Total area (m²)	Area of vacant space (m²)
2005-06	4,066.2	0
2006-07	4,066.2	0
2007-08 (current)	4,066.2	0

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 613W, on buildings: Cabinet Office, (1) what vacant space in the Cabinet Office's estate there was in each of the last 10 years; [178347]

(2) on buildings: Cabinet Office, what the total area of the Cabinet Office's estate was in each of the last 10 years. [178349]

Angela Eagle: The total area and vacant space in the Cabinet Office's estate recorded on e-PIMS since 2005-06, the earliest date from which data is available, is as follows:

	Total area (m²)	Area of vacant space (m²)	Percentage of vacant space against total area
2005-06	161,673	676	0.4
2006-07	143,339	4782	3.3
2007-08 (current)	146,886	4635	3.2

The reduction in area between 2005-06 and 2006-07 is because The National School of Government, previously part of Cabinet Office, became an independent department on 1 January 2007.

Child Benefit: Personal Records

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost has been to date of the Poynter Review into the loss of child benefit records by HM Revenue and Customs; and what the total cost of the review is expected to be. [178193]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 695W.

Death: Weather

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people died from cold weather related illnesses in the last 10 years; how many of them were from each (*a*) age cohort and (*b*) primary care trust area in each year; and if he will make a statement. [178415]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 15 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people died from cold-related illnesses in the last 10 years; how many of them were from each (a) age cohort and (b) primary care trust area in each year. (178415)

There is no official definition of cold-related illnesses or causes of death, and 'cold' in itself is never recorded as the underlying cause of death according to the rules of the International Classification of Diseases. However, hypothermia or subnormal body temperature may be mentioned on the death certificate.

The tables attached provide the number of deaths where hypothermia was mentioned on the death certificate, in (a) England by five-year age group, and (b) each primary care organisation in England, from 1997 to 2006 (the latest year available).

Table 1 Number of deaths with any mention of hypothermia on the death certificate[1], England, by age group, 1997-2006[2]

Deaths (persons)

Age group	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
0-4	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-9	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-14	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
15-19	3	1	2	1	2	3	1	2	2	0
20-24	5	1	1	2	2	5	0	0	3	0
25-29	4	4	1	4	2	2	3	1	1	1
30-34	2	4	8	3	4	1	4	5	2	2
35-39	8	6	3	4	4	6	5	2	5	4
40-44	8	6	2	4	7	2	6	1	9	5
45-49	9	7	9	7	3	8	11	1	6	7
50-54	6	11	8	13	9	8	11	12	6	6
55-59	11	11	14	16	12	10	13	4	10	9
60-64	15	13	10	7	12	12	8	8	8	10
65-69	22	21	15	16	13	6	4	10	10	7
70-74	21	26	28	22	20	16	12	17	10	10
75-79	63	39	41	44	37	18	16	17	7	19
80-84	71	60	55	50	32	30	24	35	26	32
85+	122	100	107	104	91	68	62	50	47	60
Total	370	310	306	300	250	195	180	167	152	172

[1] Hypothermia was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 991.6 for the years 1996 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code T68, for the years 2001 to 2006. Deaths were included where hypothermia was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate.
[2] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 2: Number of deaths with any mention of hypothermia on the death certificate[1] primary care organisations[2], 1997–2006[3]

Deaths: persons

Area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
England	370	310	306	300	250	195	180	167	152	172
North East	13	18	16	10	10	13	7	7	11	15
County Durham	4	2	6	2	1	2	1	1	3	4
Darlington	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	1
Gateshead	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Hartlepool	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Middlesbrough	3	2	4	2	2	2	2	0	2	2
Newcastle	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	0	0
North Tees	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
North Tyneside	1	1	0	2	0	3	0	1	2	1
Northumberland	1	4	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	2
Redcar and Cleveland	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
South Tyneside	1	1	0	0	2	1	2	2	0	0
Sunderland Teaching	1	4	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	4
North West	51	43	47	39	38	20	29	29	21	19
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Blackburn with Darwen	1	1	0	1	4	1	0	0	0	0
Blackpool	4	5	0	3	1	5	5	0	2	1
Bolton	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	1
Bury	0	2	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
Central and Eastern Cheshire	4	0	1	3	4	1	1	0	1	0
Central Lancashire	1	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	0	1
Cumbria	10	3	7	3	5	2	1	2	4	1
East Lancashire	2	2	1	0	1	0	3	2	0	2
Halton and St. Helens	0	0	2	2	2	1	1	1	0	1
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1
Knowsley	2	3	0	2	3	1	3	3	1	0
Liverpool	5	7	13	4	8	3	5	7	1	2
Manchester	3	3	3	2	3	0	0	1	0	1
North Lancashire	4	0	2	2	0	2	1	0	2	0
Oldham	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	0
Salford	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Sefton	1	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	1	0
Stockport	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	2	2	0
Tameside and Glossop	1	0	2	2	0	0	2	3	3	0
Trafford	1	3	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Warrington	1	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	1	0
Western Cheshire	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	1
Wirral	6	4	4	2	1	0	0	2	0	3
Yorkshire and the Humber	23	31	27	18	26	23	10	17	11	15
Barnsley	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Bradford and Airedale	0	7	2	1	4	3	0	4	1	0
Calderdale	3	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
Doncaster	0	1	2	0	1	3	1	0	0	0
East Riding of Yorkshire	0	3	1	3	3	0	1	1	3	1
Hull	4	2	1	1	1	0	1	3	0	0
Leeds	0	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust	0	1	5	2	3	1	0	1	2	3
North Lincolnshire	2	2	0	4	2	4	2	2	2	3
North Yorkshire and York	5	4	4	2	4	3	2	3	0	4

Table 2 Number of deaths with any mention of hypothermia on the death certificate[1], primary care organisations[2], 1997-2006[3]

Deaths (persons)

Area	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Rotherham	0	0	1	0	3	1	1	0	1	0
Sheffield	4	6	5	3	2	3	0	1	0	2
Wakefield District	4	1	2	0	2	3	0	1	1	0
East Midlands	24	21	33	31	16	13	14	7	13	8
Bassetlaw	0	4	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	0
Derby City	2	1	3	4	2	1	1	1	3	0
Derbyshire County	5	4	9	6	2	2	2	0	0	4
Leicester City	5	6	8	9	4	3	6	3	4	1
Leicestershire County and Rutland	0	1	2	3	0	2	1	0	1	0
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0
Northamptonshire	8	3	5	2	1	1	1	1	3	2
Nottingham City	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
Nottinghamshire County	2	2	2	4	5	2	3	0	1	0
West Midlands	46	47	42	50	34	28	20	24	22	27
Birmingham East and North	3	2	5	7	5	3	2	1	1	2
Coventry Teaching	0	2	2	5	3	1	1	2	0	3
Dudley	5	5	4	1	1	2	2	3	0	1
Heartlands Birmingham Teaching	4	4	5	4	5	3	1	1	2	3
Herefordshire	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
North Staffordshire	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1
Sandwell	5	4	5	1	4	2	0	0	2	1
Shropshire County	2	0	1	1	0	2	1	1	1	1
Solihull Care Trust	2	2	0	3	0	2	1	0	0	2
South Birmingham	5	5	5	6	2	2	2	2	2	1
South Staffordshire	3	7	1	2	3	1	0	4	2	3
Stoke on Trent	4	2	3	1	5	5	1	0	1	1
Telford and Wrekin	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Walsall Teaching	2	1	1	5	1	1	0	2	2	3
Warwickshire	2	1	4	3	1	2	3	4	2	1
Wolverhampton City	1	5	3	5	1	0	2	1	2	1
Worcestershire	5	6	2	5	2	1	3	1	2	3
East of England	56	35	41	43	40	22	24	19	22	19
Bedfordshire	11	3	1	5	3	0	2	4	1	1
Cambridgeshire	1	6	6	6	6	3	3	0	4	0
East and North Hertfordshire	2	1	5	5	1	1	0	0	1	3
Great Yarmouth and Waveney	3	1	1	3	4	2	1	1	2	1
Luton	0	2	1	2	4	2	1	2	1	2
Mid Essex	1	2	1	0	2	1	1	0	3	2
Norfolk	0	2	2	2	1	0	1	1	0	0
North East Essex	10	7	9	2	5	4	9	3	5	4
Peterborough	2	1	1	3	1	0	1	1	1	2
South East Essex	6	0	1	2	2	1	0	2	0	1
South West Essex	3	1	1	5	3	1	0	0	0	0
Suffolk	12	5	7	5	5	1	3	3	3	2
West Essex	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	1	0
West Hertfordshire	5	3	5	3	2	4	2	1	0	1
London	42	31	27	35	18	19	26	22	21	23
Barking and Dagenham	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
Barnet	2	0	0	1	0	1	4	0	2	1
Bexley	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2: Number of deaths with any mention of hypothermia on the death certificate[1], primary care organisations[2], 1997–2006

Area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*Deaths - persons 2005*	*2006*
Brent Teaching	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	0
Bromley	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	2
Camden	1	0	2	2	1	0	1	2	1	0
City and Hackney Teaching	2	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	1	1
Croydon	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Ealing	2	0	2	1	0	1	0	2	0	1
Enfield	5	1	1	5	3	0	1	0	0	1
Greenwich Teaching	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	3	6	1	4	0	0	4	0	1	1
Haringey Teaching	0	1	0	2	3	1	0	0	1	0
Harrow	1	0	1	3	1	0	1	1	1	4
Havering	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Hillingdon	1	3	2	2	0	1	0	2	0	0
Hounslow	1	1	0	2	0	2	1	2	0	1
Islington	3	0	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Kensington and Chelsea	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Kingston	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Lambeth	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
Lewisham	2	1	1	2	3	1	3	2	2	3
Newham	2	1	0	3	1	2	3	1	0	2
Redbridge	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Richmond and Twickenham	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
Southwark	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
Sutton and Merton	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	2	1
Tower Hamlets	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Waltham Forest	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1
Wandsworth	0	3	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1
Westminster	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
South East Coast	40	29	34	26	23	19	19	16	12	17
Brighton and Hove City	8	5	3	0	1	2	1	1	0	0
East Sussex Downs and Weald	4	3	5	3	4	3	3	2	2	3
Eastern and Coastal Kent	4	3	4	5	4	1	2	2	0	2
Hastings and Rother	4	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
Medway	1	2	4	1	2	0	0	0	0	3
Surrey	8	5	9	4	3	3	6	5	5	3
West Kent	3	4	2	4	4	2	3	4	0	2
West Sussex	8	5	6	9	5	7	4	1	4	4
South Central	19	18	10	27	15	[illegible]	10	8	2	11
Berkshire East	2	2	1	6	3	[illegible]	2	1	0	1
Berkshire West	1	6	0	6	2	5	1	1	0	2
Buckinghamshire	2	3	4	5	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hampshire	10	5	2	2	1	4	3	1	1	5
Isle of Wight NHS	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
Milton Keynes	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Oxfordshire	2	2	2	2	4	0	1	2	0	1
Portsmouth City Teaching	0	0	1	4	1	2	0	1	0	0
Southampton City	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	1	1	1
South West	56	37	29	21	30	24	21	18	17	18
Bath and North East Somerset	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1

Table 2: Number of deaths with any mention of hypothermia on the death certificate[1], primary care organisations[2], 1997-2006[3]

Deaths : persons

Area	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Bournemouth and Poole	2	1	6	0	2	4	1	1	4	4
Bristol	2	3	1	1	0	0	4	2	1	1
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	8	6	2	3	2	5	0	3	1	1
Devon	9	5	7	5	9	3	1	1	5	3
Dorset	4	7	4	4	4	1	3	0	1	0
Gloucestershire	10	3	1	1	4	2	2	2	2	1
North Somerset	1	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1
North Staffordshire	0	1	3	0	2	0	2	2	0	1
Plymouth Teaching	6	3	1	2	0	0	2	3	0	3
Somerset	5	2	1	3	2	3	2	2	2	0
South Gloucestershire	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Swindon	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Torbay	4	2	1	0	3	3	2	0	0	1
Wiltshire	4	0	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	1

[1] Hypothermia was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 991.6 for the years 1996 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code T68, for the years 2001 to 2006. Deaths were included where hypothermia was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2008

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year

Debts: Counselling

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received from (*a*) the Church of England and (*b*) other churches on debt counselling. [178968]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury has not received any representations from (*a*) the Church of England or (*b*) other churches on debt counselling.

Departmental Administration

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress his Department has made towards its administrative burden reduction target. [178567]

Angela Eagle: Progress towards the administrative burden target was set out in the Treasury's simplification plan published in December 2007. The plan is available on the Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/4/4/simplificationplan111207.pdf

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many (*a*) new build and (*b*) refurbishment projects of a value of under £250,000 for which his Department was responsible took place in 2005-06; and how many of those projects were subject to the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method. [176725]

Angela Eagle: There were no new build or refurbishment projects under £250,000 in value undertaken by the Treasury in 2005-06.

Departmental Contracts

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the (*a*) objective and (*b*) value was of each contract placed with (i) Deloitte & Touche, (ii) Ernst & Young, (iii) KPMG, (iv) PricewaterhouseCoopers and (v) PA Consulting by his Department and its agencies in each year since 2004-05. [179023]

Angela Eagle: The nature and total value of all contracts, consultancies and other services placed by The Treasury and its agencies with Deloitte and Touche, Ernst and Young, KPMG, PricewaterhouseCoopers and PA Consulting are contained in the following tables:

HMT

£

		2004-05	2005-06	2005-07
Deloitte and Touche		6	0	0
Ernst and Young	Audit	44,118	197,084	213,232
	Policy Review	47,692	0	120,028
	Outsourced Payroll Review	0	20,228	0
	General Consultancy	289,244	70,410	112,337
	Total	381,053	287,721	445,597

HMT

		2004-05	2005-06	£ 2006-07
KPMG	Executive Recruitment	0	0	107,352
	General Consultancy	44,118	264,512	29,921
	Total	44,118	264,512	137,273
PA Consulting	Staff Development	61,466	170,421	1,111,345
	General Consultancy	35,518	21,188	0
	Total	96,985	191,609	1,111,345
PWC	Liquidator Fees	0	85,143	11,409
	Financial Advisory Services	0	92,194	161,890
	Total	0	177,337	173,299

OGC

		2004-05	2005-06	£ 2006-07
Deloitte and Touche	General Consultancy	137,925	128,651	66,944
	Total	137,925	128,651	66,944
Ernst and Young		0	0	0
KPMG	General Consultancy	123,867	860,420	17,273
	Total	123,867	860,420	17,273
PA Consulting	Staff Development	260,318	80,811	852
	General Consultancy	0	0	72,713
	Total	260,318	80,811	73,565
PWC	General Consultancy	31,461	868,437	59,191
	Total	31,461	868,437	59,191

NS&I

		2004-05	2005-06	£ 2006-07
Deloitte and Touche	Internal Audit Service	522,319	1,000,281	1,356,255
	Project Management and Advice	19,021	96,861	12,925
	Total	541,340	1,097,142	1,369,180
Ernst and Young	Post Office Compliance Audit	0	63,450	199,750
	Total	0	63,450	199,750
KPMG	—	0	0	0
PA Consulting	Business Continuity Management	29,706	122,780	89,320
	Total	29,706	122,780	89,320
PWC	—	0	0	0

Royal Mint

		2004-05	2005-06	£ 2006-07
Deloitte and Touche	—	0	0	0
Ernst and Young	—	0	0	0

Royal Mint

£

		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
KPMG	General Consultancy	0	3,500	0
	Total	0	3,500	0
PA Consulting		0	0	0
PWC	Vesting	0	351,052	0
	VAT	0	8,500	4,500
	PAYE Advice	0	0	3,245
	General Consultancy	2,250	64,956	26,688
	Total	2,250	424,508	34,433

Departmental Legal Opinion

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by his Department on legal advice for police investigations in each of the last 12 months. [178570]

Angela Eagle: There has not been any spending on legal advice for police investigations within HM Treasury in any of the last 12 months.

Electorate: Greater London

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of people on the electoral register in each London borough are *(a)* nationals of EU member states other than the UK and *(b)* not nationals of (i) the UK and (ii) the Republic of Ireland. [179019]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 15 January 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question concerning how many and what percentage of people on the electoral registers in each London borough are (a) nationals of EU member states other than the UK and (b) not nationals of (i) the UK and (ii) the Republic of Ireland. (179019)

Data separately identifying British, Irish, or Commonwealth citizens are not collected centrally; these citizens are grouped together on local authority electoral returns. Therefore we are unable to produce data separately for British and Irish citizens.

The attached table provides the nearest available data to those you requested. It provides figures for 1 December 2006 for each London Borough and the City of London, on the number and proportion of registered electors who qualify through EU citizenship, excluding British, Irish, Cypriot and Maltese citizens (Cypriot and Maltese citizens qualify as Commonwealth citizens). Also shown are equivalent data for those electors who qualify through British, Irish or Commonwealth citizenship.

Electoral counts for 1 December 2007 will be published on 28 February 2008.

Table 1. Number and percentage of the electorate qualifying through European Union citizenship, and number and percentage of the electorate qualifying through British, Irish, or Commonwealth citizenship, London boroughs, 1 December 2006

	Electorate qualifying through European Union citizenship[1]	*Percentage of electorate qualifying through European Union citizenship*[1]	*Electorate qualifying through British, Irish or Commonwealth citizenship*[1]	*Percentage of electorate qualifying through British, Irish or Commonwealth citizenship*[1]
City of London	404	7	5,684	93
Barking and Dagenham	3,115	3	119,950	97
Barnet	10,623	5	210,254	95
Bexley	1,923	1	170,775	99
Brent	15,275	8	177,801	92
Bromley	4,720	2	229,228	98
Camden	12,987	9	133,766	91
Croydon	6,939	3	236,725	97
Ealing	16,737	8	204,785	92
Enfield	7,743	4	192,099	96
Greenwich	7,031	4	157,276	96
Hackney	9,201	7	128,149	93
Hammersmith and Fulham	12,510	10	107,283	90
Haringey	12,985	8	144,712	92
Harrow	5,721	3	159,580	97
Havering	1,506	1	177,475	99
Hillingdon	5,167	3	181,987	97
Hounslow	8,926	5	154,262	95
Islington	8,603	7	116,019	93
Kensington and Chelsea	16,058	16	85,741	84
Kingston upon Thames	4,806	4	103,231	96
Lambeth	15,951	8	192,087	92
Lewisham	7,487	4	170,635	96

Table 1: Number and percentage of the electorate qualifying through European Union citizenship, and number and percentage of the electorate qualifying through British, Irish, or Commonwealth citizenship, London boroughs, 1 December 2006

	Electorate qualifying through European Union citizenship[1, 2]	Percentage of electorate qualifying through European Union citizenship[1, 2]	Electorate qualifying through British, Irish or Commonwealth citizenship[2]	Percentage of electorate qualifying through British, Irish or Commonwealth citizenship[1]
Merton	8,641	6	129,611	94
Newham	12,840	7	172,927	93
Redbridge	2,045	1	183,533	99
Richmond upon Thames	5,983	5	119,803	95
Southwark	11,807	6	182,150	94
Sutton	3,042	2	131,359	98
Tower Hamlets	9,156	6	141,120	94
Waltham Forest	10,051	6	158,439	94
Wandsworth	15,144	7	204,016	93
Westminster	17,989	13	121,523	87

[1] These data are as reported by each London borough to ONS.
[2] Excludes British and Irish citizens, and also Maltese and Cypriot citizens who qualify as Commonwealth citizens.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Employment

Mr. Byers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of the working age population were in full-time employment in each local authority area in the most recent period for which figures are available. [179143]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 15 January 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked, to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what percentage of the working age population were in full-time employment in each local authority area in the most recent period for which figures are available. I am replying in her absence. (179143)

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local authorities from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1 attached, shows the number of people in full-time employment as a percentage of the working age population by local authority in Great Britain, for the period July 2006 to June 2007 (the latest period for which data are available) from the APS. A copy of this table has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. Estimates for the City of London in particular are based on very few observations.

English Language

Damian Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on English language classes for staff in the last year for which figures are available. [177490]

Angela Eagle: A complete record of language training undertaken by Treasury staff is not held centrally and the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will estimate the revenue which would be raised per annum by increasing duty on spirits by *(a)* one penny, *(b)* five pence, *(c)* 10 pence and *(d)* 20 pence; and if he will make a statement; [178026]

(2) if he will estimate the revenue which would be raised per annum by increasing duty on wines by *(a)* one penny, *(b)* five pence, *(c)* 10 pence and *(d)* 20 pence; and if he will make a statement. [178027]

Angela Eagle: The revenue effects of illustrative changes to alcohol duty are set out in table 6 on page 11 in the Tax Ready Reckoner, published alongside the pre Budget report and available at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk./media/1/F/pbr_csr07_taxreadyreckoner.pdf.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what level of duty was charged on *(a)* spirits, *(b)* wines, *(c)* beer and *(d)* tobacco in each year since 1990; and if he will make a statement. [178028]

Angela Eagle: The information requested can be found in the Budget documents for each year.

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Freedom of Information requests his Department has received since the Freedom of Information Act 2000 came into force; and in how many instances his Department took more than *(a)* six, *(b)* 12, *(c)* 18 and *(d)* 24 months to provide a substantive response; [175530]

Angela Eagle: Statistics on the Treasury's performance under the Freedom of Information Act are available in the Library of the House and published by the Ministry of Justice. The most recent publication is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/quarterly-stats-jul-sep-07.pdf

The data published comply with the agreed reporting requirements for central Government Departments and show that the Treasury responded to 94 per cent. of requests within the statutory deadline. The additional information sought could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Railways: Standards

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on the UK economy of cancelled train services in December 2007 and January 2008. [179357]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 15 January 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what estimate has been made of damage to the UK economy caused by cancelled trains in December 2007 and January 2068. I am replying in her absence. (179357)

Estimates of growth in the volume of economic activity of the rail sector are included as part of a wider estimate of the output of the Land Transport sector published in ONS's monthly Index of Services First Release (IoS FR). The growth in rail transport is measured by the change in the number of passenger-kilometres travelled each month, based on data collected by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR). While it is not possible to separately identify the impact of any cancellations to rail services during the period December 2007 and January 2008, this will be reflected in the published estimates. Estimates for December 2007 based on these data from the ORR will be published in the IoS FR for the first time on 25 April 2008, and estimates for January 2008 on 25 July 2008. If there is a wider impact of any cancellations to rail services on other sectors it would be reflected in the estimates of growth for these sectors published as part of GDP, which are typically based on estimates of turnover returned to ONS by businesses. However, again any such impact would not be separately identifiable.

Registration of Births Deaths Marriages and Civil Partnerships: Internet

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much compensation has been paid by the General Register Office to local authorities in consequence of difficulties arising in the introduction and operation of Registration On-line. [177094]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Registrar General, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 15 January 2008:

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how much compensation has been paid by the General Register Office to local authorities in consequence of difficulties arising in the introduction and operation of Registration On-line. (177094)

Compensation claims could be lodged up to December 2007, and are still being assessed. These relate to the additional costs incurred by register offices where birth, death and stillbirth registrations which they had needed to take manually for a short period after the introduction of Registration On-line then had to be input retrospectively to the Registration On-line database. Payments totalling 43,000 have so far been agreed.

Taxation: Occupational Pensions

Tony Baldry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the tax changes introduced in April 2006 in relation to occupational pension schemes, with particular reference to tax relief for employer contributions on the same basis as other business expenditure. [177884]

Jane Kennedy: The regulatory impact assessment (RIA) of April 2004 'Simplifying the Taxation of Pensions' at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/ria/simplifying-pensions.pdf

and the annex to that RIA of March 2005 at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/ria/simplifying-pensions-appendix.pdf

set out the Government's assessment of the impact of the new rules including the plans to evaluate their effects on changes on private pension saving.

VAT: Drinks

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) which drinks are exempt from value added tax; and if he will make a statement; [178029]

(2) what representations he has received calling on him to *(a)* reduce and *(b)* abolish value added tax on 100 per cent. fruit drinks; and if he will make a statement. [178030]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Paymaster General gave to the hon. Member for Bristol, West (Stephen Williams) on 17 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 1114-15W.

Full details of the scope of the zero rate can be found in HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) Notice 701/14, 'Food', which is published on HMRC's website at

www.hmrc.gov.uk.

Representations are regularly made to Treasury Ministers and officials on a wide range of issues.

Welfare Tax Credits: EU Nationals

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many claims for *(a)* working tax credits and *(b)* child tax credits were made by citizens of other EU member states resident in Peterborough constituency in 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [178430]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 16 January 2008

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Carbon Emissions: Government Departments

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to reduce carbon dioxide emissions on the Government estate in 2008. [177726]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA, like all Government Departments, is committed, through the sustainable operations targets for the Government Office Estate, to reducing carbon emissions from offices by 12.5 per cent. by 2010-11 and 30 per cent. by 2020, relative to 1999-2000 levels.

Working with the Carbon Trust, DEFRA has developed a comprehensive and fully costed Carbon Management Programme (CMP), which is already delivering significant savings across the DEFRA Network Estate.

Fisheries: Enforcement

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will break down by the subheading his Department's budget for fisheries enforcement in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [176142]

Jonathan Shaw: The main budget for fisheries enforcement-related expenditure by subheading for the Marine and Fisheries Agency for 2007-08 is as follows:

	£ million
Pay and non pay (estimated)[1]	3.8
Surface surveillance	6.4
Aerial surveillance	1.8
Satellite monitoring and fisheries management and enforcement IT systems	0.4 plus 0.6 held in central DEFRA budgets

[1] There is no specific pay and non pay allocation for fisheries enforcement. The above figure is a best estimate, calculated on the basis of the percentage time spent on fisheries enforcement work during 2007 deducted from the total 2007-08 pay and non pay allocation.

Floods: Warnings

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will invite local authorities to encourage parish councillors to act as flood wardens to alert the most vulnerable people to imminent risk of floods. [175670]

Mr. Woolas: Sir Michael Pitt's independent interim report on the summer 2007 floods addresses this area. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has stated that the Government agree with all 15 of Sir Michael's urgent recommendations and will work with other organisations involved in implementing them.

I understand that in some areas parish councillors form part of the voluntary warden scheme. However, DEFRA policy, while encouraging volunteers, does not depend on them.

Irish Sea: Pollution

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the recent co-operation between the Government and the Government of the Republic of Ireland on the monitoring of pollution in the Irish sea. [176662]

Jonathan Shaw: The Irish sea is bounded by England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic and these regions will all have their specific mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on pollution in the Irish sea.

Partnership-working on the state of the Irish sea is carried out in the framework of the OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the North East Atlantic to which the UK and the Republic of Ireland are Contracting parties. Regular assessments are carried out, information gathered by the various organisations is brought together and assessments are made and published in the OSPAR Quality Status Report (QSR). The last QSR was published in the year 2000, and included a regional report on the Celtic seas. The next QSR will be published in 2010.

Nitrate Vulnerable Zones

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if his Department will ensure that less than 70 per cent. of England will be designated as nitrate vulnerable zones (NVZs); what research has been used by his Department in its designation process for NVZs; and if he will make a statement. [178156]

Mr. Woolas: Our review of the current nitrate vulnerable zones (NVZs) has shown that coverage needs to be increased from 55 per cent. to about 70 per cent. of England. This is necessary because nitrate pollution has increased in some areas of the country since the last round of NVZ designations in 2002.

The nitrates directive requires all known areas of land to be designated as nitrate vulnerable zones (NVZs) if they drain to surface freshwaters or groundwaters which contain or could contain, if preventative action is not taken, nitrate concentrations greater than 50mg/l; or natural freshwater lakes, or other freshwater bodies, estuaries, coastal waters and marine waters which are eutrophic or may become so in the near future if protective action is not taken.

The document 'G1—Summary of methodology for identifying NVZs 2006', which is available on the DEFRA website, provides a description of how water quality monitoring data, collected by the Environment Agency from a network of monitoring points and boreholes, are assessed against the above criteria to identify nitrate-polluted waters, and how areas of land draining to these waters were identified for designation as NVZs.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what scientific and other reasons under the nitrate

vulnerable zones legislation there is *(a)* a six month slurry storage requirement for (i) the poultry and (ii) the pig sectors and *(b)* a five month requirement for other sectors. [178168]

Mr. Woolas: The proposed storage capacity requirement of six months for pig slurry and poultry manure and five months for all other slurry was put forward in the recent consultation about implementing the Nitrates Directive in England.

The supporting document "D4 Rationale for the proposed NVZ Action Programme measures", available to view on our website, provides the reasoning behind the proposed Action Programme measures, including the storage capacity requirement.

The consultation is now closed and I am carefully considering all the responses before making recommendations on how the implementation of the Nitrates Directive in England should progress.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will introduce a longer time period for compliance with the requirements of the nitrates vulnerable zone directive. [178169]

Mr. Woolas: The consultation on implementing the Nitrates Directive in England closed on 13 December 2007. I am carefully considering all the responses before making recommendations on how implementation should progress.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy for the Government's new action programme proposals to be waived in those areas of existing nitrate vulnerable zones exhibiting a long-term decline in levels of nitrate. [178171]

Mr. Woolas: I am considering under what circumstances removal of land from within an existing Nitrate Vulnerable Zone may be possible in the future. The consultation on implementation of the Nitrates Directive in England, which closed on 13 December, invited stakeholder views on this issue. I am in the process of considering carefully all responses received before making final decisions on how to progress implementation of the Nitrates Directive in England.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if his Department will undertake more intensive monitoring of those areas where nitrate vulnerable zone designation has been questioned by farmers and landowners. [178172]

Mr. Woolas: The consultation on implementing the Nitrates Directive in England closed on 13 December 2007. I am carefully considering all the responses before making recommendations on how implementation should progress.

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how his Department takes into account farmers' views on the proposed new nitrate vulnerable zones legislation. [178548]

Mr. Woolas: The development of proposals for revising the NVZ regulations took account of farmers' views from a series of workshops held over winter 2005-06 and extensive dialogue with the National Farmers Union, the Country Land and Business Association and the Tenant Farmers' Association during the two-year period up to August 2007.

Farmers have also had the opportunity to comment on the proposals through a public consultation that closed on 13 December, and a further series of workshops conducted in that period. DEFRA is currently analysing more than 700 consultation responses and intends to publish a summary analysis on the Department's website in early 2008.

Nitrates: Agriculture

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to introduce a derogation from the 170kgsN/ha whole farm limit to as near a 250kgsN/ha limit as possible. [178170]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA is currently preparing to submit an application to the European Commission for a derogation from the 170kgsN/ha/yr whole farm limit for applications of livestock manure, and we will open discussions with the Commission at the earliest opportunity.

Nitrates: Rivers

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on trends in overall nitrate levels in monitored rivers in England. [178157]

Mr. Woolas: A summary of DEFRA's assessment of nitrate pollution in England, including trends in nitrate concentrations in monitored rivers, is provided in "Nitrates in waters—current status in England (2006)". This paper was published in support of the recent consultation on implementing the Nitrates Directive in England.

Sea Fishing: Licensing

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) pursuant to the Marine Bill White Paper and associated Regulatory Impact Assessment, what consultation responses have been received by his Department on the proposed recreational sea angling licence; and what response he has made; [177663]

(2) pursuant to the draft Recreational Sea Angling Strategy, what the timetable is to implement the proposals; and if he will make a statement; [177665]

(3) whether he plans to designate any fish stocks specifically for recreational use; and if he will make a statement. [177666]

Jonathan Shaw: On 6 December 2007, I launched a consultation on the draft Recreational Sea Angling Strategy which runs until 31 March 2008. The strategy includes consideration of management measures for fish stocks of interest to anglers. Any decisions on the implementation of proposals in the strategy will be

made after responses to the consultation have been considered. At that stage, a summary of responses received will be published and individual responses will be publicly available, unless a request has been made for a response to be treated confidentially. A copy of the strategy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect that the introduction of a sea-angling licence would have upon the economy of UK coastal resorts. [179306]

Jonathan Shaw: The Marine Bill White Paper, published in March 2007, included a proposal for the introduction of a chargeable licensing scheme for sea angling. The regulatory impact assessment (RIA) accompanying the White Paper outlined the costs and benefits of this proposal, with reference to the economic contribution of angling to angling-related businesses and local economies.

The RIA identified a risk that the introduction of a chargeable sea-angling licence could displace or reduce angling activity. However, this risk would be mitigated by ensuring that any licence fee was set at a level that would not deter or displace activity and by only introducing such a scheme provided there were clear benefits to anglers. The detailed operation of the scheme would be subject to consultation with stakeholders.

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the costs of the *(a)* introduction and *(b)* policing of a requirement for recreational sea-anglers to hold a valid sea-angling licence. [179307]

Jonathan Shaw: The Marine Bill White Paper, published in March 2007, includes proposals to introduce a chargeable licensing scheme for recreational sea angling. The regulatory impact assessment (RIA) accompanying the White Paper estimated that the revenue from such a scheme could generate £9 million to £12 million per annum in licence fees, depending on uptake and the rate of the charge. The RIA also estimated the one-off set-up cost to the Government could be between £0.1 million to £1.5 million, with annual running costs, including enforcement, of between £1.2 million and £2.8 million, depending on how the scheme is implemented and the level of compliance.

Seas and Oceans: Biodiversity

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 712W, on seas and oceans: biodiversity, what legal protection is currently offered to *(a)* Braemar Pockmarks, *(b)* Darwin Mounds, *(c)* Haig Fras, *(d)* North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef, *(e)* Scanner pockmark, *(f)* Stanton banks and *(g)* Wyville Thomson Ridge; for what reasons each site is not classified as European Offshore marine sites; and if he will make a statement. [177672]

Jonathan Shaw: The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) began consultation on these seven offshore sites on 20 December 2007. No decision will be made concerning classification of these sites as European offshore marine sites until the JNCC consultation has concluded and recommendations have been made to Government.

Presently, the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007 do not apply to these sites as a matter of law or as a matter of policy.

However as stated in my earlier reply, DEFRA will consider what action might reasonably be taken to protect sites. Consenting authorities are encouraged to take note of proposals when considering any licensing or consenting decisions that may affect sites.

If the JNCC, as our scientific nature conservation advisers, advised us that potential offshore sites are being damaged by fishing activities, we would approach the Commission to ask them to consider proposing protective measures. The JNCC have not indicated that there is any such damage occurring in our current potential sites.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 712W, on seas and oceans: biodiversity, under what legislation protection may be given to the *(a)* Braemar Pockmarks, *(b)* Darwin Mounds, *(c)* Haig Fras, *(d)* North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef, *(e)* Scanner pockmark, *(f)* Stanton banks and *(g)* Wyville Thomson Ridge sites; and if he will make a statement. [177673]

Jonathan Shaw: The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) launched a consultation on these seven offshore sites on 20 December 2007, and it is scheduled to last 12 weeks. Following consultation, the JNCC may recommend to the Government that these sites be submitted to the European Commission for consideration as European offshore marine sites. If the Government then decide to submit these sites to the European Commission they will receive the full legal protection provided by the Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007.

Water Supply

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what provisions are in place to compensate customers whose water supply is interrupted by *(a)* works caused by a leak or burst in a strategic main and *(b)* contamination which makes the water supply unfit for human consumption; and if he will make a statement. [179439]

Mr. Woolas: Customers of water and sewage companies are entitled to payment in recognition of a service failure if a company fails to meet the requirements set out under the guaranteed standards scheme.

Whales

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which governments he plans to make representations to support the international moratorium on whaling prior to the IWC60 meeting; and if he will make a statement.; [177611]

(2) whether he plans to ask non-International Whaling Commission countries to join the IWC prior to the IWC60 meeting to support the international moratorium on whaling; and if he will make a statement; [177614]

(3) what discussions he has had with representatives of foreign governments in relation to whaling since the IWC59 meeting; and if he will make a statement. [177658]

Jonathan Shaw: The UK forms part of a core anti-whaling grouping within the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and supports the IWC's moratorium on commercial whaling. The UK remains strongly opposed to any attempt to lift or weaken the moratorium and, in the longer term, wishes to see it strengthened. We will be meeting with the core anti-whaling group in the run up to IWC60. Posts abroad will also lobby a wide range of governments prior to the meeting to ensure support for the moratorium.

The UK has led efforts to recruit more conservation-minded countries to the IWC through our publication 'Protecting Whales—A Global Responsibility'. This publication has recently been updated and was re-released on 21 December 2007. In the coming weeks, posts will deliver the updated version to host governments, and will continue to engage in discussion with their counterparts on whaling at every appropriate opportunity.

This year, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will write to 18 countries encouraging them to join the IWC for the greater protection of whales.

The UK Government have consistently voiced their opposition to Japanese "scientific" whaling. Most recently, on 8 January, I called in the deputy ambassador from the Japanese embassy in London to express the UK's outrage and urge Japan to end its slaughter of whales.

On 21 December 2007, the UK along with 29 other countries took part in a demarché to the Japanese Government calling on Japan to

"cease all its lethal scientific research on whales, and assure the immediate return of the vessels which are implementing JARPA II" (the Japanese 'scientific' Research Programme in the Antarctic).

WALES

Tower Colliery

9. **Ann Clwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will make a statement on the closure of Tower Colliery. [177791]

Mr. Hain: I would like to commend the team at Tower Colliery on their tremendous success and inspiring journey, demonstrating how a self-managed coal mine can work.

Defence

10. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on the transfer of jobs from RAF Cosford to RAF St. Athan. [177792]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Secretary of State and I have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Defence on a range of defence issues.

I understand that the relocation of jobs from RAF Cosford to St. Athan will be completed by 2013.

Economy

11. **Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on the future of the economy in Wales. [177793]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My right hon. Friend has had regular discussions with the First Minister on all aspects of the Welsh economy.

13. **David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on the future of the economy in Wales. [177795]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have regular discussions with the First Minister on all aspects of the Welsh economy.

World Heritage Sites

12. **Mr. Martyn Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent representations he has received on the world heritage sites in Wales. [177794]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My right hon. Friend and I have recently received representations to support the World Heritage bid for Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, which lies within my hon. Friend's constituency.

We were proud to add our support to this world class piece of British engineering; and I would like to thank and congratulate all those who have worked so very hard and put so much dedication into campaigning to get the aqueduct recognised as a World Heritage site.

Seaside Towns

14. **Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what meetings he has had with Cabinet and Welsh Assembly Government colleagues on the co-ordination of policy on seaside towns in Wales. [177796]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My right hon. Friend and I regularly meet ministerial colleagues and Welsh Assembly Government colleagues to discuss issues affecting Wales, including the co-ordination of policies affecting Wales.

I pay tribute to the tireless work of my hon. Friend in campaigning for the improvement of the seaside towns in his constituency.

Prisons

15. **Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent assessment he has made of levels of prison overcrowding in Wales. [177797]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government are committed to ensuring that there are enough prison places throughout England and Wales.

Health Services: Cross Border Cooperation

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on cross-border health service issues affecting England and Wales. [177907]

Mr. Hain: I have regular discussions with the First Minister on a range of issues, including the provision of cross border health services affecting Wales and England.

Child Poverty

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the further steps he is taking to meet the Government's target to reduce child poverty in Wales. [177786]

Mr. Hain: The reforms set out in Ready for Work: next steps to full employment will reduce child poverty by getting more parents, particularly lone parents off benefits and back into work.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 19W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, how many civilians are employed by his Department for the take-off and landing phase of unmanned aerial vehicles; from what company these civilians are contracted; and what the nationality of each civilian so employed was in each year since 2005. [178533]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: One civilian contractor is deployed in Afghanistan to assist UK forces with the take-off and landing phases of UAVs. The individual deployed at any one time is drawn from a pool of five trained personnel, all of whom are American nationals. The civilian contractors are not directly employed by the MOD but supplied through Brandes, a sub-contractor of Thales, the prime contractor for this system. A civilian has been employed in this role since September 2007, the date on which UAV operations of this type commenced in Afghanistan.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps the Government has taken to assist personnel with settling back into the community on return from operational duties. [179178]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 15 January 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 877-78W, to the hon. Member for North Cornwall (Dan Rogerson).

Armed Forces: Driving

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of his Department's Annual Road Safety Report issued since 1997-98. [175451]

Derek Twigg: I will arrange for the documents to be placed in the Library of the House. The reports can also be found at:

http://www.transportsafety.dnr.mil.uk/articles/pmoArticle.asp?articleheader=Defence%20Annual%20Road%20Safety%20Report

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many housing association tenants live in his Department's accommodation. [171105]

Derek Twigg: There are no housing association tenants living in service accommodation.

Armed Forces: Mental Health

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps the Government have taken to tackle mental health issues arising among armed forces personnel, with particular reference to those returning from operational duty. [179180]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 15 January 2008]:* We recognise that operational deployments can be very stressful experiences and to that end measures are in place to increase awareness at all levels and to mitigate the development of operational stresses. Medical staff and the Chain of Command are trained to recognise signs of mental illness and stress and where practicable a period of "decompression" is arranged for the returning unit between the end of the operational deployment and post operational leave. Additionally pre- and post-deployment talks are given to educate personnel and their families to the possible after-affects of an operational deployment and, if required, what medical and welfare support is available.

For those who require it, we provide treatment primarily through our 15 military Departments of Community Mental Health across the UK (plus satellite centres overseas), which provide out-patient mental healthcare. A wide range of psychiatric and psychological treatments are available, including medication, psychological therapies, and environmental adjustment where appropriate. The Defence Mental Health Services have extensive experience in psychological treatments for mental health problems in general, and psychological injury in particular.

In-patient care, when necessary, is provided in psychiatric units belonging to the Priory Group of Hospitals, through a central contract with MOD. The arrangements with the Priory Group mean that the majority of patients can be treated much closer to their parent units than was the case when we maintained the last of our own psychiatric hospitals.

Armed Forces: Peace Establishment

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the peace establishment was of the 4th Regiment of the Royal Artillery before its deployment

to Afghanistan; what the strength was of the Regiment on deployment; how many reinforcements to the Regiment were received from (*a*) the regular Army, (*b*) the Territorial Army and (*c*) the regular Army Reserves; how many of all ranks were (i) left behind on recruitment duties, (ii) physically unfit to deploy and (iii) left behind in barracks to form a rear party; and what the Regiment's battle casualty replacement policy is; [177936]

(2) what the peace establishment was of the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards before its deployment to Afghanistan; what the strength was of the Battalion on deployment; how many reinforcements to the Battalion were received from (*a*) the regular Army, (*b*) the Territorial Army and (*c*) the regular Army Reserves; how many of all ranks were (i) left behind on recruitment duties, (ii) physically unfit to deploy and (iii) left behind in barracks to form a rear party; and what the Battalion's battle casualty replacement policy is; [177938]

(3) what the peace establishment was of the Household Cavalry Regiment before its deployment to Afghanistan; what the strength was of the Regiment on deployment; how many reinforcements to the Regiment were received from (*a*) the regular Army, (*b*) the Territorial Army and (*c*) the regular Army Reserves; how many of all ranks were (i) left behind on recruitment duties, (ii) physically unfit to deploy and (iii) left behind in barracks to form a rear party; and what the Regiment's battle casualty replacement policy is; [177940]

(4) what the peace establishment was of the 1st Battalion Royal Gurkha Rifles before its deployment to Afghanistan; what the strength was of the Battalion on deployment; how many reinforcements to the Battalion were received from (*a*) the regular Army, (*b*) the Territorial Army and (*c*) the regular Army Reserves; how many of all ranks were (i) left behind on recruitment duties, (ii) physically unfit to deploy and (iii) left behind in barracks to form a rear party; and what the Battalion's battle casualty replacement policy is. [177942]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table provides the information requested. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 100 or where less than 100 to the nearest 10, as appropriate.

Number

	4th Regiment Royal Artillery	*1st Battalion Coldstream Guards*	*Household Cavalry Regiment*	*1st Battalion Royal Gurkha Rifles*
Peacetime establishment prior to deployment	600	600	500	600[1]
Strength on Deployment	400	500	200	600
Level of reinforcement from Regular Army	40	0	0	<10
Level of reinforcement from regular Army Reserves	<10	<10	0	0
Level of reinforcement from Territorial Army	20	0	10	<10
Unit personnel left behind on recruiting duties or were physically unfit to deploy	100	70	30	50
Rear Party Strength[3]	80	70	100	200

[1] Prior to deployment 1 RGR were manned over their establishment requirement, their actual strength was 800.
[2] Only one squadron of the Household Cavalry Regiment has deployed.
[3] Figures for rear party strength exclude those personnel listed as physically unfit to deploy or on recruiting duties.

I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 7 January *Official Report*, column 50W that outlines the policy on battlefield casualty replacement which applies across the Army.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many explosive devices have been activated against or by (*a*) Mastiff and (*b*) Vector/Pinzgauer vehicles since being deployed to theatre; how many (i) deaths and (ii) injuries have resulted in relation to each type of vehicle; and how many vehicles have been damaged beyond repair. [177985]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I have nothing to add to the answers given by me on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1343-44W to the hon. Member for North Shropshire (Mr Paterson).

Delivery Services

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which companies are under contract to his Department to provide mail services. [170164]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence gave on 22 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1034W, to the hon. Member for South-West Norfolk (Mr. Fraser).

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total expenditure in near cash terms was in each financial year since 2000-01 as listed in his Department's resource account code hierarchy. [175446]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Liam Fox:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your parliamentary question on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 42W, about the total expenditure in near cash terms in each financial year since 2000-01 as listed in the MOD's resource account code hierarchy.

I provided a detailed breakdown of the MOD's Outturns for the financial years 2001-02 to 2007-07 in my letter of 30 November 2007 to Oliver Letwin, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House. I enclose a copy for ease of reference. The Department did not operate a near cash regime prior to 2001-02. Near cash figures are not readily available at resource account level and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recycling scheme is in operation in each building operated by his Department. [176504]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department's recycling policy states that all non-hazardous waste products especially those generated from offices are recycled, this including, for example, paper, glass, aluminium cans, fluorescent tubes, printer cartridges, toners etc.

It is the responsibility of the organisation within the Department that owns or manages the individual building, site or establishment to introduce a recycling scheme in accordance with this policy which is dependent upon local recycling availability and local recycling infrastructure.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what weight of paper his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [179459]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held in the format requested, however information is available on the amount of waste produced and the total amount recycled. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1457W, to the hon. Member for South Holland and The Deepings (Mr. Hayes).

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British service members the 25 December 2007 Permanent Joint Headquarters Personnel Report stated were in *(a)* Iraq, *(b)* Kuwait, *(c)* Bahrain, *(d)* Oman, *(e)* Qatar and *(f)* at sea in support of Operation Telic. [177524]

Des Browne *[holding answer 10 January 2008]:* Figures are not available for 25 December 2007. The following table provides the number of UK service personnel deployed on operations in the locations specified as at 26 December 2007 taken from the personnel report of that date. Numbers for Iraq are rounded to the nearest 100, and for other countries to the nearest 10.

Location	*Number*
Iraq	4,600
Kuwait	320
Bahrain	30
Oman	210
Qatar	420
At sea	920

The number of personnel in theatre will naturally fluctuate on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including leave (rest and recuperation), temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement offerees and other factors. Personnel deployed in Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar or at sea provide support both to Operation Telic and to other operations in the region.

Kuwait

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's personnel were based in Kuwait in support of Operation Telic in each year since 2003. [170824]

Des Browne: Following the end of combat operations in Iraq in 2003, the number of UK forces based permanently in Kuwait was reduced to a small contingent responsible for defence diplomacy and support to operations. The size of this contingent fluctuates naturally and we do not have separate records for 2004 and 2005 (for which figures could be provided only at disproportionate cost). However mid and end year numbers (rounded to the nearest five) for the other years requested are as follows:

	Personnel
2003	
Mid year	610
End year	190
2004	
Mid year	None recorded
End year	None recorded
2005	
Mid year	None recorded
End year	None recorded
2006	
Mid year	30
End year	10
2007	
Mid year	20
End year	330

As of 6 January 2008, the UK had some 380 logistic and support personnel deployed in Kuwait. These figures do not include those temporarily deployed in connection with roulements and other temporary support activities.

Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Ministry of Defence police officers there were in each year since 1997. [177588]

Derek Twigg: The figures for the number of Ministry of Defence police (MDP) officers since 1997 are provided in the following table.

	Number of MDP officers
1997	3,734
1998	3,625
1999	3,568
2000	3,393
2001	3,257
2002	3,247
2003	3,290
2004	3,322
2005	3,415
2006	3,465
2007	3,447

Princess Royal Barracks

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what measures he proposes to take to preserve the site-based evidence relating to the deaths of army recruits at Deepcut barracks between 1995 and 2002 in the event of the closure and disposal of the Deepcut site. [179136]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Responsibility for evidence relating to the deaths of the four recruits at Deepcut between 1995 and 2002 lies with Surrey Police, who undertook the investigations. The Ministry of Defence has not been required to retain any on-site evidence.

RAF Lyneham

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what dates the *(a)* C130K and *(b)* C130J Hercules fleets will be moving from RAF Lyneham to RAF Brize Norton. [178001]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The move of the C130K and C130J fleets from RAF Lyneham to RAF Brize Norton is being planned for summer 2011. The transfer is planned to complete to enable the Royal Air Force to vacate RAF Lyneham by the end of 2012. While it had been previously announced that the C130K fleet would remain at RAF Lyneham until its out of service date, further planning has identified operational benefits and logistic efficiencies from keeping the two aircraft types collocated.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate his Department has made of the effect on the number of civilians employed at RAF Lyneham of the transfer of the support contract to a new contractor. [178004]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department does not specify how many personnel the contractor should employ; instead an output specification is used as the basis for the contract. It is the new contractor's decision as to how many people they employ to satisfy the requirement.

The new contractor is currently making plans to take over the service contract at RAF Lyneham from 1 April 2008. The scope of the new contract is the same as the old contract and there are no plans to change the number of MOD civil servants employed at RAF Lyneham on the basis of this new service contract.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

House of Commons Finance and Administration Department: Costs

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much the Department of Finance and Administration cost to run in *(a)* 1986, *(b)* 1996 and *(c)* 2006. [179185]

Nick Harvey: The total resource cost of running the former Department of Finance and Administration for the year ended 31 March 2006 was £17,953,000. This figure includes a significant level of corporate expenditure which is not directly attributable to the direct costs of running the Department. Some of the larger corporate items during 2005-06 included pension contributions (£10,277,000), contracts management (£608,000), and child care vouchers (£217,000).

Comparisons with 1986 and 1996 are difficult because of organisational changes and the accounts being cash rather than resource based. The direct cash cost of running the Administration Department in 1986 was £2,372,000; and the Department of Finance and Administration in 1996 was £8,252,000.

House of Commons Finance and Administration Department: Manpower

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many members of staff worked in the Department of Finance and Administration in *(a)* 1986, *(b)* 1996 and *(c)* 2006. [179184]

Nick Harvey: The Department of Finance and Administration had the following staff in post as at 31 March:

1986: 95

1996: 114

2006: 151

House of Commons: Planning

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many building projects the Commission has commissioned since 1997; and how many of them were *(a)* over budget and *(b)* late. [179182]

Nick Harvey: I regret that information to this level of detail cannot be readily produced without disproportionate cost, but if my hon. Friend wished to table a more specific question about a particular project I shall endeavour to give him a full reply.

Poultry Meat

Mr. Oaten: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what proportion of chicken served on the House of Commons estate was free range in the most recent period for which figures are available. [179297]

Nick Harvey: During calendar year 2007, £75,300 was spent on chicken meat (fresh); £7,400 was spent on free-range chicken (that is, just under 10 per cent. of expenditure on chicken). As many products are purchased as individual items, not by weight, the proportion by weight is estimated at 7 per cent. of the total.

Most of the free range products purchased were chicken breasts. Certain chicken products are not readily available as free range, for example boiling fowl, chicken wings and halal - these amounted to 6 per cent. of expenditure.

It is the House of Commons catering service's policy to buy chicken from two reliable suppliers with very high standards of food safety. All fresh poultry products purchased, including chicken, are fully traceable to the farms of origin.

Visitor Reception Building

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how late the new visitor centre is; what extension of time has been granted; and what the overspend will be. [179183]

Nick Harvey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave recently about the visitor reception building on 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1246W.

TRANSPORT

A2: Gravesham

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate was made of the cost of constructing a bridleway to connect Down's Road and Hog Lane on the A2 road in Gravesham. [177294]

Mr. Tom Harris: No estimate was made for the cost of constructing a bridleway to connect Downs Road and Hog Lane on the A2 in Gravesham.

Airports: Security

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with BAA on screening passengers passing through scanners at airport security points more quickly. [179197]

Jim Fitzpatrick: My right hon. Friend has regular discussions with industry, including the BAA, on a range of security issues. We have long recognised the need to balance security measures with the needs of the travelling public. However, the security of passengers must never be compromised.

Seafarers: Training

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department has taken in response to the European Commission warning of possible court action against the UK for failing to implement European legislation on the recognition of seafarer certificates; and when her Department plans to implement the relevant legislation. [177818]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department regrets the delay in transposing this Directive, which amends Directive 2001/25/EC on the minimum level of training for seafarers. We are however committed to transposing the Directive into UK legislation as quickly as possible.

The Directive will be transposed into UK legislation by a new statutory instrument. The drafting of this is at an advanced stage. A 12-week consultation on this draft will commence shortly prior to laying the final Regulations before Parliament. It is anticipated that this process will be completed and the legislation brought into force in spring 2008.

Driving: Foreigners

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make it her policy to require foreign nationals to demonstrate a year's driving without offences in the UK before they are able to apply for a UK driving licence. [178980]

Jim Fitzpatrick: When applying for a first British provisional licence, or exchanging an existing foreign licence for a British equivalent, all driving licence applicants are treated equally, irrespective of their nationality. There are no plans to change this policy.

Road traffic law is also applied equally to drivers of all nationalities. Any driver who accumulates sufficient penalty points is liable for disqualification from driving by a court.

Great Western Trains: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of train *(a)* punctuality and *(b)* overcrowding on the Weymouth to Bristol line; and if she will make a statement. [177832]

Mr. Tom Harris: By early December, punctuality across the First Great Western (FGW) franchise stood at 82.5 per cent. We have impressed on FGW the need for this to improve. Joint action plans are in place between Network rail and FGW to help achieve this and are monitored monthly by the department.

Measures to improve punctuality and to increase capacity on individual routes are matters for the train operator.

Network Rail: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she had with Network Rail on rail network engineering projects over the Christmas period; what action she took following those discussions; and if she will make a statement. [177344]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Secretary of State met Iain Coucher, chief executive of Network Rail, on 3 January. She emphasised to him that, while the department had no intention of intervening in Network Rail's operations, the level of disruption caused to passengers over the Christmas period had been unacceptable.

On 8 January, the Office of Rail Regulation announced that it will be conducting an investigation into Network Rail's handling of engineering works. This will focus in particular on the overruns that occurred over the Christmas period. The initial results are expected by the end of February.

Railways

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Department has taken to ensure Network Rail is improving its safety procedures following the Waterloo derailments of 11 September and 24 October 2006. [178339]

Mr. Tom Harris: The report into these incidents by the Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB) was published on its website (www.raib.gov.uk) on 18 December 2007. RAIB made 14 recommendations, mostly directed at Network Rail. It is for the Office of Rail Regulation, the health and safety regulator for Britain's railway, to consider the recommendations and Network Rail's response to the incidents and to ensure that action is taken by Network Rail where appropriate.

Railways: Crime

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the steps being taken by train operating companies to reduce numbers of assaults on platform and train staff. [179190]

Mr. Tom Harris: The rail industry is undertaking a range of initiatives to help reduce the numbers of assaults on its staff. This includes the setting up of the pan-industry Rail Personal Security Group to address the issue. The rail industry, though, cannot be expected to work alone in tackling staff assaults. The police, local authorities, crime and disorder reduction partnerships, and others need to play their part too—as do the public in respecting the transport environment.

Railways: Freight

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of railway line are available to freight traffic only. [178140]

Mr. Tom Harris: Using Office of Rail Regulation's definition of freight-only lines Network Rail estimates that there are 585 track km of freight-only lines. This equates to 364 track miles.

Railways: Overcrowding

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of train *(a)* punctuality and *(b)* overcrowding on the line between Tamworth and London. [179380]

Mr. Tom Harris: Punctuality is reported by Network Rail and is monitored on a daily basis by West Coast Trains, London Midland and East Midlands Trains. The results are reviewed by the Department against key performance benchmarks set for each franchise.

Officials at the Department also review timetables proposed by the train operators to ensure that they provide services compliant with their franchise commitments. It is the responsibility of train operators to manage their rolling stock resources in order to fulfil their franchise commitments and minimise crowding.

Railways: Portsmouth

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will pursue provisions requiring *(a)* an additional train coach to the current two car unit service operating hourly and *(b)* a half hourly three car unit service between Portsmouth and Cardiff in the next relevant franchise negotiations; and if she will make a statement. [178246]

Mr. Tom Harris: Responsibility for delivering a service which meets the standards in the franchise agreement is a matter for First Great Western.

Railways: Standards

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 9W, on railways: standards, how many passengers were given the opportunity by *(a)* South West Trains and *(b)* her Department to read an unabridged version of the ergonomic study. [178975]

Mr. Tom Harris: Only a redacted version of the study has been made available by South West Trains to passengers. South West Trains have, however, made the full report available to Passenger Focus who have confirmed that the redacted version accurately reflects the report's findings.

Transport: Heavy Goods Vehicles

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will require all non-UK registered heavy goods vehicles using UK roads to be equipped to the standards required of UK registered vehicles, with particular reference to identical parameters for speed limiters. [179400]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is already a requirement under the provisions of directive 92/6/EEC as amended by directive 2002/85/EC for heavy goods vehicles (HGV) registered in any EU member state to be fitted with a speed limiter. This requires that the speed limit for an HGV should not exceed 90 kilometres per hour.

All vehicles have to comply with minimum standards of roadworthiness irrespective of the country in which they are registered. If they do not their drivers and operators can be prosecuted and fined. The vehicle can also be prohibited from moving until necessary repairs have been carried out.

Travel Concession Authorities

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in which areas of the travel concession authorities' financial expenditure her Department expects that Gershon savings can be found. [179086]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is for the travel concession authorities to determine where best they can make Gershon efficiency savings.

There are a number of ways by which travel concession authorities could make such savings. Where appropriate they could move to county-wide administration of concessionary travel schemes (if they are currently managed at the district level) or could move to joint administration with other authorities. The administration of concessionary travel could also be streamlined by, for instance, issuing passes bi- or tri-annually instead of yearly, or by adopting streamlined procedures for monitoring and calculating reimbursement payments, in co-operation with bus operators.

The Department has been working with local authorities to find ways of improving the efficiency of concessionary fares administration. An eventual move to full smart-ticketing, subject to up-front investment, would significantly reduce the scope for passenger and operator fraud, improve the collection of data needed for calculating reimbursement, and reduce the need for separate passenger surveys. To assist this process the Government are paying a grant of £31 million to ensure that bus passes for the new national concession starting April 2008 are in ITSO smartcard form.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Consultants

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent from its *(a)* running costs and *(b)* programme expenditure on consultants in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06 and (iii) 2006-07. [178499]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 14 January 2008]*: The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) was created following Machinery of Government changes on 5 May 2006.

For the 2006-07 financial year, expenditure on consultants for CLG was £72.742 million (of which £7.254 million was administration running costs, the remainder programme expenditure). Comparable figures for earlier financial years are not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether personal data for which her Department is responsible is *(a)* stored and *(b)* processed overseas; and if she will make a statement. [176024]

Mr. Dhanda: No personal data associated with the Communities and Local Government corporate infrastructure is stored and/or processed overseas.

Fire Services: Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the effect on payments made under the Fire Service Pension Scheme from the likely change in the number of retirements due to ill health in each of the next 10 years. [177957]

Mr. Dhanda: In 2004, the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992 was amended to provide that eligibility for an ill-health pension was restricted to those who were permanently disabled for the performance of the duties of their role as a firefighter, whether instead of, or in addition to, engaging in fire-fighting. This reflected changes in the duties of firefighters.

This is resulting in a reduction of about 100 ill-health retirements per annum for fire and rescue authorities in England, giving an estimated annual saving of £1.5 million for each year group, index linked. This will reduce future liabilities by up to £21.3 million per annum.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations her Department has received from organisations calling for energy performance certificates to be attached to valuations. [171498]

Yvette Cooper: We have received no recent representations calling for energy performance certificates to be linked to mortgage valuations.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate her Department has made of the number of prospective home buyers who have made use of the home information pack. [174316]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of requests by potential buyers to read home information packs. [174318]

Yvette Cooper: No such estimate has been made.

Homes and Communities Agency: Powers

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether agents of the Homes and Communities Agency will have the power to enter private property. [174454]

Yvette Cooper: Agents of the Homes and Communities Agency will have the power to enter land, but only for the purpose of surveying it, or estimating its value, in connection with either a proposal to acquire that land or any other land, or any claim for compensation in respect of any such acquisition. The agency must give at least 28 days notice of the intended entry.

These powers are the same as the existing powers of the Urban Regeneration Agency established by the Leasehold Reform, Housing and Urban Development Act 1993 which will be dissolved once the Homes and Communities Agency is established.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the expenditure from the public purse has been in the Stroud district on *(a)* social housing and *(b)* affordable housing in each year since 2002. [177676]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows expenditure through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) between 2002-03 to 2006-07 including expenditure on major repairs and works to RSL stock in Stroud district and through Local Authority Social Housing Grant (LASHG). LASHG was abolished from 1 April 2003.

£000

	Social housing	*Low Cost Home Ownership (LCHO)*	*Major repairs and works to stocks through AHP*	*Total expenditure AHP*	*Total expenditure LASHG*	*Total annual expenditure*
2002-03	227	54	60	341	452	793
2003-04	656	327	28	1,011	0	1,011
2004-05	332	207	24	563	0	563
2005-06	269	377	16	662	0	662
2006-07	289	124	4	417	0	417

Housing: Renewable Energy

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment her Department has made of the use of the Planning Policy Statement 22 viability clause in the practical application of local authority Merton rules; and what estimate she has made of the number of developments under the Merton rule that have achieved at least a 10 per cent. carbon dioxide reduction from the use of onsite renewables; [165211]

(2) what assessment she has made of the effect of the Merton planning rule on the uptake of micro-renewables; and if she will make a statement. [165209]

Yvette Cooper: The information required to make the assessments sought is not held centrally and could be assembled only from local authorities at a disproportionate cost. I also refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Bexhill and Battle (Gregory Barker) on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, 682W. This answer explains that assessments of the type sought by the hon. Member will vary substantially according to the assumptions made on matters such as the range of developments to which local policies are applied, the expected numbers of developments to be completed, their energy demands, the extent to which the provision of installed equipment complies with the original planning permission and whether the technologies installed in practice provide the predicted savings.

Immigration: Population

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent estimate is of the number of additional new households which will be formed in the next 25 years beyond those expected in a zero net migration scenario; and what proportion of total household growth such households will represent over the same period. [179440]

Mr. Iain Wright: The latest 2004 based household projections showed annual average household growth of 223,000 per year from 2004 to 2026 in England, of which 73,000 (33 per cent.) are attributable to net migration.

Mobile Homes

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government by what means her Department ensures that park home residents are informed of changes in legislation governing park homes. [178501]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government publish information on changes to park home legislation through various mediums, including press notices, on the departmental website, and direct communication with site owners, national trade bodies, national resident stakeholder groups and those local authorities in England in which park home sites are situated.

Planning: Renewable Energy

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions her Department has had with developers on the Merton Rule. [164001]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Bexhill and Battle (Gregory Barker) on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, 680W. This refers to the many discussions we have had with a wide range of interested stakeholders, in consulting on and developing our measures to drive higher environmental performance standards in new development. Developers are amongst the stakeholders that we have had discussions with in this context.

Racial Discrimination: EU Action

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Government's policy is on the EU's proposed definition of indirect discrimination in the draft Race Directive. [177068]

Mr. Dhanda: The European Race Directive was agreed by all members of the European Union, including the UK, in June 2000. As I stated in my reply to my hon. Friend on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 26W, we intend to amend domestic law to meet concerns set out in a Reasoned Opinion from the European

Commission that the UK has not fully transposed the directive in relation to the definition of indirect discrimination.

Second Homes: National Parks

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the merits of a ban on extensions to second homes in national parks. [178535]

Mr. Iain Wright: I am aware that the impact of second homes is a particular concern in some areas, but it is for local authorities to adopt policies that will allow them to deal with local issues when they are determining an application for planning permission.

Certain types of householder development can, however, proceed without the specific approval of the local planning authority. Permitted development rights are set nationally and are intended to allow householders to make relatively small-scale and uncontentious improvements to their homes.

We announced on 30 November, following consultation, our intention to amend the current system. This is intended to ensure that what is permitted development reflects better the potential impact on others. Our proposals provide for a generally more restrictive approach to extensions in certain designated areas, including national parks, compared to non-designated areas.

Local planning authorities also have powers to remove these rights locally by using an "article 4 direction" to require that an application is made and their approval sought. It will then be for them to determine whether a proposal is acceptable based on relevant planning considerations, including local policies. An article 4 direction can apply to a particular type of development and/or a specific area, but could not impose restrictions based on the ownership of a particular property. The planning system regulates the use of land and the residential status of an applicant would not be material.

Self-Employed

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many self-employed people were under contract to *(a)* her Department, *(b)* the Government offices for the regions and *(c)* the Planning Inspectorate in the latest period for which figures are available. [178966]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Temporary Employment

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many days of agency work were paid for by *(a)* her Department, *(b)* the Government offices for the regions and *(c)* the Planning Inspectorate in 2007. [178967]

Mr. Dhanda: This information is not held centrally in the format requested and could be extrapolated only at disproportionate cost.

Urban Areas: Carbon Emissions

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what consideration will be given to local development frameworks when considering planning applications for eco-towns; [166301]

(2) what is the proposed process for determining planning applications for eco-towns. [166302]

Yvette Cooper: Eco-towns will need full planning application. Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that the application is determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Some areas will also want to consider reviews of the development plan or mini reviews of the Regional Spatial Strategy. As set out in the Eco-towns prospectus, there may be circumstances where use of the New Towns Act powers might be used.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Official Engagements

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he will answer Question 166020, on engagements of the Minister for Sport, tabled on 15 November 2007 by the hon. Member for Hammersmith and Fulham. [179296]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This question was answered on 14 January 2007.

GCap Media

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether Ministers in his Department received requests for a meeting with GCap Media to discuss the radio licensing regime operated by Ofcom, with particular reference to XFm during 2007. [179052]

James Purnell *[holding answer 14 January 2008]:* No.

Licensing

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how long stakeholders were given to comment on a draft of the guidance on Expedited Licence reviews under the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 before that guidance was finalised. [175322]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In issuing guidance on the use of the new expedited review process, the priority was to provide advice as soon as possible to help the police tackle issues such as gun and knife crime on licensed premises. The guidance is non-statutory and non-binding and, while there was no requirement to conduct a public consultation, we were nevertheless able to give stakeholders sight of the draft and four days in which to comment.

London Bubble Theatre Company: Finance

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations he has received on the future funding proposals for the London Bubble Theatre Company by Arts Council England. [178079]

Margaret Hodge: DCMS has received seven letters on the future funding of the London Bubble Theatre Company since 18 December 2007. There are no other recorded representations.

The Arts Council operates at arm's length from the Government and decisions about which arts organisations to fund are entirely for them. The arm's length principle ensures that the arts are not 'run' by the Government and are not subject to political interference: individual funding decisions are taken independently by people with expert knowledge of the sector.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Taliban

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with officials in his Department on negotiations with the Taliban in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [178554]

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's statement to the House on 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 303-07, where he made the UK's position clear. We are not negotiating with the Taliban leadership and we do not propose to do so. However, we support President Karzai's efforts to bring disaffected Afghans into society's mainstream, providing they renounce violence and accept Afghanistan's constitution.

In my regular discussions with officials on Afghanistan, we have covered support for Afghan-led efforts to reach out to Taliban elements who no longer want to continue their armed opposition, in order to weaken the insurgency and isolate its leadership.

India: Human Rights

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether a further round of the ad hoc EU-India human rights dialogue has been scheduled. [179318]

Dr. Howells: A further meeting of the ad hoc EU-India human rights dialogue is planned to follow the EU-India Summit of 30 November 2007 and discussions to find a mutually convenient date are in hand. The UK will continue to work closely with the EU and India on human rights issues including through this important dialogue.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his US counterparts on Iran's nuclear programme and the use of *(a)* sanctions and *(b)* other policies; and whether the impact of those policies on UK troops was discussed. [179108]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discusses the issue of Iran's nuclear programme regularly with the US Secretary of State. The US is also part of the E3+3 group of countries that is leading the international community in seeking a negotiated solution to this issue and which therefore meets regularly to co-ordinate our approach. That approach is based on a generous offer to Iran should they suspend their proliferation sensitive activities and the threat of sanctions should they continue to refuse to do so. Through the E3+3, the Government and the US have played an important role in securing three United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Iran, two of which have focused on sanctions. The E3+3 are committed to a diplomatic solution to the concerns of the international community about the Iranian nuclear programme. We have not specifically discussed the impact of these policies on UK troops.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the number of academies there will be between 2007-08 and 2020-21. [172110]

Jim Knight: There are currently 83 academies open and we anticipate that 50 will open in each of the next three years, bringing the overall total of open academies to more than 230 by September 2010.

The projected number of academies for subsequent years will be subject to the outcome of future comprehensive spending reviews.

Academies: Construction

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the tender process will be for the design and build of the federated academy on the Isle of Sheppey; and what steps he has taken to ensure an open and transparent process at each stage. [177156]

Jim Knight: In line with national academies policy through Building Schools for the Future (BSF), the project to develop and deliver the building programme will be managed by Kent Local Education Partnership (LEP).

On 17 December, Kent announced the Land Securities Trillium/Northgate Information Solutions consortia as its preferred partner. This LEP will deliver all BSF and academies projects in the Gravesham, Thanet and Swale district areas. The consortia includes a design supply chain made up of the architectural practices of Fielden Clegg Bradley, Ryder HKS, Arup and K4.

Kent's preferred bidders were appointed following a 15 month procurement competition held in accordance with relevant EU legislation and overseen by Partnership

for Schools and Partnerships UK. The design element of the procurement was overseen by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment and Partnerships for Schools with client design advice to Kent being provided by Gensler.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of potential bidders for the design and build contract for the federated academy on the Isle of Sheppey; and how many international companies have expressed interest. [177157]

Jim Knight: Kent county council selected a preferred bidder for its first Local Education Partnership on 17 December 2007 to deliver, among other schools, the proposed Sheppey Academy. This followed a 15 month procurement competition held in line with relevant EU legislation. A total of six consortia made bids for the project and all six consortia included substantial companies with multi-national portfolios of work and substantial experience in the education sector.

Academies: Curriculum

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what freedoms accrue to academies as a consequence of his policy that they do not have to follow national curriculum disapplication procedures; and if he will make a statement. [164017]

Jim Knight: The headteacher of maintained schools is able to disapply the national curriculum, for individual pupils:

who have a statement of special educational needs, under section 92 of the of the Education Act 2002;

for a temporary period, through regulations under section 93 of the Act;

However, he must obtain consent from the Secretary of State to disapply the national curriculum for groups of pupils or the school community, for a specified period:

to enable curriculum development or experimentation, under section 90 of the Act.

The current model funding agreement states that academies must follow the national programmes of study for all pupils in English, science, maths and ICT. However, this is not required if in the opinion of the Principal it is inappropriate to follow the national curriculum because of the pupil's ability or attainment.

This allows academies the freedom to use different curriculums where pupils have already surpassed the national curriculum key Stage. It also allows academies to disapply the national curriculum if the ability of the pupil is low and they would benefit from a different approach. The latter is similar to the ability of maintained schools to disapply if the pupil has a statement of SEN.

Academies: Sponsorship

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which academies *(a)* are and *(b)* will be sponsored or co-sponsored by universities; and if he will make a statement. [172109]

Jim Knight: Those academies open, in implementation or in feasibility which are sponsored or co-sponsored by universities are listed in the following chart.

Academy Name	*Project Status*	*Project Title*	*Sponsor/co-sponsoring university*	*Opening date*
The City Academy Bristol	Open	Bristol 1	University of the West of England	1 September 2003
North Liverpool Academy Nottingham	Open	Liverpool 1 -North	University of Liverpool	1 September 2006
University Samworth Academy	Implementation	Nottingham 3	University Of Nottingham	1 September 2009
Merchants' Academy Withywood	Implementation	Bristol 2	University of Bristol	1 September 2008
Red House Academy	Implementation	Sunderland 3	University of Sunderland	1 September 2009
Eastside Academy (New School)	Feasibility	Birmingham 2	Birmingham City University (formerly UCE)	1 September 2011
Brit Legacy School South Area Academy (name TBC)	Feasibility	Cheshire 2	University of Chester	1 September 2009
Swanswell Academy	Feasibility	Coventry 2	Coventry University Sheffield	1 September 2010
TBC	Feasibility	Derbyshire 1	Hallam University	1 September 2011
The Newton Academy	Feasibility	St Helens 1	Liverpool Hope University	1 September 2011
The Oxford Academy	Feasibility	Oxfordshire 2	Oxford Brookes University	1 September 2008
City of London Academy Islington	Feasibility	Islington 2	City University, London	1 September 2008
St Alban's Academy	Feasibility	Birmingham 8	Aston University	1 September 2010
Harborne Hill Academy	Feasibility	Birmingham 7	University of Birmingham	1 September 2010

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will publish the timetable for Phase II of Building Schools for Future. [178494]

Jim Knight: Building Schools for the Future aims to renew all secondary schools in England where there is need, in 15 waves of investment which started from 2005-06. We have now announced the specific projects and authorities in the first six waves of Building Schools for the Future. Our delivery agent, Partnerships for Schools, is this week hosting the launch event for wave six, where school building work can start from 2010-11.

We aim this year to consult on how we manage waves seven onwards–of the programme, building on the lessons we have learned from the early waves. We have already announced that we will give all authorities with projects in these waves the opportunity to revise their expressions of interest in the programme: our guidance on this will be informed by the consultation. We aim to announce which authorities will be in wave seven by the end of this year, which can access Building Schools for the Future funding from 2011-12. The exact timetable for this programme is, of course, subject to future public spending decisions.

Children in Care: Pupil Referral Units

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of children referred to pupil referral units as a result of their behaviour were looked after children in the latest period for which figures are available. [179405]

Beverley Hughes: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Children: Day Care

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what new children's centres he plans to open in Hendon; when and where each is expected to open; what the original timetable was for opening such centres; what *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue funding his Department expects to provide for each over the next three financial years; how many places each such centre will offer; and if he will make a statement; [177923]

(2) what children's centres operate in Hendon; what *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue funding his Department has provided to each such centre in the last three financial years; how many places are offered by each such centre; and if he will make a statement. [177924]

Beverley Hughes: Local authorities are responsible for the planning and implementation of Sure Start Children's Centres in their areas. There are currently four designated children's centres in the London borough of Barnet, two of which are located in the Hendon constituency. There are a further nine planned for designation in 2008, four of which will be located in the Hendon constituency. We have given Barnet an indicative number of a further nine centres to be delivered by 2010 to reach remaining children under five in the final phase of the roll out of children's centres. Revenue and capital allocations for Barnet children's centres for each of the next three years and last three years are given in the following tables. It is the authority's responsibility to determine allocations between individual centres. Sure Start Children's Centres do not offer a set number of places. Each centre is expected to offer services to around 800 children under five and their families in the local community although this figure may be higher in areas of high population density. Centres in the 30 per cent. most disadvantaged areas offer childcare to some children in their area. Information is not held centrally about the number of child care places in each centre.

£

	Children's Centre revenue	*Sure Start, Early Years and child care capital allocation*[1]
2008-09	3,651,335	2,342,190
2009-10	4,912,063	3,199,744
2010-11	5,983,537	2,520,657

[1] Includes capital funding streams for children's centres and early years and child care quality and access. Local authorities have flexibility to decide how much to spend on each element.

£

	Children's Centre revenue	*General Sure Start Grant capital allocation*
2005-06	238,558	[1]317,666
2006-07	537,361	[2]2,337,313
2007-08	2,176,374	4,278,485

[1] One off two-year capital allocation for 2004-06 covering children's centres and sustainability of child care.

[2] From 2006, capital funding streams for children's centres, sustainability and extended schools capital were merged into the General Sure Start Grant capital allocation. Local authorities were given flexibility to decide how much to spend on each element.

Children: Speech Impaired

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether improved joint working across agencies for services to children with speech, language and communication difficulties will be included in the statement of values for integrated working with children and young people due to be published in 2008. [178287]

Jim Knight: No. The statement of values for integrated working describes principles and values for all children's practitioners to follow in order to improve the outcomes for children and families. As such, it would not be appropriate for it to include specific areas of expertise.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department will provide to children's trusts and their partners to ensure that by 2010 they have in place arrangements to provide identification and early intervention for children who need additional help; whether this guidance will include information on identifying and supporting children with communication difficulties; and if he will make a statement. [178301]

Jim Knight: In 2005 the Department issued "Statutory Guidance on Inter-agency Co-operation to Improve the Wellbeing of Children: Children's Trusts". This describes the duties placed on local authorities

and other key partners to co-operate to improve the five outcomes for children and young people—be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, making a positive contribution and achieve economic wellbeing. The guidance sets out the features of co-operation through children's trusts and provides a strategic framework within which all children's services within a local area will operate.

In addition, the Department provides a range of guidance to service providers on supporting children with additional needs. This includes the statutory guidance in the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice which makes clear schools' and local authorities' responsibilities to identify and make provision for children with SEN, including those with communication difficulties, and the importance of early intervention.

Departmental Pay

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 380W, on departmental pay, how many of those earning over £100,000 were employed *(a)* as special advisers and *(b)* in a political role in each year since 1997. [177183]

Kevin Brennan: Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the number of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information, I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 147-51WS.

Information on the number and cost of special advisers prior to 2003 was provided at regular intervals and this information will be available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Redundancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost was of redundancies in his Department in the 12 months preceding *(a)* 30 June 2004, *(b)* 30 June 2005 and *(c)* 30 June 2006. [175333]

Kevin Brennan: The Department was formed as part of the machinery of government changes announced on 28 June 2007 and therefore there were no redundancies in my Department in the periods described.

Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the four independent settings are that are the main providers of a child's education but not currently registered with either Ofsted or his Department. [176977]

Jim Knight: The four unregistered settings are as follows:

a small tuition group which provides a curriculum based on Christian principles for children aged 4 to 11 and operates for five hours a day for up to 20 children;

a support centre for home educators which provides academic lessons for 18 hours from Monday to Thursday and optional recreational based activities for three hours on Fridays;

an establishment providing 16½ hours of education from Monday to Friday for three to six-year-olds as part of a home education programme where parents also provide five hours 15 minutes a week;

a centre educating both pupils placed by local authorities and others. Pupils attend for a total of 20 hours from Monday to Friday.

Education: Parents

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government plan to take to engage parents further in the education of their children. [177809]

Beverley Hughes: As children do better at school if parents, fathers as well as mothers are engaged, the Department has set out in the Children's Plan (published December 2007) plans to help mothers and fathers get more involved in their children's learning. Specifically we intend to:

Provide every child from the moment they arrive in secondary school with a personal tutor who will co-ordinate support for the child throughout their time in the school.

Encourage all schools to regularly seek the views of parents, enhancing the role of Parents Councils.

Continue to provide support for parents who find it more difficult to get involved, by expanding the availability of Parent Support Advisors to 10—15 schools in every local authority.

Offer all parents regular, up to date information on their child's attendance, behaviour and progress in learning.

In addition, my Department will continue to provide free book packs for parents of all children in England at nine months, 18 months, three years and in Reception, which will be reinforced by the 2008 National Year of Reading and more family learning programmes.

Educational Institutions

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what definition he uses of institution as used in section 76(1)b of the Education and Skills Bill; [177889]

(2) how many institutions, other than independent schools, he expects to be registered on the new Independent Educational Institutions register as set out in the Education and Skills Bill; [177890]

(3) what the reasons are for the decision in the Education and Skills Bill to treat part-time educational institutions differently from other forms of education otherwise than at school provision. [177892]

Jim Knight: Part 4, Chapter 1, clause 76(1)b of the Education and Skills Bill provides a definition of an institution other than an independent school.

Parents have a duty to ensure their children receive full-time education. Most parents choose full-time education in a school, with a minority choosing to educate otherwise than at school. Where parents delegate a substantial part of their children's education to others, we believe that the state has responsibility for ensuring that children have appropriate learning opportunities and learn in a safe and secure

environment. The Bill places education where children are educated without their parents being present on the same regulatory footing as all other settings which provide the major part of a child's education.

I refer my hon. Friend to my response given to PQ 176977, which describes four institutions that we anticipate will need to register under current proposals. Some responses to our public consultation suggested that there were more institutions that would need to register, but they provided insufficient detail for us to make a precise estimate of the total.

GCE A-Level

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were entered for a GCE A-level in *(a)* accounting, *(b)* art and design, *(c)* biology, *(d)* business studies, *(e)* chemistry, *(f)* communication studies, *(g)* dance, *(h)* design and technology, *(i)* engineering, *(j)* English literature, *(k)* drama and theatre studies, *(l)* French, *(m)* geography, *(n)* German, *(o)* health and social care, *(p)* history, *(q)* home economics, *(r)* information and communication technology, *(s)* leisure studies, *(t)* mathematics, *(u)* further mathematics, *(v)* media studies, *(w)* performance studies, *(x)* performing arts, *(y)* physical education, *(z)* physics and (aa) travel and tourism in (i) mainstream schools in the maintained sector, (ii) city technology colleges, colleges for the technology of the arts and academies and (iii) schools in the independent sector in each year since 1997. [177300]

Jim Knight: The information has been placed in Library.

Figures for VCE qualifications have been given where GCE-A level is not applicable.

GCE A-Levels

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people are studying *(a)* sports studies, *(b)* PE, *(c)* photography, *(d)* performing arts, *(e)* performance studies, *(f)* music technology, *(g)* media studies, *(h)* leisure studies, *(i)* technology, *(j)* information and communication, *(k)* home economics, *(l)* health and social care, *(m)* film studies, *(n)* drama and theatre studies, *(o)* design and technology, *(p)* dance, *(q)* communication studies, *(r)* business studies, *(s)* art and design, *(t)* accountancy and *(u)* travel and tourism at (i) AS-Level and (ii) second year A-Level; and how many people completed the relevant A-Level in each of the last 10 years. [178118]

Jim Knight: The information required to answer part (iii) has been placed in Library.

Figures for VCE qualifications have been given where GCE-A level is not applicable.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reasons the Government target for GCSE performance is measured against the standard of performance at a C grade or better; and if he will make a statement. [177887]

Jim Knight: GCSEs are unique qualifications because they span two levels of the National Qualifications Framework: grades D-G are at "level 1", while grades at C and above represent "level 2". Level 2 qualifications recognise the ability to gain a good knowledge and understanding of a subject area of work or study, and to perform varied tasks with some guidance or supervision. Learning at this level involves building knowledge and/or skills in relation to an area of work or a subject area and is appropriate for many job roles.

The learning and skills attained at level 2 are therefore appropriate for many job roles and represent the progression route to A Levels and other higher qualifications. Government targets reflect our determination to see the majority of young people reaching the standard which enables them to make such progression.

Geronimo Communications

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what payments have been made by Geronimo Communications to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* officials in his Department in each year since 1999; and if he will make a statement. [177741]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 10 January 2008]*: There are no records of any payments received from Geronimo Communications and paid into departmental bank accounts.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which officials in his Department have managed the contract with Geronimo Communications since 1 January 2000; and if he will make a statement. [177829]

Kevin Brennan: Geronimo Communications have had a PR framework agreement with the Department since 2000, awarded as a result of three separate European tenders. The European tenders resulted in a number of framework agreements awarded to several PR suppliers to cover the anticipated PR requirements of the Department over the framework life. Framework agreements rather than contracts are used where there is a regular demand for a particular service over a period of time. Users then 'call off' from the frameworks by letting contracts that relate to a specific project.

There is split responsibility between the corporate contract management of the framework agreements and contract management at individual job level. The Media Procurement Unit, part of the Department's Commercial Group within Corporate Service Directorate run the tender process, award and corporate contract manage the framework agreements. The duties performed by the Media Procurement Unit with a supplier include dissemination of supplier information to users, corporate communications, supplier forums and surgeries, arbitration and processing of framework variations.

Communications Directorate is the main user of the PR framework agreements, 'calling-off' from a framework agreement for a project. Those users will then 'contract manage' an individual project, selecting a supplier, setting the specification and monitoring budgets, quality and outputs.

To list each individual contract manager that has placed work with Geronimo Communications since 2000 would create disproportionate costs.

Gifted Children

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of children identified as gifted and talented achieved level 7 in *(a)* English and *(b)* science at Key Stage 3 in the last three years; [177225]

(2) what proportion of children identified as gifted and talented achieved level 8 in mathematics at Key Stage 3 in the last three years. [177226]

Jim Knight: The proportion of students identified as gifted and talented in maintained schools who achieved level 7 in English and science in 2006 was 30.0 per cent. and 44.3 per cent. respectively. The corresponding figures for 2007 were 25.3 per cent. and 45.7 per cent.

The proportion of students identified as gifted and talented in maintained schools who achieved level 8 in mathematics in 2006 was 28.1 per cent. The corresponding figure for 2007 was 28.8 per cent..

National data on gifted and talented pupils has only been collected since 2006.

The gifted and talented students not achieving this benchmark will almost certainly include many who have been identified for their talent in, for example, creative arts or sports.

Gifted Children: Free School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children identified as gifted and talented are entitled to free school meals. [177227]

Jim Knight: The available information is given in the table. The Department advises schools to ensure that their gifted and talented populations are broadly representative of their wider school populations in respect of gender, ethnic and socio-economic background. The new gifted and talented strand of the City Challenges will include work to improve schools' capacity to identify underachieving gifted and talented pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: number and percentage of gifted and talented pupils by their free school meal (FSM) eligibility[2, 3], summer 2007, England

	Primary Schools			Secondary Schools		
	Number of pupils	*Percentage of gifted and talented group[4]*	*Percentage of cohort (incidence)[5]*	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage of gifted and talented group[4]*	*Percentage of cohort (incidence)[5]*
Known to be eligible for FSM	34,420	11.4	5.3	29,350	6.9	7.1
Other pupils	268,430	88.6	7.7	396,480	93.1	14.0
Total	302,850	100.0	7.3	425,830	100.0	13.1

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Headcount of pupils.
[3] Includes dually registered pupils.
[4] The number of gifted and talented pupils by their characteristics expressed as a percentage of the total number of gifted and talented pupils.
[5] The number of gifted and talented pupils by their characteristics expressed as a percentage of the total number of pupils in the same cohort.
Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census.

Gifted Children: GCE A-Levels

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children identified as gifted and talented achieved three As at A-Level in the last three years. [177224]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Havant (Mr. Willetts) on 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 650W.

Gifted Children: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children identified as gifted and talented did not achieve 5 A*-Cs, including English and mathematics, at GCSE in the last three years. [177223]

Jim Knight: The proportion of students identified as gifted and talented in maintained schools who did not achieve 5 A*-C grades at GCSE including English and mathematics in 2006 was 15.1 per cent. The corresponding figure for 2007 is 14.8 per cent. National data on gifted and talented pupils has only been collected since 2006.

The gifted and talented students not achieving this benchmark will almost certainly include many who have been identified for their talent in, for example, creative arts or sports.

Headteachers: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of head teachers in *(a)* Southampton, *(b)* Romsey and *(c)* Hampshire are within (i) one year, (ii) two years, (iii) three years, (iv) five years and (v) 10 years of standard pension age. [177421]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available at local authority or constituency level.

Islington Green Academy: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which trust has donated money to the Islington Green Academy via the City University; and if he will make a statement. [177221]

Jim Knight: City University London is a joint sponsor, together with the City of London Corporation, of the City of London Academy, Islington which is expected to replace Islington Green School from September 2008. The university has raised funds from four sources to provide sponsorship: the Cass Foundation, the Saddlers Company, the Kitchin Fund and a philanthropic benefactor who has expressed a wish to remain anonymous. The university and Department are respecting that wish. The donations are being made to the university, not to the academy and the donors will have no say in the running of the academy. This anonymous donor has been subject to a due diligence check by the university.

The rules relating to charitable foundations generally, not just academies, mean that not all donations need to be made public. It is commonplace for charities to receive donations from benefactors who do not wish publicity. An Academy Trust, as a charitable company, has to record its income in published annual accounts, and has to include a note with accounts on any amounts received as a charitable donation.

Sponsors of academies cannot themselves act anonymously and must be named in the Funding Agreement.

Languages: Schools

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to extend modern foreign language teaching in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools; whether he plans to make the study of a modern foreign language at school compulsory; and if he will make a statement. [177922]

Jim Knight: The Children's Plan, published in December 2007, confirmed that the primary curriculum will be reviewed, including introducing languages as a compulsory subject. This takes forward the recommendation in Lord Dearing's Languages Review that languages should become a compulsory part of the primary curriculum, and builds on the existing entitlement for all Key Stage 2 pupils to learn a language in class time by 2010. Progress so far is good and already over 70 per cent. of primary schools are offering languages in class time. We are extending language teaching in primary schools through: a teacher training programme in a primary languages specialism, which has so far trained nearly 3,000 teachers, with thousands more to be trained over the next few years; increased funding for local authorities to support the delivery of primary languages; and access for teachers to sources of support for use in the classroom.

At secondary level, languages are compulsory at Key Stage 3 (ages 11-14). The new secondary curriculum, which will be taught from September 2008, extends the range of languages pupils can study at this level by relaxing the requirement that schools first teach a working language of the European Union so that they can offer any major world or European language.

As a result of the continued decline in take up of languages at GCSE following their removal from the compulsory Key Stage 4 curriculum (ages 14-16) in 2004, Lord Dearing's Languages Review looked at how best to increase participation in language learning. He did not recommend making languages compulsory at Key Stage 4 because he felt that a 'one size fits all' approach was not the best way to motivate learners. Instead, he recommended a package of measures to extend language learning post-14 which we are now implementing. These include: two new performance indicators in the Achievement and Attainment Tables from 2008 to measure attainment and participation in languages; a more engaging secondary curriculum; more and better support for language teachers; a major communications campaign to promote the benefits of language teaching to pupils, parents and the school workforce; and the Open School for Languages, a major web-based initiative which will offer innovative approaches to the learning of languages.

London Academy Edgware

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families where the London Academy is ranked amongst schools for results at each key stage; and what the Academy's value-added measures were in the latest period for which figures are available. [177680]

Jim Knight: The following tables provide data on:-

(a) Where the London Academy is positioned amongst all maintained, mainstream schools (including CTCs and Academies) for 2007 (Amended) Revised KS4 results and 2006 (Amended) Revised KS3 results.

(b) The 2007 Revised CVA measures for the London Academy.

(a) Ranks amongst schools

2007 Revised KS4

London Academy	*Result*	*Position out of 3044 schools*[1,2]
Average uncapped point score	35.5	1913
Percentage 5A*-C	54.6	1908
Percentage 5A*-C inc. English and Maths	39.1	1847

2006 Revised KS3

London Academy	*Result*	*Position out of 3109 schools*[1,2]
Average point score	32.2	2568

[1] All positions based on unrounded results. A rank of 1 being the highest school/measure.

[2] All maintained mainstream schools including CTCs and Academies whose results were published in the 2006 or 2007 Achievement and Attainment tables.

(b) 2007 Revised CVA measures for the London Academy

KS2-KS4 CVA	1023.9
KS3-KS4 CVA	1012.2

Source:
2007 Amended KS4 and 2006 Amended KS3 school level attainment files

Nurseries

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for how many weeks on average three and four-year-old children received the free nursery entitlement in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08; how many children (i) were eligible for and (ii) took up the entitlement in each of those years; how much was provided in the dedicated schools grant for the entitlement in each of those years; what the average staffing cost per child of the entitlement was in each of those years; what the average expenditure per child was on the entitlement in each local authority in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [178357]

Beverley Hughes: Information is not available in the form requested.

Since April 2004 all three and four-year-olds have been entitled to a free part-time early education place for 12.5 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year. From 2010, this offer will be extended from 12.5 to 15 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year.

The following table provides information on the number of three and four-year-olds taking up or benefiting from early education places for the years 2004-07.

Number of three and four-year-olds taking up or benefiting from early education places[1,2,3] by type of provider, England, 2004-07[4] position in January each year (2007 data as at 22 May)

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Private and voluntary providers[4]				
Number of children taking up early education places	[5]445,300	[5]432,800	[5]429,400	[5]446,900
Percentage of population[6]	39	39	38	39
Number of children benefiting from some free early education	[7]388,600	[7]396,700	[8]401,800	[8]420,700
Percentage of population[6]	34	35	36	37
Independent schools[9]				
Number of children taking up early education places	54,700	52,000	50,100	50,500
Percentage of population[6]	5	5	4	4
Number of children benefiting from some free early education	[7]38,400	[7]39,200	[8]37,900	[8]37,900
Percentage of population[6]	3	3	3	3
Maintained nursery and primary schools				
Number of children benefiting from some free early education	676,500	663,800	657,700	663,800
Percentage of population[6]	59	59	59	58
Nursery schools and nursery classes in primary schools				
Number of children benefiting from some free early education	320,200	312,300	312,500	318,900
Percentage of population[6]	28	28	28	28
Infant classes in primary schools[10]				
Number of children benefiting from some free early education	356,300	351,500	345,200	344,900
Percentage of population[6]	31	31	31	30
Special schools[11,12]				
Number of children benefiting from some free early education	4,100	3,700	3,600	3,700
Percentage of population[6]				
All providers				
Number of children taking up early education places	[1]1,180,500	[1]1,152,400	[1]1,140,800	[1]1,165,000
Percentage of population[6]	103	103	102	101
Number of children benefiting from some free early education	[1]1,107,500	[1]1,103,400	[1]1,101,100	[1]1,126,100
Percentage of population[6]	97	98	98	98

[1] Headcount of children aged three and four at 31 December in the previous calendar year, rounded to the nearest hundred.
[2] Numbers of three and four year olds in schools may include some two year olds.
[3] Any child attending more than one provider may have been counted twice.
[4] Includes some local authority day nurseries registered to receive funding.
[5] Scaled up from the data as returned by providers to all providers of early years education.
[6] Number of places taken up by three and four year olds expressed as a percentage of the three and four year old population.
[7] Providers returned the number of three and four year olds for which they had received or expected to receive funding.
[8] Local authorities returned the number of three and four-year-olds for which they expected to receive funding.
[9] Includes direct grant nursery schools.
[10] Includes reception and other classes not designated as nursery classes.
[11] Includes general hospital schools.
[12] Excludes pupils who are also registered elsewhere.

Notes:
1. Rounding of components may cause discrepancies in totals.
2. '–' = less than 0.5 per cent.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 19/2007 'Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2007', available on my Department's website at:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/.

The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) was only introduced in 2006-07. We do not separately identify the amount of funding in the DSG for early years. It is up to the local authorities to decide how to distribute their overall allocation.

In 2004-05 and 2005-06 LAs received funding to provide free nursery education for three and four-year-olds through the under-fives sub-block of their education formula spending share (EPS). In 2004-05 £3,208 million was funded through the under-fives block of the education formula spending (EFS) and in 2005-06 £3,456 million was funded. EFS was not ringfenced, so funding for education—including the notional under five's funding—could be spent on other sectors and vice versa.

Parenting Orders

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many parenting contracts have been issued in each year since 2004. [177299]

Kevin Brennan: The information is set out in the table.

The Department has collected data on local authorities' use of parenting contacts (in cases of irregular school attendance and exclusion) since September 2004.

Parenting contracts offered by local authorities and accepted by parents

School academic year	*Irregular attendance*	*Exclusion*
2004-05	5,717	410
2005-06	10,207	1,898
2006-07	13,278	2,535
Total	29,202	4,843

Additional data on parental responsibility measures are provided at local authority level and are published at:

www.dfes.gov.uk/schoolattendance/otherinitiatives/Data.cfm

Pre-School Education: Greater London

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in (*a*) Hendon and (*b*) Barnet aged (i) three and (ii) four are benefiting from the free early years programme; what plans he has to expand this provision in (A) Hendon and (B) Barnet; how much has been awarded to Barnet as part of the dedicated schools grant to support the costs in increasing early years education for (1) 2007-08 and (2) 2008-09; and how many registered childcare places for under eights there (x) are and (y) were in 1997 in (X) Hendon and (Y) Barnet; and if he will make a statement. [177691]

Beverley Hughes: 3,500 three-year-olds and 3,800 four-year-olds in Barnet benefited from the free early education entitlement in 2007. Numbers broken down to constituency level are not available.

At present all three and four year olds are entitled to 12.5 hours of free early education per week for 38 weeks a year. That will rise to 15 hours a week for 38 weeks by 2010. Barnet's most disadvantaged three and four-year-olds will become eligible for the extended offer in 2009 and all children in the Borough in 2010.

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocations do not separately identify the amount of funding for early years. Local authorities are responsible for the distribution of their overall allocation in the light of local priorities. The final 2007-08 dedicated schools grant (DSG) allocation for Barnet was £185.129 million. The indicative DSG allocation for 2008-09 is £196.451 million. (This figure will be finalised in spring 2008 using actual January pupil counts. Additional funding to support the increase of the free entitlement to 15 hours is being made available through the standards fund. The indicative allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-1, in Barnet are £484,000 and £2,154,000, respectively.

In 1997 there were 7,900 [1]registered childcare places for under eights in Barnet.

There were 9,000 [2]registered childcare places for children under eight years old in Barnet, in [3]2007.

[1] Data Source: Children's Daycare Facilities Survey

[2] Data Source: Ofsted.

[3] Figures for 1997 and 2007 quoted above are not comparable as they are derived from different data sources.

Pre-School Education: Southern Region

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 10 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1404W, on pre-school education: southern region, if he will publish local authorities' estimates of funding allocated to early years. [178584]

Beverley Hughes: The Department published local authorities' estimates of the average per pupil amount allocated by local authorities to maintained providers and to private, voluntary and independent sector providers for delivery of the free entitlement early years provision in August 2007. The Free Entitlement to Early Years Provision Table for 2007-08 can be found on the DCSF website at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/localauthorities/section52/subPage.cfm?action=section52.default&ID=87

Private Education: Registration

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what dates changes were made to the wording of his Department's consultation document on the transfer of responsibility for the registration of independent schools and the regulation of independent and non-maintained special schools to Ofsted following its initial publication; whether any such changes were made to electronic versions of the consultation document only; and if he will make a statement. [177800]

Jim Knight: I can confirm that minor changes were made to the electronic versions only of the consultation document on 31 July and 5 September 2007, to provide greater clarity, following feedback from consultees. These changes did not materially affect the proposals on which we consulted.

Pupils: Allergies

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to issue guidance to nursery schools on the provision of spring-activated automatic injection device pre-loaded with adrenaline for staff supervising children with allergies; and if he will make a statement. [178513]

Beverley Hughes: The 'National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding' covers the provision and administration of medication to children in early years settings. The standards will be subsumed and replaced by the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which will underpin the provision of child care from birth to five, when it comes into effect this September. The EYFS sets out specific legal requirements and statutory guidance for providers, including

the provision of necessary training for staff on administering prescription medicines requiring technical/medical knowledge.

Pupils: Drugs

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will introduce compulsory and random drug tests in all state schools for pupils over 15 years old. [178103]

Jim Knight: This Department has no plans to introduce compulsory and random drug testing in schools.

Decisions about whether to employ drug testing rest entirely at school level. The Department's guidance, Drugs: Guidance for Schools (DFES 2004) offers guidance on voluntary drug testing in schools and makes clear that such an approach should be clearly stated in the school's drug policy, which should be developed in consultation with pupils, parents, staff, governors and the whole school community.

Qualifications: Hendon

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of GCSE students in schools in Hendon constituency achieved five or more A* to C grades inclusive in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007; what the value added score for each school in Hendon constituency was in 2007; what the average point score at A level was (i) for each school in Hendon constituency (A) per candidate and (B) per exam entry, (ii) for all schools in Hendon constituency and (iii) nationally in 2007; what the percentage of (1) A and B and (2) A to E grades achieved at each school in Hendon constituency was in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [177927]

Jim Knight: The figures to answer part *(a)* and *(b)* are as follows:

	1997	*2007*
Percentage of pupils who achieved 5+A*-C	49.4	69.8
Percentage of pupils who achieved 5+A*-G	88.6	95.0

Notes:
1. Figures include GCSEs and equivalents.
2. The 1997 figures are for pupils aged 15 at the beginning of the academic year, i.e. 31 August.
3. The 2007 revised figures are for pupils at the end of key stage 4.

Information required to answer the rest of the question can be found in the achievement and attainment tables that have been placed in the Library.

School Meals: Finance

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what financial support his Department provides to schools in Hendon to improve school food; and if he will make a statement. [177928]

Kevin Brennan: The Government have invested £220 million over the three years 2005-06 to 2007-08 to assist authorities and schools in improving school lunches and other school food. Barnet local authority received over £770,000 of that funding, with a further £473,000 going to schools. Schools, including those in Hendon, received a lump sum of £1,070 per primary school and £1,500 per secondary school, with an additional 50p per pupil.

Further funding of £240 million over the three years from 2008-09 to 2010-11 is also being made available to local authorities, to help manage the direct costs of providing a school lunch. For 2008-09, Barnet local authority will receive over £480,000.

Schools: Buildings

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress his Department has made on bringing around 3,500 secondary school buildings up to 21st century standards; and if he will make a statement. [178495]

Jim Knight: In 1997, investment in school buildings was under £700 million a year and schools had suffered from many years of under investment, with a large backlog of condition and suitability needs. This year, Government funding for investment in school buildings and facilities is £6.4 billion and it will rise to over £8 billion a year by 2010-11—a seven-fold increase in real terms under this Government.

Since 1997, every school in England has benefited from this growth in funding. Since 2000, every school has been given money directly to invest in its own priorities. By 2010-11, a typical secondary school, for example, will have received over £900,000 to improve its buildings and facilities.

In the 10 years to 2007, there were 162 new secondary schools built, and a further 26 new or significantly refurbished academy buildings. Additionally, over 6,600 science laboratories were built or refurbished, and over 430 sixth form blocks built or refurbished. Many other secondary schools benefited from new general classrooms, new kitchens or dining rooms, improved sports facilities and the replacement of decayed temporary accommodation with permanent.

Ensuring that all secondary school have 21st century facilities is now driven by Building Schools for the Future, which with the academies programme aims to rebuild or renew all secondary schools in England where there is need in 15 waves of investment.

There are now 72 local authorities in the first six waves of the programme, supported in developing their projects by our delivery agent, Partnerships for Schools. The first all-new school in this programme was opened in September in Bristol. Additionally, 39 authorities not yet in Building Schools for the Future are being offered One School Pathfinder funding to renew their neediest secondary school. There are a further 106 academies buildings in development outside of the BSF programme. In all, almost 1,000 schools are now in planning or procurement through Building Schools for the Future, Academies, or as One School Pathfinders. Further, we will provide £8 million of funding by 2010-11, to each of 76 authorities not yet in Building Schools for the Future, to improve diploma provision for 14-19 year olds and to improve facilities for young people with special educational needs.

Full details of our school improvement programme are in my written statement of 10 October 2007.

Schools: Hendon

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average *(a)* level of school attendance and *(b)* number of exclusions per pupil was in Hendon schools in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [177493]

Kevin Brennan: The latest available information for absence relates to autumn term 2006 and spring term 2007 and is shown in the table.

The latest available information for exclusions relates to the academic year 2005/06 and is shown in the table.

Primary and secondary schools' Number of permanent and fixed period exclusions 2005/06 Hendon parliamentary constituency

	Permanent exclusions[2]		Fixed period exclusions	
	Number of exclusions	Percentage of the school population[3]	Number of exclusions	Percentage of the school population[4]
Primary schools	-	-	n/a	n/a
Secondary schools[1]	7	0.08	8.36	9.85

n/a= Not available

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed. Secondary data include figures for one academy. Exclude special schools and independent schools.

[2] Number of permanent exclusions as reported by schools.

[3] The number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils) in January 2006.

[4] The number of fixed period exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils) in January 2006.

[5] Less than three or a rate based on less than three.

Source:
School Census

Primary and secondary schools' pupil absence autumn term 2006 and spring term 2007 Hendon parliamentary constituency

		Percentage of half days missed[2]		
	Number of pupil enrolments[3]	Authorised absence	Unauthorised absence	Overall absence
Primary schools	8,018	4.60	0.86	5.46
Secondary schools[1]	6,848	5.77	1.22	6.99

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed. Secondary data include figures for one academy. Exclude special schools and independent schools.

[2] The number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.

[3] Number of pupils enrolments in schools between 1 September 2006 and 9 April 2007. Includes pupils on the roll of the school for at least one session who are aged between five and 15, excluding boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they moved schools during the school year or are registered at more than one school.

Source:
School Census

Schools: Manpower

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time equivalent *(a)* teaching assistants, *(b)* support staff and *(c)* teachers were employed in schools in Hendon in the latest period for which figures are available. [177732]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the full-time equivalent number of teaching assistants, support staff and teachers employed in local authority maintained schools in Hendon in January 2007. This is the latest information available.

Full-time equivalent teaching assistants, support staff and teachers in local authority maintained schools in Hendon constituency, January 2007

	Hendon constituency
Teaching assistants	420
Support staff[1]	650
Teachers	
Qualified	910
Unqualified	120

[1] Includes teaching assistants.

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
School Census

Social Services: Parents

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government has taken to support parents during the first year of a child's life. [177808]

Beverley Hughes: This Government have made significant improvements to the support for parents of young children. We have introduced paid paternity leave, doubled maternity pay and are increasing maternity leave to a year, some of which can be transferred to fathers. We have introduced a right to request flexible working for parents, which five million parents have exercised. Six in 10 mothers now work flexibly.

We are establishing a nationwide network of Sure Start children's centres offering access to high quality integrated early years services, including child and family health services, antenatal and post-natal services, parental outreach and family support services, support for children and parents with special needs and early learning. There are currently over 1,900 children's centres offering services to over 1.2 million children under five and their families. By 2010, there will be 3,500, one for every community.

We have recently announced £30 million additional funding to 2011 to extend the health-led parenting support projects which offer a structured programme for parents with the most intense needs of home visits by trained nurses during pregnancy and the first two years.

Special Educational Needs: Norfolk

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children attending schools in Norfolk have special educational needs without a statement; how many counties in England have *(a)* fewer and *(b)* more such children attending schools within their boundaries; and if he will make a statement. [177802]

Jim Knight: Figures from the school census show that, in January 2007, Norfolk local authority had 12,276 primary school pupils with special educational needs without statements, representing 19.4 per cent. of the total number of primary school pupils, including middle schools deemed as primary. In percentage terms, there are 102 local authorities with fewer such children attending schools within their boundaries, 43 local authorities with more and 4 local authorities with the same.

In secondary schools, Norfolk local authority had 8,085 pupils with special educational needs without statements, representing 17.2 per cent. of the total of

secondary school pupils, including middle schools deemed as secondary. In percentage terms, there are 89 local authorities with fewer such children attending schools within their boundaries, 57 local authorities with more and one local authority with the same. Note that the local authorities of City of London and Isles of Scilly do not have any secondary school pupils.

Special Educational Needs: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* percentage and *(b)* number of students in Barnet have special educational needs but are without statements; where this ranks Barnet local education authority (LEA) in relation to other LEAs in (i) London and (ii) England; and if he will make a statement. [177494]

Jim Knight: Figures from the School Census show that, in January 2007, Barnet local authority had 4,902 primary school pupils with special educational needs without statements, representing 18.9 per cent. of the total number of primary school pupils, including middle schools deemed as primary. In percentage terms this ranks Barnet local authority as 18th highest out of 33 London local authorities and 97th highest out of all 150 local authorities in England.

In secondary schools, Barnet local authority had 2,966 pupils with special educational needs without statements, representing 15.2 per cent. of the total of secondary school pupils, including middle schools deemed as secondary. In percentage terms this ranks Barnet local authority as 7th highest out of 33 London local authorities and 62nd highest out of all 150 local authorities in England.

Specialist Schools

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what schools in Norfolk have specialist status; what the specialty is in each case; how much each such school has received in relation to the specialist status for the latest period for which figures are available; and what applications for specialist status have been received from schools in Norfolk. [177805]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the information requested. There are 52 maintained secondary schools in Norfolk, of which 45 have specialist status including one special school with an SEN specialism. There were seven applications from schools within Norfolk in the latest specialist status application round of autumn 2007. The Department expects to announce the outcome of this round towards the end of January. The Government remain committed to the Specialist Schools programme as a means of raising attainment and achievement for all secondary aged pupils.

£

School name	*Specialism*	*High performing second specialism*	*Recurrent funding 2007-08*	*Capital Grant 2007-08*
Acle High School	Science	—	97,782	—
Alderman Peel High School	Sports	—	23,478	100,000
Archbishop Sancroft High School	Science	—	33,228	—
Attleborough High School	Maths and Computing	—	123,324	—
Aylsham High School	Business and Enterprise	—	118,035	—
Broadland High School	Maths and Computing	—	90,300	—
Caister High School	Arts	—	83,592	—
City of Norwich School	Technology	Arts	229,446	—
Cliff Park High School	Sports	—	114,552	—
Costessey High School	Science	—	128,742	—
Cromer High School and Language College	Language	—	116,172	—
Diss High School	Humanities	—	129,600	—
Downham Market High School—Technology College	Technology	—	188,082	—
Earlham High School	Sports	—	98,943	—
Eaton Hall School, Norwich	Special Educational Needs (Behaviour Emotional and Social)	—	35,000	100,000
Fakenham High School and College	Technology	Vocational	262,281	—
Flegg High School	Business and Enterprise	—	100,620	—
Framingham Earl High School	Sports	—	100,.62	—
Great Yarmouth (VA) High School	Technology	—	101,265	—
Heartsease High School	Engineering	—	52,632	—
Hellesdon High School	Technology	—	129,000	—
Hethersett High School and Science College	Science	—	78,303	—
Hobart High School	Science	—	99,975	—
King Edward VII School	Sports	—	143,577	—
Litcham High School	Science	Language, Sports	223,788	—
Long Stratton High School	Maths and Computing	—	83,979	—
Lynn Grove VA High School	Technology	—	116,229	—

School name	Specialism	High performing second specialism	Recurrent funding 2007-08 £	Capital Grant 2007-08 £
Marshland High School	Science		104,490	
Neatherd High School	Language		159,000	
North Walsham High School	Arts		108,489	
Northgate High School	Arts and Humanities		129,000	
Notre Dame High School, Norwich	Language	Science	236,577	
Oriel High School	Maths and Computing		47,034	100,000
Reepham High School	Science	Vocational	192,297	
Sheringham High School and Sixth Form Centre	Arts		99,717	
Smithdon High School	Maths and Computing		129,000	
Springwood High School	Arts		165,249	
Sprowston High School	Arts		149,253	
St. Clement's High School	Humanities		80,754	
Taverham High School	Sports		111,069	
The Blyth-Jex School	Business and Enterprise		114,939	
The Park High School	Technology		112,488	
Thorpe St. Andrew School	Sports	Technology	291,768	
Wayland Community High School	Technology		91,203	
Wymondham College	Technology	Language	219,000	
Wymondham High School	Arts		153,252	

Specialist Schools and Academies Trust National Conference

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 270W, on Specialist Schools and Academies Trust National Conference, what parliamentary business he participated in on 28 November 2007. [177167]

Ed Balls: As recorded in *Hansard, Official Report*, I voted in several divisions on 28 November 2007.

Sports: Hendon

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to promote sport in Hendon schools; what funding is being provided to school sport partnerships for schools in Hendon for 2008-09; what percentage of students in Hendon are participating in sport for two hours or more per week; how many hours of sport each week for pupils he expects to achieve in Hendon schools; and if he will make a statement. [177491]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport are jointly implementing the national PE, School Sport and Club Links strategy, which involves every maintained school in England. The strategy is driving up the quality and quantity of PE and school sport.

All schools in Hendon are now in a school sport partnership. Some are part of the Barnet South Partnership, which will receive £504,027 in 2008-09. The proportion of pupils in the partnership who are participating in at least two hours of high quality PE and school sport a week is 86 per cent.

The other schools are in the St. James' Partnership, which will receive £414,579 in 2008-09. The proportion of pupils in the partnership who are participating in at least two hours high quality PE and school sport a week is 67 per cent.

Our target is for every partnership to have at least 85 per cent. of pupils participating in at least two hours of high quality PE and school sport a week by 2008. Both partnerships will also benefit from extra funding for competition managers, coaches and top up swimming lessons.

With our delivery partners, we are providing enhanced support for those partnerships that need help to improve their provision.

St. Joseph's College Stoke on Trent

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on the future of *(a)* St. Joseph's College in Stoke-on-Trent and *(b)* St. George's School in Salford. [177302]

Jim Knight: It is for the local authority to consider any questions about the future of any maintained school, working with the local diocese or trustees in the case of voluntary aided schools.

I understand that Stoke-on-Trent council have been carrying out a consultation on the possible closure of St. Joseph's, and Salford council have consulted on the possible closure of St. George's, in the context of their Building Schools for the Future projects. In the case of St. Joseph's the consultation included plans to replace the school with a new Roman Catholic (RC) High School on the site of the closing school. The local authorities are now considering the views expressed. If they publish statutory proposals to close the schools, they would be the decision maker following a six week period for comments and objections, but there would be a right of appeal to the schools adjudicator by the local diocesan authorities, the Learning and Skills Council and the governing bodies and trustees of each school.

Proposals for the new RC school to replace St. Joseph's in Stoke-on-Trent could only be proposed by the trustees, or local RC diocese, and they would have to seek the Secretary of State's consent before publishing proposals for the new school without running a school competition.

Teachers: Discrimination

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the age discrimination implications of the new qualification requirements for early years foundation stage teachers which will come into force in September 2008. [177799]

Beverley Hughes: In developing the early years foundation stage (EYFS), which will come into effect this September, the Government have carefully examined all existing legislation (including the age discrimination regulations). The Government are satisfied that the EYFS is lawful while ensuring that we have provided a robust framework for high quality learning, development and care provision for children between birth to five.

Teaching Methods

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what guidance his Department has provided to secondary schools on the teaching of low ability readers by the method of synthetic phonics; [177032]

(2) what funding is available for schools to purchase *(a)* course materials and *(b)* teacher training in synthetic phonics; [177033]

(3) whether it is his policy that every trainee primary teacher should be trained in synthetic phonics; [177034]

(4) what proportion of teacher training establishments are training primary school teachers in the use of synthetic phonics; [177035]

(5) what guidance his Department has provided to primary schools in England on the teaching of reading by synthetic phonics; [177036]

(6) what proportion of primary schools in England are teaching reading using synthetic phonics. [177037]

Jim Knight: Improving standards of literacy at all key stages is one of the Government's top priorities. Following Sir Jim Rose's review of the teaching of early reading, we have provided a wealth of guidance on the systematic teaching of phonics. We have done this through the renewal of the primary framework for literacy which puts phonics at the heart of teaching literacy; through the provision of training to all primary schools as part of the Communication Language and Literacy Development (CLLD) programme; and through the publication of Letters and Sounds, a high quality phonics teaching document sent free to all primary schools and local authorities last year.

Although this guidance is targeted specifically at early years settings and primary schools, secondary schools are able to access freely all the guidance we provide. For secondary schools, the Secondary National Strategy has produced a specific teaching unit on phonics as part of the literacy progress units designed to help secondary schools in helping pupils struggling with reading to catch up. However, we have concentrated the main thrust of our guidance on early years settings and primary schools where it is of prime importance that firm foundations in the teaching of early reading are laid.

We do not gather information on the proportion of primary schools in England which use phonics to teach reading. Phonic knowledge is a part of the KS1 national curriculum, so all schools are required to teach it.

It is this Department's intention that every trainee teacher should be trained in the use of high quality, systematic phonics teaching. We have asked the Training and Development Agency to ensure that all teacher training establishments give sufficient attention to phonics teaching and we will continue to work with the national strategies to ensure that teachers and support staff receive the appropriate continuing professional development.

We do not provide funding specifically targeted at the teaching of phonics. We believe that schools are best placed to target their funding to suit local needs. All training and materials produced through the national strategies are provided free-of-charge to schools.

Teenage Pregnancy Unit

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what budget has been allocated to the Teenage Pregnancy Unit for the next three financial years; [179407]

(2) what projects are being undertaken by the Teenage Pregnancy Unit; [179408]

(3) how many civil servants are working for the Teenage Pregnancy Unit; and what their job descriptions are. [179409]

Beverley Hughes: The funding available to support implementation of local teenage pregnancy strategies is £27.5 million for each of the next three years (2008/09 to 2010/11). A further £5.8 million is retained by the Teenage Pregnancy Unit to fund work that is managed centrally. The 'running costs' for the Teenage Pregnancy Unit itself in 2007/08 are £280,000. Decisions on funding for TPU for future years have not yet been agreed.

The main tasks of the Teenage Pregnancy Unit include:

supporting the delivery of local strategies through: performance management and sharing best practice;

policy development; and

mainstreaming teenage pregnancy work within wider Government strategies.

There are 3.5 civil servants working in the Teenage Pregnancy Unit, covering the following responsibilities:

National programme manager

National policy manager

National support manager

Administrative support (0.5)

HOME DEPARTMENT

Arrests: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* arrests and *(b)* prosecutions for (i) being drunk and disorderly, (ii) being found drunk on a highway, public place or on

licensed premises and (iii) being drunk in or when entering a designated sports event there have been in each police force area in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [176110]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number of defendants proceeded against for the offences requested are provided in tables 1 to 3.

In addition to court proceedings, the offences of being found drunk and disorderly and being drunk in a highway, public place or on licensed premises can attract a penalty notice for disorder from 2004. Data on the number of these are provided in table 4.

The arrests collection undertaken by the Ministry of Justice provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences), by age group, gender, ethnicity, and main offence group, ie violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary etc.

From the aggregated data collected centrally on arrest, we are unable to identify specific offences.

Table 1: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for selected alcohol offences, by police force area, England and Wales, 1997-2006[1,2]

Offence: Being found drunk in a highway or other Public place whether a building or not, or a licensed premises

Statute: Criminal Justice Act 1967 S.91

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset	61	63	92	83	72	84	84	91	95	81
Bedfordshire	53	153	94	52	31	20	47	28	30	16
Cambridgeshire	36	31	37	44	51	51	71	47	55	57
Cheshire	69	63	48	34	18	23	24	13	3	15
City of London	5	1	1	6	1	0	0	2	0	0
Cleveland	4	13	0	2	3	2	3	3	2	5
Cumbria	38	36	22	13	17	15	8	20	17	18
Derbyshire	38	42	46	64	60	52	40	11	6	4
Devon and Cornwall	284	300	331	249	215	228	185	106	77	81
Dorset	12	14	18	28	12	12	15	11	4	0
Durham	23	39	38	22	45	20	6	7	12	12
Essex	227	209	169	137	114	52	12	13	3	9
Gloucestershire	53	90	56	34	35	34	20	14	14	16
Greater Manchester	7	14	9	3	8	4	10	4	3	1
Hampshire	346	481	346	232	164	127	71	57	55	21
Hertfordshire	20	47	65	42	31	18	18	17	14	0
Humberside	11	12	14	6	3	4	5	2	1	0
Kent	155	145	145	148	142	154	153	123	57	47
Lancashire	213	213	188	248	182	177	69	35	43	14
Leicestershire	0	1	6	4	0	2	0	0	0	1
Lincolnshire	34	49	26	25	11	15	10	9	2	3
Merseyside	44	46	38	34	39	29	18	8	5	4
Metropolitan Police	253	286	244	160	304	185	141	113	113	91
Norfolk	65	65	68	67	58	57	72	40	27	12
North Yorkshire	81	94	85	133	136	143	120	53	35	29
Northamptonshire	6	6	6	7	1	9	3	4	3	4
Northumbria	21	28	41	23	10	12	9	17	22	32
Nottinghamshire	1	8	6	3	10	9	12	0	2	1
South Yorkshire	18	12	21	32	13	8	5	13	5	2
Staffordshire[3]	81	70	41	**	17	15	34	40	42	38
Suffolk	108	81	97	72	51	61	57	66	27	29
Surrey	91	97	108	119	120	81	86	93	89	74
Sussex	226	226	130	81	129	102	88	44	56	82
Thames Valley	214	246	207	173	144	123	127	97	51	50
Warwickshire	8	98	17	9	7	7	6	1	1	0
West Mercia	97	64	73	19	22	9	4	7	6	8
West Midlands	61	51	29	19	11	7	22	16	42	51
West Yorkshire	46	103	67	70	26	34	90	75	35	40
Wiltshire	68	73	65	48	59	52	48	64	79	71
Dyfed-Powys	92	152	134	138	77	72	78	62	37	66
Gwent	21	25	21	25	38	50	25	11	7	2
North Wales	17	13	14	7	3	9	7	1	3	7
South Wales	113	241	250	251	228	206	218	206	212	76
Total	3,421	4,101	3,513	2,966	2,718	2,374	2,121	1,644	1,392	1,170

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for defendants proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Table 2: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for selected alcohol offences, by police force area, England and Wales, 1997-2006[1,2]

Offence: Drunk in, or when entering, a designated sports event

Statute: Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol, etc.) Act 1985 Section 2(2)

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset	6	23	6	5	3	3	9	10	3	2
Bedfordshire	15	5	11	9	4	2	2	3	4	4
Cambridgeshire	9	6	5	5	8	4	2	4	2	0
Cheshire	4	3	2	3	1	2	5	4	0	1
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	9	7	26	4	15	26	14	13	20	23
Cumbria	4	1	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	1
Derbyshire	2	5	0	5	3	11	4	15	8	2
Devon and Cornwall	2	1	2	2	1	1	2	3	0	6
Dorset	6	13	3	11	12	8	3	1	3	0
Durham	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	2	5	0
Essex	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	3	8
Gloucestershire	0	0	3	7	6	7	1	0	0	0
Greater Manchester	9	28	9	13	7	13	11	14	28	32
Hampshire	41	15	8	16	16	9	19	22	14	11
Hertfordshire	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	2	1	3
Humberside	0	0	5	3	5	1	2	1	3	3
Kent	2	1	10	3	3	0	0	1	0	3
Lancashire	61	33	24	26	26	23	16	11	22	43
Leicestershire	0	2	2	3	0	0	4	2	4	3
Lincolnshire	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	2	1	0
Merseyside	3	9	13	10	9	8	7	7	7	2
Metropolitan Police	198	191	115	73	37	61	72	59	17	30
Norfolk	12	14	7	1	11	10	7	8	21	4
North Yorkshire	6	2	3	15	13	4	3	1	2	0
Northamptonshire	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Northumbria	102	43	26	20	44	42	44	16	21	24
Nottinghamshire	40	34	42	19	26	20	13	28	13	17
South Yorkshire	48	20	27	23	41	31	17	30	26	40
Staffordshire[3]	3	1	0	..	0	5	2	5	6	2
Suffolk	5	5	3	2	7	5	6	29	4	11
Surrey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sussex	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	0
Thames Valley	15	21	6	3	9	3	2	4	5	2
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Mercia	2	0	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	0
West Midlands	59	52	25	15	55	85	72	84	103	199
West Yorkshire	32	33	30	53	68	47	25	34	49	46
Wiltshire	12	22	2	18	11	1	1	5	6	3
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gwent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
North Wales	2	3	7	5	0	2	4	1	0	0
South Wales	2	6	3	2	5	0	3	3	7	3
Total	713	601	430	381	452	439	376	432	409	528

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for defendants proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Table 3: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for selected alcohol offences, by police force area, England and Wales, 1997-2006[1,2]

Offence: Being guilty while drunk of disorderly behaviour

Statute: Criminal Justice Act 1967 S.91

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset	361	374	383	363	399	408	427	371	226	187
Bedfordshire	166	314	220	186	187	197	219	136	84	80
Cambridgeshire	122	144	159	148	151	154	189	167	169	132
Cheshire	586	714	652	590	563	648	652	505	84	111
City of London	26	31	54	43	44	53	70	53	51	61
Cleveland	774	707	708	684	621	630	715	631	205	95
Cumbria	808	812	802	521	558	514	525	471	328	322

Table 3: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for selected alcohol offences, by police force area, England and Wales, 1997-2006[1,2]

Offence: Being guilty while drunk of disorderly behaviour

Statute: Criminal Justice Act 1967 S.91

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Derbyshire	294	286	231	254	292	357	425	342	211	228
Devon and Cornwall	888	771	709	704	817	895	672	477	365	480
Dorset	272	390	343	406	469	551	520	166	98	87
Durham	406	504	491	538	563	541	603	406	378	286
Essex	515	490	553	584	513	409	194	204	183	255
Gloucestershire	147	200	153	158	164	180	201	139	62	44
Greater Manchester	1,415	1,307	1,206	1,215	1,067	1,005	965	505	260	183
Hampshire	1,270	1,393	1,306	1,133	1,072	1,117	977	590	455	251
Hertfordshire	296	337	388	381	406	508	449	365	255	79
Humberside	250	225	255	234	247	213	213	127	163	138
Kent	560	720	865	900	911	928	1,107	1,118	532	436
Lancashire	1,618	1,673	1,827	2,165	2,366	2,210	2,180	908	615	560
Leicestershire	27	27	37	24	26	26	19	18	12	16
Lincolnshire	478	624	584	458	506	528	556	484	70	60
Merseyside	2,967	2,940	2,151	1,979	1,926	2,118	2,039	1,348	692	765
Metropolitan Police	1,449	1,550	1,440	1,219	1,494	2,464	2,466	1,182	908	1,104
Norfolk	108	114	115	131	146	151	183	94	58	51
North Yorkshire	342	382	411	459	482	452	512	195	202	212
Northamptonshire	26	24	21	29	33	29	25	32	41	31
Northumbria	3,122	3,567	3,548	3,859	3,516	3,587	3,944	3,939	4,532	4,352
Nottinghamshire	563	570	526	482	529	507	501	261	224	262
South Yorkshire	1,186	968	1,148	1,264	1,248	1,271	1,497	1,204	551	544
Staffordshire[3]	320	305	247	**	215	251	343	223	209	160
Suffolk	269	212	213	228	267	333	357	337	217	201
Surrey	208	208	280	412	473	477	439	289	247	121
Sussex	522	512	398	512	631	733	801	474	266	371
Thames Valley	1,086	1,305	1,161	979	997	979	1,090	895	282	232
Warwickshire	309	666	286	228	195	125	162	111	27	35
West Mercia	654	574	561	488	543	455	413	483	516	437
West Midlands	1,102	846	522	472	437	463	307	531	373	797
West Yorkshire	2,655	2,764	3,097	2,809	2,101	2,071	2,260	714	687	1,384
Wiltshire	370	426	267	275	262	284	426	290	147	105
Dyfed-Powys	200	198	153	145	162	173	223	214	162	122
Gwent	748	532	420	360	308	273	207	263	238	209
North Wales	824	1,006	949	799	839	669	545	436	220	222
South Wales	1,582	1,583	1,212	1,162	998	802	725	903	737	335
Total	31,891	33,295	31,052	29,980	29,744	30,739	31,343	22,601	16,342	16,143

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for defendants proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Table 4: Number of PNDs issued for selected alcohol offences, England and Wales 2004-06[1,2]

	Drunk and disorderly			*Drunk in a highway etc.*		
Police force	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset	176	286	179	22	92	64
Bedfordshire	144	265	290	13	43	14
British Transport police	**	**	575	**	**	26
Cambridgeshire	189	357	284	34	90	77
Cheshire	409	190	125	13	13	4
Cleveland	368	722	296	2	—	—
Cumbria	403	657	692	7	21	25
Derbyshire	372	558	671	9	13	9
Devon and Cornwall	988	1,519	1,883	158	195	241
Dorset	82	127	170	2	2	9
Durham	441	762	518	17	21	24
Essex	714	634	871	24	38	34
Gloucestershire	282	320	194	10	31	22
Greater Manchester	333	491	322	31	82	26
Hampshire	1,074	967	546	73	79	32

Table 4 Number of PNDs issued for selected alcohol offences, England and Wales 2004-06[1,2]

	Drunk and disorderly			Drunk in a highway, etc		
Police force	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Hertfordshire	208	319	218	9	30	17
Humberside	604	679	1,003	1	5	13
Kent	498	1,514	1,806	45	89	113
Lancashire	2,869	4,651	4,889	79	105	106
Leicestershire	67	79	75	6	12	2
Lincolnshire	174	71	98	7	7	—
London, City of	32	101	199	3	12	5
Merseyside	2,728	3,619	3,295	20	55	58
Metropolitan	4,081	3,058	3,195	1,159	930	609
Norfolk	79	93	89	34	56	25
North Yorkshire	373	697	885	106	113	133
Northamptonshire	246	618	536	12	39	26
Northumbria	126	1,426	3,974	3	9	11
Nottinghamshire	477	661	511	8	9	11
South Yorkshire	1,590	2,261	2,430	10	9	10
Staffordshire	452	380	346	52	74	87
Suffolk	267	377	350	35	27	26
Surrey	80	278	358	25	123	172
Sussex	1,029	1,419	1,473	65	143	126
Thames Valley	396	258	246	7	74	37
Warwickshire	250	123	58	8	4	2
West Mercia	141	423	694	10	27	25
West Midlands	1,580	1,664	2,561	100	94	104
West Yorkshire	923	1,961	3,753	105	93	77
Wiltshire	346	311	331	63	71	73
Dyfed-Powys	183	315	289	37	103	98
Gwent	127	222	273	22	9	12
North Wales	639	1,173	1,258	14	33	49
South Wales	69	432	747	37	63	78
England and Wales	26,609	37,038	43,556	2,497	3,138	2,712

** British Transport police began issuing PNDs in 2006

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[2] Offence is a Notifiable offence included within OBTJ figures

Asylum

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum claimants have received leave to remain as a result of grant of *(a)* asylum, *(b)* humanitarian protection, *(c)* discretionary leave and *(d)* family indefinite leave to remain since 1 April 2003, broken down by nationality; and how many dependants have received leave to remain in each of these categories and nationalities. [172684]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 10 December 2007]:* The requested information is contained in the tables placed in the House Library. Information on dependants granted under the Family ILR exercise is not available and could be obtained only by examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Information on asylum decisions is published quarterly and annually. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Commonwealth

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of Commonwealth citizens resident in the UK in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* at the most recent date for which an estimate is available; what estimate she has made of the number of Commonwealth citizens registered to vote in the UK; which Commonwealth countries have reciprocal rights for voting with the UK; and what checks are carried out on the immigration status of applicants for electoral registration. [177394]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 16 January 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your question on what estimate has been made of the number of Commonwealth citizens resident in the UK in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* at the most recent date for which an estimate is available; what estimate has been made of the number of commonwealth citizens registered to vote in the UK; which Commonwealth countries have reciprocal rights for voting in the UK; and what

checks are carried out on the immigration status of applicants for electoral registration. I am replying in her absence.

(177394)

In 1997, there were an estimated 695,000 Commonwealth citizens resident in the UK. In 2006, the corresponding estimate was 1,112,000. These estimates are based on Labour Force Survey data and, as with any sample survey data, are subject to margins of error.

With respect to Commonwealth citizens registered to vote, data separately identifying British, Irish, or Commonwealth citizens are not collected centrally; these citizens are grouped together on local authority electoral returns. Therefore we are unable to produce data on voter registration separately for Commonwealth citizens.

With respect to which Commonwealth countries have reciprocal rights for voting in the UK, the Ministry of Justice advise that this information is not held centrally. In respect of the UK, the Representation of the People Act 1983 provides that all Commonwealth citizens who are lawfully resident here are entitled to vote in parliamentary and local elections. Decisions about the voting rights of Commonwealth, including British, citizens resident in other Commonwealth countries are for the individual countries concerned.

With respect to checks on immigration status, the Ministry of Justice advise that all electors are required to state their nationality on the canvass form when registering to vote. Furthermore, electoral registers are available for public inspection and anyone who believes that an ineligible person has been included may object and notify the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) who may then make further inquiries as to the eligibility of that individual.

The Electoral Administration Act strengthened this process by:

allowing any individual to object to another person's registration details at any time;

allowing an ERO to initiate and conduct a review of a person's registration at any time;

creating a new criminal offence of supplying false information or failing to supply information to the electoral registration officer at any time; and

giving the police more time to carry out investigations into electoral fraud (they may apply to court to have the normal one year limit for bringing prosecutions increased to two years, so long as there has been no undue delay in the investigation).

Crime

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of cases of criminal damage which occurred after 9:00 pm in each of the last two years. [176440]

Mr. Coaker: The British Crime Survey asks at what time of day victims of criminal damage believe such incidents happened. The question uses broad time bands and it is not possible to estimate the number of cases that occurred after 9 pm. The following table shows the available information for the last two survey years.

Proportion of criminal damage incidents by time of day, 2005-06 and 2006-07, BCS

	2005-06		2006-07	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Morning/ Afternoon[1]	—	24	—	23
Morning	—	5	—	4
Afternoon	—	14	—	12
Morning/ Afternoon (unsure which)	—	6	—	7
Evening/Night[2]	—	76	—	77
Evening	—	36	—	36
Night	—	21	—	24
Evening/Night (unsure which)	—	18	—	17
Unweighted base	3,779		3,865	

[1] Morning is from 6 am to noon. Afternoon is from noon to 6 pm.
[2] Evening is from 6 pm to midnight. Night is midnight to 6 am.

Crime: Victims

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many victims of crime there were in each of the last 25 years, broken down by *(a)* police and *(b)* local authority area. [177988]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available.

Police recorded crime statistics are available at police force and local authority area level but they provide counts of the number of offences rather than number of victims. The British Crime Survey can provide estimate of the number of victims at national level but not at police force or local authority area level.

Criminal Records Bureau: Telephones

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the Criminal Records Bureau policy is on the diversion of office telephone lines to personal telephones. [177228]

Meg Hillier: The Criminal Records Bureau does not operate a policy on the diversion of office telephone lines to personal telephones.

Deportation: China and Nigeria

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* Nigerian and *(b)* Chinese nationals are in prison in the UK; and in respect of how many such people deportation was judicially recommended. [178115]

Mr. Hanson: I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 516W. At the end of September 2007 there were *(a)* 1,098 Nigerian and *(b)* 349 Chinese national prisoners held in all prisons in England and Wales. Figures for the numbers of foreign national prisoners held in prisons in England and Wales are published every quarter. The latest figures are available in "Population in Custody—September 2007", available at the website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

—where the aforementioned figures can be found.

Information on the number of these nationals for whom deportation has been judicially recommended is not collated centrally and is not available.

Comparable information for Scotland and Northern Ireland is the responsibility of the Scottish Executive and the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the cost to the criminal justice system associated with the criminal activity of problematic drug users in 2007-08. [178110]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office is not planning to estimate the cost to the criminal justice system associated with the criminal activity of problematic drug users in 2007-08.

A Home Office Research Study, "The Economic and Social Costs of Class A Drug Use in England and Wales 2003/04", provided an estimate of the criminal justice costs associated with problem drug users' criminal activity. The total cost to the criminal justice system was estimated to be around £4 billion for the year 2003-04.

Source:

"The Economic and Social Costs of Class A Drug Use in England and Wales, 2003/04", in "Measuring different aspects of problem drug use: methodological developments" Chapter 3, Table 3.3, OLR 16/06. This report is available on the Home Office RDS website at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/rdsolr1606.pdf

Drugs: Voluntary Organisations

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will outsource drug work currently undertaken by statutory authorities to private charities; and if she will make a statement. [178102]

Mr. Coaker: The pooled treatment budget for substance misuse (PTB) and the young people's substance misuse partnership grant (YPSMPG) is allocated to each one of 149 local drug action teams (DATs). Together with mainstream funding, DATs use this to meet locally assessed needs by commissioning services for drug work, such as treatment and education, from a range of providers which can include private charities, as well as voluntary and statutory organisations.

Human Trafficking

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will announce a timetable for the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on People Trafficking; and if she will make a statement. [163151]

Mr. Coaker: The Government are determined to prioritise the effort to tackle the misery of human trafficking. That is why in line with our wider strategy to combat trafficking we intend to ratify the Convention before the end of this year subject to achieving necessary changes to domestic legislation in all parts of the UK.

Licensed Premises: Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the maximum increase in business rates is that can be levied on licensed premises in an alcohol disorder zone. [176703]

Mr. Coaker: Alcohol disorder zones (ADZs) are designed to address the problem of alcohol-related crime and disorder in town and city centres when all other measures have failed. The charge to license holders in relation to the costs incurred in respect of an alcohol disorder zone is completely separate from business rates. The details of the charging scheme are set out in the draft regulations which were laid on 8 January 2008.

National Firearms Licensing Management System

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of *(a)* the compatibility of the software used in the National Firearms Licensing Management System with the software used in the National Firearms Register on the Police National Computer and *(b)* the interface between the two systems; and if she will make a statement. [170024]

Mr. Coaker: The software within the National Firearms Licensing Management System is compatible with the National Firearms Register on the Police National Computer in that the systems communicate directly with each other through an automated electronic interface.

The National Policing Improvement Agency is now heading a review of the effectiveness of the interface in light of operational experience.

Passports: Pensioners

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many pensioners in *(a)* Hendon and *(b)* the UK have received free passports. [177503]

Meg Hillier: The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) does not ask passport holders to keep their address up to date on our database. Therefore, IPS cannot identify the number of current residents by geographical area that have taken advantage of the scheme to issue free passports to those applicants born on or before 2 September 1929.

However, from October 2004, when the concessionary scheme was introduced, until 31 December 2007; 468,264 people born on or before 2 September 1929 have been issued with free passports in the United Kingdom.

The entitlement also included a refund available to those that were eligible and applied for a passport in the period between 19 May 2004 and the inception of the scheme. Therefore, the total number includes 18,901 refunds that have been applied for and processed under this provision.

NORTHERN IRELAND
Burglary

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* robberies and *(b)* burglaries were reported in each Police Service of Northern Ireland District Command Unit in each of the last 10 years; and how many of these resulted in convictions. [174863]

Paul Goggins: The number of recorded robberies in Northern Ireland fell by 648 (29 per cent.) between 2001-02 and 2006-07. The number of recorded burglaries fell by 5581 (32.5 per cent.) in the same period.

The Policing Board and the PSNI have made reducing the number of domestic burglaries a key priority and this was included as a specific target in the 2007-10 Policing Plan.

Tables 1 and 2 show the numbers of recorded robberies and burglaries in each district command unit since the new structure was set up in 2001-02.

Table 3 documents the number of prosecutions and convictions for robberies while Table 4 documents the same for burglaries. The figures relate to the police district command unit in which an offender's address falls.

Data are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

It is not possible routinely to reconcile recorded crime data from PSNI with prosecution and conviction data. Data from PSNI relate to the number of offences whereas data on prosecutions and convictions relate to the number of offenders brought before the courts. In addition, PSNI data denote each offence as it has been initially recorded and this may differ from the offence for which a suspect or suspects are subsequently proceeded against in the courts, therefore prosecution and conviction statistics should not be compared with the number recorded.

Table 1: Recorded robbery offences

DCU	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Antrim	57	57	47	38	29	30
Ards	50	90	47	37	21	17
East Belfast	180	241	167	72	84	97
North Belfast	292	361	243	206	354	264
South Belfast	543	517	398	341	334	333
West Belfast	160	207	142	118	159	154
Carrickfergus	40	30	25	13	27	13
Castlereagh	60	98	71	43	45	41
Down	57	43	41	21	20	27
Lisburn	111	97	126	96	115	97
Newtownabbey	114	157	115	101	126	66
North Down	74	101	70	48	46	35
Urban region	1,738	1,199	1,492	1,134	1,360	1,174
Armagh	27	26	26	20	24	23
Ballymena	43	33	48	40	43	44
Ballymoney	10	11	8	6	4	3
Banbridge	11	18	14	12	12	13
Coleraine	48	58	52	38	33	32
Cookstown	8	11	12	8	6	8
Craigavon	68	96	58	50	67	54
Dungannon and South Tyrone	12	15	13	14	19	19
Fermanagh	16	12	17	9	13	10
Foyle	90	86	85	69	72	78
Larne	18	13	11	4	6	11
Limavady	12	9	6	4	3	5
Magherafelt	11	8	12	4	15	5
Moyle	4	3	8	8	3	5
Newry and Mourne	70	60	75	47	40	65
Omagh	15	19	22	11	4	11
Strabane	21	20	14	9	20	14
Rural region	484	498	481	353	384	400
Total	2,222	2,497	1,973	1,487	1,744	1,574

Table 2: Recorded burglary offences

DCU	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Antrim	422	559	458	365	304	331
Ards	630	749	667	488	447	314
East Belfast	1,026	1,174	913	748	632	534
North Belfast	1,025	997	915	1,075	679	752
South Belfast	1,704	2,045	1,694	1,769	1,241	1,188
West Belfast	505	432	350	389	455	537
Carrickfergus	282	242	201	142	135	146
Castlereagh	634	648	578	313	540	357
Down	749	914	770	465	529	624
Lisburn	970	1,010	1,019	771	868	875
Newtownabbey	845	937	862	771	615	567
North Down	691	855	734	515	528	366
Urban region	9,483	10,562	9,161	7,811	6,973	6,591
Armagh	421	503	425	411	454	373
Ballymena	610	682	565	418	398	362
Ballymoney	223	209	142	105	98	81
Banbridge	343	364	336	285	301	304
Coleraine	738	683	623	575	521	463
Cookstown	249	226	204	155	237	122
Craigavon	1,041	1,289	1,034	607	726	549
Dungannon and South Tyrone	403	445	342	320	303	275
Fermanagh	420	400	466	346	347	298
Foyle	979	885	991	701	737	649
Larne	260	263	186	172	144	155
Limavady	248	235	239	184	221	231
Magherafelt	220	204	153	91	121	81
Moyle	157	173	162	94	79	104
Newry and Mourne	720	881	759	793	837	636
Omagh	377	399	360	194	206	169
Strabane	247	256	241	126	133	119
Rural region	7,657	8,097	7,228	5,577	5,863	4,971
Total	17,143	18,659	16,389	13,388	12,836	11,562

Table 3: Prosecutions and convictions for robberies

	2000		2001		2002	
	Prosecutions	*Convictions*	*Prosecutions*	*Convictions*	*Prosecutions*	*Convictions*
Antrim	3	2	5	5	4	4
Ards	2	2	7	7	11	9
Armagh	2	0	2	1	3	1
Banbridge	1	1	1	1	0	0
Belfast East	15	15	12	11	14	14
Belfast North	15	13	11	7	25	23
Belfast South	13	12	10	6	14	10
Belfast West	18	13	20	14	29	24
Ballymena	7	6	8	8	0	0
Ballymoney	1	1	3	3	0	0
Carrickfergus	3	3	1	1	3	3
Coleraine	8	7	4	4	6	6
Cookstown	0	0	1	0	2	2
Craigavon	2	2	3	2	1	1
Castlereagh	2	2	4	3	3	2
Dungannon and South Tyrone	1	1	1	1	1	0
Down	0	0	4	3	1	1
Fermanagh	5	5	0	0	2	2
Foyle	6	6	15	14	10	9
Lame	2	2	0	0	2	2
Limavady	0	0	5	4	1	1
Lisburn	11	8	9	7	22	15
Magherafelt	2	2	0	0	0	0
Moyle	1	1	3	3	1	1
Newtownabbey	3	2	2	2	7	6
North Down	9	9	6	6	4	4
Newry and Mourne	2	2	6	2	5	4
Omagh	0	0	3	2	6	5
Strabane	3	1	1	1	1	1
Missing	4	4	4	3	2	2
Total	141	122	151	121	180	152

	2003		2004		2005	
District Command unit	*Prosecutions*	*Convictions*	*Prosecutions*	*Convictions*	*Prosecutions*	*Convictions*
Antrim	1	1	4	4	3	1
Ards	7	7	5	4	6	5
Armagh	3	2	3	2	3	3
Banbridge	2	2	0	0	0	0
Belfast East	15	15	13	13	10	9
Belfast North	28	21	16	13	18	15
Belfast South	19	18	3	3	9	6
Belfast West	47	41	28	21	32	26
Ballymena	4	4	15	15	7	6
Ballymoney	0	0	0	0	1	1
Carrickfergus	3	2	1	1	1	1
Coleraine	3	3	6	4	7	3
Cookstown	2	2	6	3	1	1
Craigavon	11	4	10	9	0	0
Castlereagh	3	3	4	4	2	2
Dungannon and South Tyrone	1	1	3	2	0	0
Down	11	9	4	4	4	4
Fermanagh	0	0	0	0	4	3
Foyle	11	10	24	19	10	6
Larne	2	0	0	0	0	0
Limavady	1	1	0	0	5	4
Lisburn	25	23	18	12	32	28
Magherafelt	2	2	1	1	0	0
Moyle	1	1	1	0	1	0
Newtownabbey	6	3	6	6	1	1
North Down	5	4	1	1	1	0
Newry and Mourne	2	2	9	5	5	5
Omagh	4	2	5	5	2	2
Strabane	2	1	4	4	2	2

	2003		2004		2005	
District Command unit	*Prosecutions*	*Convictions*	*Prosecutions*	*Convictions*	*Prosecutions*	*Convictions*
Missing	9	8	5	4	2	1
Total	230	192	195	159	169	135

Note:
Missing data relate to those offenders for whom police DCU information is not available

Table 4 Prosecutions and convictions for burglaries

	2000		2001		2002	
District Command Unit	*Prosecutions*	*Convictions*	*Prosecutions*	*Convictions*	*Prosecutions*	*Convictions*
Antrim	12	11	8	4	6	6
Ards	25	22	18	12	21	16
Armagh	21	20	20	14	20	17
Banbridge	20	17	11	8	16	12
Belfast East	66	57	42	33	39	31
Belfast North	89	74	57	38	75	55
Belfast South	59	47	28	19	54	42
Belfast West	88	72	67	53	74	60
Ballymena	38	34	32	28	30	27
Ballymoney	15	15	12	12	10	9
Carrickfergus	16	12	21	13	9	9
Coleraine	23	22	20	16	15	15
Cookstown	8	6	13	8	5	3
Craigavon	29	22	19	12	25	21
Castlereagh	10	10	14	12	24	20
Dungannon and South Tyrone	21	18	21	16	12	8
Down	19	13	19	9	23	18
Fermanagh	22	16	13	8	14	14
Foyle	59	52	66	57	87	71
Larne	20	15	18	16	7	7
Limavady	11	10	9	8	11	8
Lisburn	41	35	31	20	49	37
Magherafelt	4	4	9	5	5	3
Moyle	1	1	2	2	4	4
Newtownabbey	19	12	10	10	14	13
North Down	26	24	17	13	26	22
Newry and Mourne	15	12	20	13	25	14
Omagh	19	17	21	15	13	13
Strabane	22	19	19	12	13	10
Missing	18	13	15	10	12	10
Total	836	703	672	496	738	595

	2003		2004		2005	
District Command Unit	*Prosecutions*	*Convictions*	*Prosecutions*	*Convictions*		
Antrim	16	12	16	12	15	14
Ards	11	11	14	14	13	7
Armagh	23	20	15	11	23	15
Banbridge	11	6	8	6	8	3
Belfast East	44	40	42	32	34	23
Belfast North	94	82	88	72	79	66
Belfast South	55	51	31	25	46	35
Belfast West	73	56	95	72	68	59
Ballymena	30	25	34	22	17	15
Ballymoney	7	6	5	5	6	5
Carrickfergus	4	4	5	3	12	9
Coleraine	16	14	29	20	25	19
Cookstown	15	9	19	15	16	15
Craigavon	33	18	48	35	29	23
Castlereagh	11	11	27	23	9	7
Dungannon and South Tyrone	21	15	15	9	13	11
Down	30	20	26	23	37	28
Fermanagh	11	8	9	7	12	12
Foyle	59	49	88	71	67	51
Larne	9	9	9	7	11	10

	2003		2004		2005	
District Command Unit	Prosecutions	Convictions	Prosecutions	Convictions		
Limavady	9	7	8	6	10	7
Lisburn	58	46	54	42	67	45
Magherafelt	9	8	10	5	4	4
Moyle	9	8	4	4	4	2
Newtownabbey	10	9	19	15	29	24
North Down	18	14	13	11	18	12
Newry and Mourne	28	17	22	20	31	19
Omagh	19	12	18	16	9	9
Strabane	10	7	4	1	5	2
Missing	15	13	19	16	8	6
Total	752	602	704	620	725	557

Note:
Missing data relate to those offenders for whom police DCU information is not available

Crime Prevention

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many households have used the Lock Out Crime scheme in Northern Ireland since inception. [178318]

Paul Goggins: A total of 18,216 households registered for the Lock Out Crime scheme and 16,928 homes had additional home security devices installed.

Prisoners: Correspondence

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what monitoring takes place of mail (*a*) sent to and (*b*) received by inmates in Northern Ireland prisons. [175793]

Paul Goggins: All mail sent to and received by inmates in Northern Ireland prisons is opened by prison staff and checked for any illicit enclosures or contraband.

A 10 per cent. sample of mail sent and received is randomly censored by prison staff for security reasons.

The only exception to this is legal and privileged mail. A record is kept of all mail sent to, and received by, inmates.

Rape

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what arrangements are in place to provide counselling and advice to victims of male rape in Northern Ireland. [174860]

Paul Goggins: The provision of counselling services to victims of rape is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration, however, the Northern Ireland Office does fund Victim Support Northern Ireland to provide information, help and emotional support to all victims of crime. Victim support will also make onward referrals to organisations such as Nexus who provide counselling services to victims of sexual violence.

The Northern Ireland Office is working jointly with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to develop a cross-cutting regional strategy on sexual violence which will be published in spring 2008. One of its key objectives is the establishment of a Sexual Assault Referral Centre which will provide immediate medical care, advice and other support services to all victims of sexual violence.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many accusations of rape were withdrawn in circumstances where admission of false allegations were made in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [174861]

Paul Goggins: Figures relating to the numbers of rape allegations which are withdrawn in circumstances where there is admission of false allegations are not recorded in the format requested.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Bank of Credit and Commerce International: Insolvency

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the administration and liquidation of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International began; what fees were collected by insolvency practitioners and their advisers in relation to the Bank; and when the liquidation was finalised. [178446]

Mr. McFadden: The UK operation of BCCI was placed into provisional liquidation on 5 July 1991. At about the same time BCCI operations in Luxembourg (its place of registration) and in the Cayman Islands were also put into provisional liquidation. On 14 January 1992, attempts at rescue having failed, the High Court ordered that BCCI be wound up and similar orders were made in the other jurisdictions at about that time.

The most recent date at which the costs of the liquidation are available is 15 January 2007, from the annual report to the Secretary of State. The English liquidators' remuneration totalled US $337 million paid and legal fees incurred by the English liquidators totalled US $225 million. In addition to those legal fees are the amounts which have been paid to the Bank of England following the abandonment of the liquidators' action in 2006, which totalled some £85 million, including VAT and interest. It is noteworthy that despite the high costs total moneys received by the UK liquidators as at 15 January 2007 amounted to just over US $4.1 billion and there had been five dividends to

creditors who had by then received 81 per cent. of their debts. The liquidators paid a further dividend of 3 per cent. on 27 November 2007 and expect to make a further payment but are unable to provide detail at present.

The liquidation is not yet finalized. The liquidators are making every effort to conclude the liquidation and pay final amounts to creditors as soon as possible, however, the English liquidation is one of several worldwide that are closely linked and only when they are all substantially complete will it be possible for a formal conclusion in this country.

Bankruptcy

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many individuals in each *(a)* age cohort and *(b)* London borough filed for bankruptcy in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [178420]

Mr. McFadden: The number of bankruptcies by age, and separately, by London borough can be seen in tables 1 and 2 as follows. This level of detailed information is only available for the years 2000 to 2006.

Table 1: Number of bankruptcy orders in England and Wales

Age group	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Under 25	876	1,051	1,254	1,725	2,648	3,498	4,006
25 to 34	5,810	6,258	6,339	7,233	9,319	11,844	15,539
35 to 44	6,358	6,964	7,210	8,265	10,377	13,590	18,532
45 to 54	4,181	4,413	4,410	5,128	6,206	8,447	11,644
55 to 64	1,662	1,908	2,145	2,633	3,405	4,707	6,662
65 and over	403	418	587	713	983	1,470	2,262
Missing ages	1,980	2,266	2,082	2,151	2,762	3,720	4,300
Total	21,270	23,278	24,027	27,848	35,700	47,276	62,945

Table 2: Number of bankruptcy orders in London boroughs

London borough	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Barking and Dagenham	49	45	40	82	86	132	224
Barnet	66	86	85	94	135	215	250
Bexley	62	69	66	89	119	178	182
Brent	55	58	47	68	91	112	197
Bromley	60	77	64	80	123	219	312
Camden	42	66	50	105	143	202	264
City of London	7	1	2	5	6	7	10
City of Westminster	58	63	82	99	123	169	190
Croydon	72	76	85	96	139	207	282
Ealing	58	43	55	74	108	154	194
Enfield	53	71	66	76	119	120	187
Greenwich	58	48	77	90	121	190	250
Hackney	29	45	58	76	129	195	265
Hammersmith and Fulham	30	36	52	45	98	134	147
Haringey	52	39	54	62	113	135	217
Harrow	50	56	50	55	64	98	153
Havering	62	56	49	89	94	169	181
Hillingdon	69	49	47	74	83	163	202
Hounslow	41	61	44	62	120	153	202
Islington	46	45	67	76	142	199	243
Kensington and Chelsea	53	58	60	83	125	149	181
Kingston upon Thames	42	23	55	46	79	89	130
Lambeth	56	73	95	154	372	403	319
Lewisham	59	60	52	70	109	180	238
Merton	41	36	43	64	91	107	105
Newham	53	38	61	98	112	150	243
Redbridge	42	62	51	73	95	143	195
Richmond upon Thames	33	45	65	64	81	103	136
Southwark	35	54	69	107	182	246	274
Sutton	31	41	59	59	98	125	183
Tower Hamlets	88	76	102	131	169	214	249
Waltham Forest	45	48	31	55	96	134	216
Wandsworth	50	57	48	87	93	140	164

Christmas

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* postage of Christmas cards in 2007. [176923]

Mr. Thomas: The cost of producing 900 departmental Christmas cards in 2007 was £1,020.81.

Specific postage costs cannot be provided as the cards were posted along with regular departmental mail.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many branded plastic bags his Department has purchased in the last 24 months for which figures are available; and at what cost. [176363]

Mr. Thomas: Central records indicate that the Department has not purchased any departmentally branded plastic bags in the last two years.

Farepak

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the investigation of Farepak will be finalised and the report published. [178524]

Mr. McFadden: I expect the investigation of Farepak to be completed within the next two to three months. For reasons given in a written ministerial statement by the Under-Secretary on 10 December, the report cannot be published. However, as my hon. Friend explained, if court proceedings ensue, information from the investigation will enter the public domain.

Fuel Poverty: Greater London

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many households are classified as living in fuel poverty in each London borough. [179281]

Malcolm Wicks: London borough level estimates of fuel poverty are available only for 2003. The following table shows fuel poverty levels taken from the Fuel Poverty Indicator dataset (available online at http://www.fuelpovertyindicator.org.uk/) for all the London boroughs:

London Borough	*Estimate of number of fuel poor households*
Barking and Dagenham	3,900
Barnet	6,700
Bexley	5,000
Brent	5,300
Bromley	6,700
Camden	4,800
City of London	200
Croydon	7,700
Ealing	6,100
Enfield	6,000
Greenwich	5,300
Hackney	4,600
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,800
Haringey	5,200
Harrow	4,000
Havering	5,000
Hillingdon	4,800
Hounslow	4,300
Islington	4,200
Kensington and Chelsea	4,100
Kingston upon Thames	3,200
Lambeth	6,100
Lewisham	5,900
Merton	4,200
Newham	5,800
Redbridge	5,200
Richmond upon Thames	4,100
Southwark	5,400
Sutton	3,900
Tower Hamlets	3,800
Waltham Forest	5,300
Wandsworth	5,900
Westminster	5,600
Grand Total	16,2200

Home Information Packs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what role the new Local Better Regulation Office will play in the enforcement of home information pack regulations by local authorities. [176362]

Mr. McFadden: The Local Better Regulation Office's objective, as proposed in the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Bill, is to ensure that local authorities in England and Wales exercise their statutory duties effectively, in a way which does not give rise to unnecessary burdens, and which is transparent, accountable, proportionate and consistent. It has a number of functions in pursuance of its objective. These could include LBRO ensuring that local authorities are enforcing home information pack regulations effectively and in accordance with the principles of better regulation, if the need arose.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps are being taken to encourage householders to access the low carbon building programme. [178091]

Malcolm Wicks: We are working in partnership with the Energy Saving Trust to promote the low carbon buildings programme household funding stream, raising awareness of the funds that remain available to successful applicants.

To date, we have used both their advice network and market segmentation models to target those that are most likely to install microgeneration technologies and apply for grants. We have also raised awareness at a national and regional level through the issuing of a press release that focussed on the low carbon buildings programme in

December 2007.

Furthermore, at officials' last review meeting with industry representatives in September 2007, we encouraged the involvement of industry in promoting the programme, and look forward to meeting with them in February 2008 to discuss the outcomes.

Grants of up to £2,500 remain available to successful applicants until the funds are exhausted in full or March 2009, whichever comes sooner. Further details are available at www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk.

Industry: Heating

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what estimate he has made of the watts of heat which were generated by British industries between November 2006 and March 2007; [179047]

(2) what estimate he has made of the watts of heat generated in the UK by industry which were captured and reused between November 2006 and March 2007. [179051]

Malcolm Wicks: The latest data available are for 2005. They show that industrial sectors used 233.4 TWh of energy for heating purposes whilst the services sector used 149.7 TWh. The majority of this energy was supplied by gas and other heating fuels. These data are published in UK Energy Consumption on the BERR website.

The topic of utilising surplus heat is being considered as part of work on Heat, with a Call for Evidence due to be published by the end of January.

Insolvency: Complaints

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will bring forward legislative proposals to ensure that all complaints against insolvency practitioners are investigated by a body independent of the accountancy and law trade associations. [178448]

Mr. McFadden: There are no plans to bring forward such legislative proposals.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many complaints made against insolvency practitioners in the last 10 years were not resolved within five years. [178529]

Mr. McFadden: The seven recognised professional bodies that are authorised by the Secretary of State for the purpose of authorising and regulating insolvency practitioners are not required to maintain or provide this information to the Secretary of State. Of the 90 insolvency practitioners who are authorised by the Secretary of State, officials are not aware of any complaints that took more than five years to resolve.

Insolvency: Fees and Charges

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will investigate instances of insolvency practitioners charging more than £500 per hour. [178443]

Mr. McFadden: The Insolvency Rules 1986 determine how the remuneration of an office holder (liquidator/trustee etc.) is to be fixed and provide that such remuneration shall be fixed by reference to the time properly given to the administration, or as a percentage of the assets which are realised and distributed. In most insolvency cases it is for the liquidation or creditors' committee to determine the basis for fixing the remuneration or, in the absence of such a committee, the creditors decide the matter. The Rules also make provision for the court to review the amount of remuneration charged.

As the amount of remuneration is subject to review by the court the Secretary of State has no powers to investigate the amount of remuneration charged.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make it his policy to investigate those cases where the fees paid to insolvency practitioners exceed 10 per cent. of the cash collected by them. [178447]

Mr. McFadden: The Secretary of State has no plans to investigate the fees paid to insolvency practitioners. In liquidation and bankruptcy cases it is for those who have most interest in the matter, the creditors, to consider the level of remuneration charged by an insolvency practitioner and they, or the relevant committee, must approve such remuneration. Where a minority of creditors are concerned that the remuneration appears excessive, provided at least 25 per cent. in value of creditors agree, application may be made for the court to review the level of remuneration charged.

Insolvency: Licensing

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many insolvency practitioners have been licensed by each of the recognised supervisory bodies. [178450]

Mr. McFadden: The most recent figures for the number of insolvency practitioners licensed by each of the recognised supervisory bodies are set out in tabular form as follows:

Year 2007

Authorising body	*Total number of IPs as at 1 January 2007*
The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)	729
Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)	174
The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland (ICAS)	106
The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (ICAI)	46
Insolvency Practitioners Association (IPA)	369
The Law Society (LS)	152
The Law Society of Scotland (LSS)	16
Total	1,592

Insolvency: Regulation

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will bring forward legislative proposals to achieve the regulation of the insolvency industry by a single independent regulator. [178449]

Mr. McFadden: The Secretary of State has no plans to bring forward proposals to provide for a single insolvency regulator. The Insolvency Regulation Working Party considered this matter and in their report, published in 1999, emphasised that insolvency practice had never been the prerogative of any one profession. The Working Party also considered that the operational role allocated to the professional bodies in the regulation of insolvency practitioners had bought significant value in creating a regulatory infrastructure and in extending the scope of regulation.

Maxwell Companies: Insolvency

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the administration and liquidation of the Maxwell Group of Companies began; what fees were collected by insolvency practitioners and their advisers in relation to the companies; and when the liquidation was finalised. [178445]

Mr. McFadden: The "Maxwell Group of Companies" has never been a single group of companies under common ownership or in a common insolvency proceeding. The term is a generally descriptive one that has been used to refer, inter alia, to Maxwell Communication Corporation plc ("MCC"), Mirror Group Newspapers plc ("MGN"), various private companies reputedly in the ownership of the Maxwell family and certain pension scheme related companies.

MGN did not enter any form of insolvency proceeding.

MCC was a parent company of some 400 companies worldwide, and entered administration on 20 December 1991. The majority of the subsidiary companies entered various forms of insolvency proceeding, most of which have been finalised. MCC remains in administration. The majority of private companies and pension related companies also entered various insolvency proceedings during December 1991.

In relation to MCC and some 300 of its subsidiaries, as at 31 May 2007 the administrator's legal and other professional fees amounted to some £59 million. In

addition, a further £33 million of fees were incurred in relation to litigation actions. Total realisations, including recovery actions, amount to more than £1,200 million.

Further fees were borne by various MCC subsidiary companies that are not included in the above. In addition, the figures do not include fees incurred in relation to the various private companies and pension scheme related companies, information which is not readily available to the Insolvency Service without incurring disproportionate cost.

Members: Correspondence

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he will reply to the hon. Member for Edinburgh West's letters of 10 October 2007 and 23 November 2007, with regard to Mr. Iain Hay of Edinburgh. [177822]

Mr. Thomas: I apologise for the delay in responding to the hon. Member. This was due to an administrative error. A reply will be issued shortly.

National Identity Register

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans his Department has to make use of data on the national identity register when they are established; and what the estimated annual cost to his Department of that use is. [174029]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform will be working with the Home Office prior to the introduction of the national identity scheme to establish how identity information held on the proposed national identity register might be used to provide easier access to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's services for our customers. It is too early in the process to establish the detailed costs and benefits.

Nuclear Power Stations

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) with reference to the answer of 8 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 779-80W, on nuclear power stations, whether the full costs of funding research into Generation IV reactor designs will be met by private investors should a new generation of nuclear reactors be built in the UK; and if he will make a statement; [179079]

(2) how much has been spent from the public purse on research into Generation IV reactor designs; and if he will make a statement. [179087]

Malcolm Wicks: In line with the reactor designs currently being assessed by the regulators through the Generic Design Assessment (GDA) process, any new nuclear reactors built over the next 10 to 15 years will be Generation III designs. These designs are already available commercially and any research necessary for their deployment in the UK will be a matter for industry.

Generation IV reactor designs are not expected to be built commercially until 2030 or beyond. Basic research into aspects of their development, for example on new materials that would be reliable at higher temperatures, is generally too far from potential exploitation in the market place to attract private sector funding. Basic research of this type is likely to continue to rely on public funding through the UK Research Councils and the European Union Euratom Framework programme, with the level of support dependent upon both the quality of the scientific proposals and the strategic priority given to that research area by the organisations concerned.

BERR does not fund research into Generation IV advanced reactors systems and the UK has now stood down as an active member of the Generation IV International Forum (GIF). The decision to stand down reflected the need to match financial and other resources with the Department's strategic priorities. While valuable in some respects, further involvement in the forum was not considered to be as relevant to the Department's mission as other competing priorities.

Since 2005 the UK Research Councils, which are funded from the science budget through the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, have provided some £1.63 million to support research relevant to Generation IV advance reactor systems.

UK research organisations also participate in European research collaborations relevant to Generation IV advance reactor systems that are funded by the European Commission. Details of collaborations from 2002-06 (including a small number on advanced reactor systems) can be found in "Euratom FP6 Research Projects and Training Activities Vols 1-3", which are available from the following website:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/energy/fi/fi_pubs/article_1186_en.htm

Nuclear Power Stations: Finance

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received from energy companies interested in building new nuclear power stations on guarantees for the funding of radioactive waste arisings and final decommissioning of any new plants constructed. [177841]

Malcolm Wicks: Government are clear that any energy company that operates a new nuclear power station must pay its full costs of decommissioning and its full share of waste management and disposal costs. The Energy Bill, introduced to Parliament on 10 January 2008, will impose new legal duties on operators in this regard and will create new powers for Ministers to ensure that operators meet those duties.

In the course of his official engagements, the Secretary of State regularly meets representatives from energy companies as well as other stakeholders. Representations by energy companies interested in building new nuclear power were received in response to the Government consultation on "The Future of Nuclear Power" which closed on 10 October 2007 and are available on the BERR website.

Political Levy

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1073W, on the political levy, what guidance has been produced or offered by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Certification Officer, on the (i) legality and (ii) appropriateness of the practice of trade unions

charging the same overall subscription fee for members who opt-out and re-diverting the political levy revenue into their general fund. [177694]

Mr. McFadden: The Department has produced guidance on contracting out of a political fund in a publication entitled 'Trade union political funds: a guide for trade unions, their members and others'. The Certification Officer has also produced guidance on contracting out of a political fund in a publication entitled 'Guidance for trade unions and employers' associations wishing to establish a political fund'. These guidance materials describe the statutory requirements relating to the manner of giving effect to exemptions.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1073W, on the political levy, according to records held by the Certification Officer, how many union members each union has who do not contribute to the general fund. [177695]

Mr. McFadden: The following table shows the number of members not contributing to the general fund of the trade unions concerned. As before, the figures are based on the latest returns made to the Certification Officer by the relevant trade unions.

Name	*Total number of union members declared on union's annual return to Certification Officer (a)*	*Total number of members contributing to the general fund declared on union's annual return to Certification Officer (b)*	*Number of members not contributing to the general fund (a) - (b)*
Amicus[1]	1,175,910	795,526	380,384
Aspect	3,969	3,969	0
Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen	17,944	17,944	0
Association of Revenue and Customs	2,594	2,594	0
Bakers Food and Allied Workers Union	25,057	24,564	493
Broadcasting Entertainment Cinematograph and Theatre Union	26,543	26,543	0
Communication Workers Union	238,817	238,817	0
Community	33,459	29,117	4,342
Connect, the Union for Professionals in Communications	19,473	19,473	0
Educational Institute of Scotland	59,978	58,829	1,149
Fire Brigades Union	45,839	45,839	0
GMB	575,892	575,892	0
Musicians Union	32,641	32,641	0
National Association of Colliery Deputies and Shotfirers	429	336	93
National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Woman Teachers	298,884	251,763	47,121
National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education	69,849	62,023	7,826
National Union of Mineworkers	9,910	7,418	2,492
National Union of Mineworkers North Western Cheshire and Cumbria Miners Association	17	17	0
National Union of Rail Maritime and Transport Workers	74,539	65,399	9,140
POA	35,772	35,772	0
Prospect	101,532	90,456	11,076
Transport and General Workers Union[1]	751,869	670,432	81,437
Transport Salaried Staffs' Association	30,570	30,570	0
Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians	128,914	124,217	4,697
Union of Democratic Mineworkers	2,268	2,268	0
Union of Shop Distributive and Allied Workers	341,291	341,291	0
Unison, the Public Services Union	1,343,000	1,343,000	0
Unity	7,239	7,239	0

[1] Final return for period up to 26 April 2007.

Post Offices

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what Crown post offices there are, broken down by Government Region; and in each case whether the premises are *(a)* owned outright, *(b)* jointly owned and *(c)* leased by the Government; and if he will make a statement; [179277]

(2) how many Crown post offices there were on 1 May 1997. [179282]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Regional European Offices: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much central Government funding the North West Brussels Office received in each of the last five years. [176599]

Mr. Timms: The North West Brussels Office does not receive funding directly from the central Government.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Whales

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, (1) what discussions he has had with representatives of other Governments on whaling since the IWC59 meeting; and if he will make a statement; [177573]

(2) whether he plans to discuss whaling and the international moratorium on whaling with other Governments before the IWC60 meeting; and if he will make a statement; [177574]

(3) what recent discussions he has had with his foreign counterparts on the subject of whale conservation; and if he will make a statement. [177575]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

The UK forms part of a core anti-whaling grouping within the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and supports the IWC's moratorium on commercial whaling. The UK remains strongly opposed to any attempt to lift or weaken the moratorium and, in the longer term, wishes to see it strengthened. We will be meeting with the core anti-whaling group in the run up to IWC60. Posts abroad will also lobby a wide range of Governments prior to the meeting to ensure support for the moratorium.

The UK has led efforts to recruit more conservation-minded countries to the IWC through our publication 'Protecting Whales—A Global Responsibility'. This publication has recently been updated and was re-released on 21 December 2007. In the coming weeks, posts will deliver the updated version to host Governments, and will continue to engage in discussion with their counterparts on whaling at every appropriate opportunity.

This year, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will write to 18 countries encouraging them to join the IWC for the greater protection of whales.

The UK Government have consistently voiced their opposition to Japanese "scientific" whaling. Most recently, on 8 January, I called in the deputy ambassador from the Japanese embassy in London to express the UK's outrage and urge Japan to end its slaughter of whales.

On 21 December 2007, the UK along with 29 other countries took part in a demarché to the Japanese Government calling on Japan to

"cease all its lethal scientific research on whales, and assure the immediate return of the vessels which are implementing JARPA II" (the Japanese 'scientific' Research Programme in the Antarctic).

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisors

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Leader of the House whether any of her special advisers have outside appointments. [178476]

Ms Harman: Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the "Model Contract" and "Code of Conduct for Special Advisers," copies of which are in the Library of the House.

My special advisers do not have any outside appointments.

Members: Pensions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Leader of the House what estimate she has made of the required rate of employer contribution to the pension scheme of hon. Members using the FRS 17 accounting standard to assess the costs of that scheme; and if she will make a statement. [178042]

Helen Goodman: None. The Resource Accounts and actuarial valuation use different measures of the cost to the Exchequer of providing benefits under the PCPF because they are used for different purposes and use different assumptions about investment returns.

The FRS 17 is an accounting standard used in reporting the liabilities and assets of the PCPF in the House of Commons Members Resource Accounts (HC 832). The Resource Accounts use the return on corporate bonds for the valuation of accrued liabilities and current service costs. The standard is a financial reporting standard and is not the appropriate tool for setting the level of employer contribution for the PCPF.

The assessment of the required rate of employer contribution for the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund is made by the Government Actuary's Department every three years using a standard methodology which includes an assessment of the expected rate of return of the Fund's assets. This approach is widely used in the private and public sectors. The last actuarial review in 2005 assessed the underlying rate of employer contribution at 18.1 per cent. of Members' salaries with a further 8.7 per cent. required to make good the current deficit. The next actuarial review was agreed by the Trustees at their last meeting and any revision to the current employer contribution rate will come into effect from 2009.

JUSTICE

Antisocial Behaviour: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* cautions and *(b)* fines have been issued for (i) vandalism, (ii) graffiti, (iii) litter and (iv) antisocial behaviour in each district and unitary council area in Hampshire in each of the last eight quarters for which records are available. [178199]

Maria Eagle: Information covering cautions and penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued for selected offences related to antisocial behaviour (including littering) in Hampshire police force area covering the years 2005 and 2006 are provided in tables 1 and 2. Antisocial behaviour is not a specific offence, but is

defined as a person acting in an antisocial manner that caused or is likely to cause harassment alarm or distress.

Data on cautions and PNDs for criminal damage are also provided in these tables. This offence class includes but cannot separately identify offences of *(a)* vandalism and *(b)* graffiti. Data broken down by each district and unitary council area in Hampshire are not held by my Department.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) collects data on the number of fixed penalty notices issued for graffiti and littering broken down by local authority area. These data are provided in table 3.

Table 1: Number antisocial behaviour offences for which a caution was issued in the Hampshire police force area, by quarter, 2005 and 2006[1,2]

		2005				2006			
Offence description	*Principal statute*	*Qtr1*	*Qtr2*	*Qtr3*	*Qtr4*	*Qtr1*	*Qtr2*	*Qtr3*	*Qtr4*
Causing wasteful employment of the police etc	Criminal Law Act 1967 Sec 5(2)	3	3	1	3	1	4	2	3
Improper use of public electronic communications network	Communications Act 2003 S.127	2	7	3	6	2	17	14	11
False alarms of fire	Fire Services Act 1947 Sec 31							1	
Harassment, alarm or distress	Public Order Act 1986 Sec 5	95	86	108	87	131	109	110	94
Throwing, casting or firing any fireworks in or into any highway, street, etc. public place	Explosives Act 1875, Sec 80					1			
Any person who in any public place is guilty, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour	Criminal Justice Act 1967 Sec 91	30	24	42	62	26	28	20	17
Holder of occasional permission or his agent knowingly selling to, knowingly allow consumption by or allowing any person to sell, intoxicating liquor to a person under 18. Selling etc. intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises	Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec 3) para 4(1) Licensing Act 1964 Sec 169(1)						1		
Person who buys or attempts to buy alcohol on behalf of an individual under 18	Licensing Act 2003 S149(3,4,7b)							1	
Contravening a community support officer's requirement not to consume liquor. Penalty offence under S.1. Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 – alcohol consumption in designated public places.	Police Reform Act 2002 Sch 4 Para 5 (Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 S.12). Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 S12							1	
Other criminal damage[3]	Various	26	10	67	58	55	45	43	49
Stealing from shops and stalls (shoplifting)	Theft Act 1968 Sec 1	451	469	431	458	343	343	318	335
Trespass, throwing stones	British Transport Commission act 1949 S.55,56. Railway Offences: Offences against Private Acts relating to Railways (other than 1969,1-6).	2						1	
Being found drunk in a highway or other Public place whether a building or not, or a licensed premises	Licensing Act 1872 Sec 12	6	5	2	2	4	5	2	1
Person who buys or attempts to buy alcohol on behalf of an individual under 18.	Licensing Act 2003 S149 (3,4,7b)							1	
Depositing litter	Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sec 87.					1			
Total		615	604	654	676	564	552	514	510

[1] Data provided on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Includes offences of vandalism and graffiti but is not exclusive to those offences.
Source:
Court proceedings database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Table 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued in Hampshire police force area, by offence and quarter, 2005 and 2006[1]

	2005				2006			
Offence description	*Qtr1*	*Qtr2*	*Qtr3*	*Qtr4*	*Qtr1*	*Qtr2*	*Qtr3*	*Qtr4*
Wasting police time	7	6	11	7	13	15	36	32
Misuse of public telecommunications system	2	3	—	9	12	17	22	29
Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2

Table 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued in Hampshire police force area, by offence and quarter, 2005 and 2006[1]

	2005				2006			
Offence description	*Qtr1*	*Qtr2*	*Qtr3*	*Qtr4*	*Qtr1*	*Qtr2*	*Qtr3*	*Qtr4*
Causing harassment, alarm or distress	456	465	397	472	552	718	831	796
Throwing fireworks	4	2	2	4	3	1	7	17
Drunk and disorderly	242	247	208	269	161	147	116	122
Selling alcohol to under 18 (now DA18)	4	8	10	45	23	32	31	23
Purchasing alcohol for under 18 (now DA19)	6	1	1	1	1	6	3	6
Purchasing alcohol for under 18 for cons on premises	1	2				1		
Delivery of alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery	3	3	1	1	1	1	2	
Criminal Damage (under £500)[2]	44	61	42	64	61	80	92	121
Theft (retail under £200)	97	126	97	109	106	117	178	255
Breach of fireworks curfew				2				
Possession of category 4 firework	1			2	1			
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework	1					1		
Sale of alcohol to drunken person				1		1		1
Supply of alcohol to person under 18					1	1		
Trespass on a railway							4	
Throwing stones at a train / railway				1				
Drunk in a highway	25	14	19	20	12	5	7	8
Consumption of alcohol in public place		1	1		3	8	18	12
Depositing and leaving litter	8	9	4	6	6	4	15	11
Consumption of alcohol by under 18 on licensed premises		1						1
Buying or Attempting to buy alcohol for person under 18					1			
Total	901	951	793	1,013	957	1,155	1,362	1,435

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[2] includes offences of vandalism and graffiti but is not exclusive to those offences.

Table 3: Number of fixed penalty notices issued for graffiti and litter in Hampshire

	Graffiti		*Litter*	
Authority	*April 2006 to March 2007*	*April 2005 to March 2006*	*April 2006 to March 2007*	*April 2005 to March 2006*
Basingstoke and Deane BC	0	0	1	3
E Hampshire DC	0	0	14	0
Eastleigh BC	0	0	0	0
Fareham	0	0	4	75
Gosport BC	0	0	4	0
Hart DC	0	0	0	0
Havant BC	1	0	12	0
Isle of Wight DC	0	0	0	0
New Forest DC	0	0	0	0
Portsmouth CC	0	0	21	28
Rushmoor BC	0	0	0	0
Southampton CC	1	0	276	285
Test Valley BC	0	0	123	10
Winchester CC	0	0	0	0

Source:
DEFRA

Chelmsford Prison: Suicide

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many suicides there have been in Chelmsford Prison since 4 May 2007; what steps are being taken to prevent suicides at Chelmsford Prison; and if he will make a statement; [179433]

(2) what assessment he has made of the trend in the number of suicides in Chelmsford Prison since 2006; and if he will make a statement. [179434]

Maria Eagle: There have been four apparent self-inflicted deaths at Chelmsford Prison since 4 May 2007[1].

Since 2004 the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman has been conducting investigations into all deaths in prison custody. All such deaths are also subject to a coroners inquest. The investigations into the deaths at HMP Chelmsford are on-going and it is too early to say what factors may have contributed to these particular deaths.

However, we do know that the prison population contains a high proportion of very vulnerable individuals, many of whom have experienced negative life events that we know increase the likelihood of them harming themselves. Issues that increase risk include drug/alcohol abuse, family background and relationship problems, social disadvantage or isolation, previous sexual or physical abuse, and mental health problems.

Every death in prison affects families, staff and other prisoners deeply. Ministers and the Prison Service are completely committed to reducing the number of such tragic incidents. The updated Prison Service suicide prevention strategy was published in October 2007 with implementation due to be completed in every prison, including Chelmsford, by end-April 2008. Building on several years of learning from the experience of prisoners, staff, investigators, inspectors and others, it incorporates developments such as improved cross-agency information flows, the provision of safer cells, increasing prisoner peer support, and the introduction of ACCT (assessment, care in custody and teamwork) the care-planning system for prisoners at risk of suicide or self-harm, introduced across the prisons estate in partnership with the Department of Health during 2005-07.

HMP Chelmsford itself has developed a strong relationship with Samaritans to provide support for prisoners. Over the last year there has been a great deal of work to improve suicide prevention related training for staff. This includes training in ACCT, use of cut down tools, and resuscitation techniques.

[1] to 14 January 2008.

Chorley Magistrates Court

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many court cases are due to be heard in the Chorley, South Ribble and Ormskirk magistrates courts; what steps he is taking to ensure that cases are heard expeditiously at those courts; and if he will make a statement. [177070]

Maria Eagle: The number of cases due to be heard in the south west Lancashire magistrates courts fluctuates day to day depending on the numbers of offences being prosecuted by the Crown. A general indicator of the volume of work proceeding through the courts at any one time is the number of trials due to be heard.

As at 21 December 2007, a total of 280 trials were listed to be heard at the three court sites in south west Lancashire. These trials were listed on trial dates up to and including April 2008. The 280 trials are made up of 108 trials to be heard at Chorley, 94 at Leyland, and 78 at Ormskirk.

Ensuring cases are progressed through the courts as quickly and efficiently as possible is a key objective for the staff in HMCS.

Courts: Interpreters

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was paid from the public purse to interpreters in the courts in the Greater London area in the most recent year for which figures are available. [178183]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is not collected for the Greater London area. This information could be provided at disproportionate cost only through the manual searching of individual court files.

Judges

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* deputy district judges there were in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [178112]

Maria Eagle: The number of district judges (DJ), including district judges (Magistrates' Courts) (DJ(MC)), and deputy district judges (DDJ), including deputy district judges (Magistrates' Courts) (DDJ(MC)), in post for the period 2004-08 is as follows:

Number

	District Judges	*Deputy District Judges*	*District Judges (Magistrates' Courts)*	*Deputy District Judges (Magistrates' Courts)*
2004 (1 April)	433	801	104	173
2005 (1 April)	430	826	128	167
2006 (1 April)	449	840	134	158
2007 (1 April)	450	780	139	169
2008 (1 January)[1]	439	825	141	155

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign nationals were given a custodial sentence followed by a recommendation for deportation in each of the last 10 years. [179144]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the numbers of foreign nationals who were given a custodial sentence followed by a recommendation for deportation is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Personal Records

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* budget and *(b)* official facilities provision he has made for the review of the sharing and protection of personal information being led by Professor Mark Walport. [178950]

Mr. Wills: The independent review of data sharing has a budget of £25,000 excluding staff costs. Neither Richard Thomas nor Doctor Mark Walport receive any remuneration for undertaking this review.

The Ministry of Justice has provided office space, IT and communication facilities, and staff resources to support the review.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many full-time officials from his Department are working on the review of the sharing and protection of personal information being led by Professor Mark Walport. [178951]

Mr. Wills: Four full-time officials from my Department, including one who has been appointed but has not yet started, have been seconded to the review team.

Prisoner Escapes

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many absconders there have been from HMP *(a)* Highdown and *(b)* Downview in each of the last 10 years. [178413]

Maria Eagle: The number of incidents of prisoners absconding from *(a)* Highdown, and *(b)* Downview in each of the last 10 years where data have been

published is shown in the following table. Those published data are also available for all prisons at the following link:

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/abouttheservice/prisonperformance/performancestatistics/

Number

	HMP Highdown	*HMP Downview*
1997-98	0	2
1998-99	0	0
1999-00	0	0
2000-01	0	0
2001-02	0	0
2002-03	0	0
2003-04	0	0
2004-05	0	0
2005-06	0	0
2006-07	0	0
Total	0	2

Prisoners

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the maximum capacity is of each secure accommodation site to hold prisoners serving a life sentence; and if he will make a statement. [179096]

Mr. Hanson: The operational capacity for each establishment holding life sentenced prisoners is set out in the following table.

Prison	*Operational capacity*[1]
Acklington	882
Albany	526
Altcourse	1,288
Ashwell	544
Aylesbury	444
Bedford	494
Belmarsh	909
Birmingham	1,450
Blakenhurst	1,070
Blantyre House	122
Blundeston	466
Bristol	606
Brixton	798
Buckley Hall	385
Bullingdon	963
Cardiff	754
Channings Wood	731
Chelmsford	695
Coldingley	392
Dartmoor	646
Doncaster	1,146
Dovegate	860
Drake Hall	315
Durham	981
Elmley	985
Erlestoke	410
Exeter	533
Featherstone	679
Feltham	762
Ford[2]	541
Foston Hall	290
Frankland	749
Full Sutton	612
Garth	812
Gartree	575
Grendon/Spring Hill	548
Haverigg	635
Highdown	925
Highpoint	816
Hollesley Bay[2]	330
Holloway	501
Holme House	994
Hull	1,040
Kingston	200
Kirkham[2]	590
Kirklevington Grange	223
Leeds	1,000
Lewes	558
Leyhill[2]	512
Lincoln	738
Lindholme	1,102
Littlehey	706
Liverpool	1,439
Long Lartin	464
Low Newton	328
Maidstone	482
Manchester	1,269
Moorland	791
Mount	764
New Hall	443
North Sea Camp[2]	306
Norwich	557
Nottingham	550
Parc	1,138
Parkhurst	496
Pentonville	1,152
Peterborough	1,008
Ranby	1,038
Risley	1,095
Rye Hill	600
Send	216
Shepton Mallet	189
Standford Hill[2]	464
Stocken	742
Styal	448
Sudbury[2]	571
Swaleside	773
Swinfen Hall	620
Usk/Prescoed[2]	428
Verne	595
Wakefield	751
Wandsworth	1,475
Wayland	717
Wealstun[2]	907
Wellingborough	646
Whatton	821
Whitemoor	458
Winchester	544
Wolds	380
Woodhill	807
Wormwood Scrubs	1,256
Wymott	1,062

[1] As at 11 January 2008.

[2] Denotes open prisons.

The table includes only those establishments holding 10 or more life sentenced prisoners.

Operational capacity for establishments is the total number of prisoners that an establishment can hold taking into account control, security and the proper operation of the planned regime.

The capacity provided is for all prisoners held at these establishments including non-life sentenced prisoners.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of the prison population were serving a life sentence in each year since 2000, in each secure accommodation site; and if he will make a statement. [179097]

Mr. Hanson: The numbers and proportions of life sentenced prisoners held in each prison establishment in England and Wales as at 30 June in each year from 2000-07 are in the following table.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Lifer population as at 30 June, by establishment and year

	June 2002		*June 2003*		*June 2004*	
	Number of lifers	*Percentage of total population*	*Number of lifers*	*Percentage of total population*	*Number of lifers*	*Percentage of total population*
Total lifer population	5,100	7	5,400	7	5,600	8
Acklington	35	5	30	4	25	3
Albany	110	25	110	22	110	22
Ashwell	60	12	60	11	50	9
Aylesbury	35	10	35	10	40	11
Belmarsh	35	4	40	4	55	6
Birmingham	10	1	10	1	15	1
Blantyre House	30	23	30	25	30	26
Blundeston	10	2	20	4	25	6
Bristol	60	10	55	10	70	12
Bullingdon	10	1	10	1	15	2
Cardiff	20	3	60	9	70	10
Channings Wood	50	8	55	9	50	7
Coldingly	40	11	35	10	40	11
Cookham Wood	15	9	10	8	15	11
Dartmoor	25	4	20	3	15	3
Doncaster	10	1	20	2	10	1
Dovegate	80	11	110	13	155	19
Durham	50	7	65	9	55	8
Elmley	10	1	20	2	15	2
Erlestoke	30	9	25	7	35	8
Featherstone	20	3	15	2	20	3
Ford	55	10	50	9	50	10
Foston Hall	15	7	30	13	30	13
Frankland	235	37	260	40	270	40
Full Sutton	260	44	250	42	270	45
Garth	65	10	70	11	85	13
Gartree	275	100	275	100	400	99
Grendon (Spring Hill)	115	25	125	23	135	26
Haverigg	15	2	10	2	15	3
Highpoint	45	5	35	5	35	5
Hollesley Bay (Warren Hill)	45	10	35	13	30	11
Holloway	10	2	10	2	10	2
Kingston (Portsmouth)	180	100	185	100	135	100
Kirkham	30	5	35	6	50	6
Leeds	15	1	20	2	20	1
Leyhill	145	33	130	25	130	25
Lindholme	50	7	50	7	50	7
Littlehey	65	10	70	10	60	9
Liverpool	50	3	100	7	105	7
Long Lartin	205	47	200	46	200	45
Maidstone	110	24	25	4	25	4
Manchester	75	6	135	10	115	9
Moorland	30	4	40	5	40	5
Mount	20	3	25	3	20	3
North Sea Camp	30	13	45	16	55	19
Norwich	15	2	15	2	10	2
Nottingham	15	3	20	4	20	3
Parkhurst	85	16	75	15	50	10

Lifer population as at 30 June, by establishment and year

	June 2002		June 2003		June 2004	
	Number of lifers	*Percentage of total population*	*Number of lifers*	*Percentage of total population*	*Number of lifers*	*Percentage of total population*
Pentonville	10	1	15	1	15	1
Preston	20	3	20	3	10	2
Ranby	25	3	25	3	15	2
Risley	10	1	30	3	45	4
Rye Hill	115	18	115	18	120	18
Shepton Mallet	120	67	180	99	185	100
Standford Hill	25	6	25	5	20	5
Stocken	65	11	55	9	45	8
Styal	20	5	20	5	20	4
Sudbury	75	14	85	16	85	15
Swaleside	290	37	340	44	335	44
Swinfen Hall	35	11	45	14	35	8
Usk (Prescoed)	20	6	25	7	40	9
Verne	70	12	45	8	35	6
Wakefield	385	68	370	66	395	73
Wandsworth	15	1	20	1	20	1
Wayland	45	7	40	6	35	5
Wealstun	25	4	25	4	20	3
Wellingborough	55	10	40	7	30	6
Whitemoor	185	44	200	49	210	51
Winchester	20	3	15	2	25	4
Woodhill	35	5	20	3	20	2
Wymott	50	6	40	5	40	4

	June 2005		June 2006		June 2007	
	Number of lifers	*Percentage of total population*	*Number of lifers*	*Percentage of total population*	*Number of lifers*	*Percentage of total population*
Total lifer population	5,900	8	6,300	8	6,800	9
Acklington	35	4	25	3	30	4
Albany	100	19	115	21	110	21
Ashwell	50	10	55	10	65	12
Aylesbury	50	12	50	12	50	11
Belmarsh	70	8	95	11	85	10
Birmingham	25	2	40	3	30	2
Blantyre House	35	29	35	28	30	26
Blundeston	30	7	40	9	40	9
Bristol	90	16	45	8	55	9
Bullingdon	15	2	15	1	25	3
Cardiff	95	12	95	13	90	12
Channings Wood	35	5	35	6	35	6
Coldingly	35	10	35	10	45	12
Cookham Wood	15	10	20	10	15	9
Dartmoor	25	4	20	3	20	3
Doncaster	10	1	20	2	15	1
Dovegate	210	27	225	28	215	26
Durham	10	1	10	1	25	3
Elmley	20	2	50	5	35	3
Erlestoke	30	7	30	7	40	9
Featherstone	20	3	20	3	30	5
Ford	50	9	45	11	30	6
Foston Hall	25	11	30	13	35	15
Frankland	325	46	340	49	380	52
Full Sutton	280	47	280	49	290	51
Garth	95	15	95	16	140	23
Gartree	435	100	445	96	475	85
Grendon (Spring Hill)	140	26	140	25	150	28
Haverigg	15	2	15	2	20	4
Highpoint	35	4	35	4	40	5
Hollesley Bay (Warren Hill)	25	8	15	7	20	7
Holloway	15	3	30	6	30	7
Kingston (Portsmouth)	190	100	190	100	200	100

	June 2005		June 2006		June 2007	
	Number of lifers	Percentage of total population	Number of lifers	Percentage of total population	Number of lifers	Percentage of total population
Kirkham	30	6	30	7	35	7
Leeds	35	3	30	3	45	5
Leyhill	110	21	110	33	105	25
Lindholme	60	7	75	9	70	7
Littlehey	60	8	55	8	70	10
Liverpool	90	6	80	6	40	3
Long Lartin	210	48	225	51	250	57
Maidstone	20	4	20	3	25	4
Manchester	100	8	110	9	90	7
Moorland	35	4	45	6	45	6
Mount	25	4	35	5	50	7
North Sea Camp	55	19	45	17	30	11
Norwich	35	4	35	4	40	7
Nottingham	20	4	30	6	25	5
Parkhurst	105	21	155	31	160	31
Pentonville	15	1	15	1	15	1
Preston	15	2	20	3	15	2
Ranby	20	2	25	2	30	3
Risley	45	4	45	4	60	6
Rye Hill	95	16	95	17	110	18
Shepton Mallet	180	100	180	100	185	100
Standford Hill	25	5	15	4	20	5
Stocken	50	8	60	9	70	12
Styal	20	5	15	4	20	5
Sudbury	85	15	80	14	65	12
Swaleside	355	47	380	49	380	50
Swinfen Hall	40	7	50	8	65	10
Usk (Prescoed)	50	12	45	11	40	9
Verne	50	9	40	7	60	10
Wakefield	380	70	440	62	440	60
Wandsworth	20	1	20	1	35	2
Wayland	30	4	35	5	50	7
Wealstun	15	2	20	3	15	2
Wellingborough	30	5	45	7	60	10
Whitemoor	235	54	250	59	285	61
Winchester	20	3	20	2	20	4
Woodhill	30	4	40	5	40	5
Wymott	40	4	40	4	55	5

Notes
1. Total lifer population includes all establishments however the breakdown only includes those establishments with 10 or more lifers in each year
2. Total population figures have been rounded to nearest 100; figures at establishment level are rounded to nearest 5.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of the prison population were serving an indeterminate sentence in each year since their introduction, in each secure accommodation site; and if he will make a statement. [179098]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the number and proportion of prisoners serving sentences of imprisonment for public protection in each prison establishment as at 30 June in 2006 and 2007. Although sentences of imprisonment for public protection were introduced in April 2005, figures are not given for 30 June 2005 as there were very few sentenced prisoners serving these sentences at this time.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

IPP population as at 30 June, by establishment and year

	June 2006		June 2007	
	Number of IPPs	Percentage of total population	Number of IPPs	Percentage of total population
Total IPP population	1,100	1	2,900	4
Altcourse	35	4	50	5
Aylesbury	45	3	90	20
Bedford	20	4	15	3
Belmarsh	20	2	45	5
Birmingham	45	3	75	5
Blakenhurst	35	3	50	5
Bristol	20	3	30	5
Brixton	20	2	45	6
Bullingdon	15	2	35	4
Cardiff	25	3	55	8
Castington	15	4	30	8
Chelmsford	15	3	30	4
Doncaster	40	3	50	4
Durham	35	4	70	7

IPP population as at 30 June, by establishment and year

	June 2006		June 2007	
	Number of IPPs	Percentage of total population	Number of IPPs	Percentage of total population
Elmley	20	2	15	1
Exeter	20	4	30	6
Feltham	15	1	30	5
Forest Bank	20	2	15	1
Gartree	20	4	90	16
Highdown	10	2	40	5
Holloway	10	2	10	2
Holme House	10	1	50	5
Hull	25	3	45	4
Lancaster Farms	25	5	20	4
Leeds	35	3	60	6
Leicester	10	2	10	3
Lincoln	15	4	10	2
Liverpool	35	3	80	6
Low Newton	10	3	15	7
Manchester	45	3	105	9
Norwich	20	2	35	6
Nottingham	30	6	40	7
Parc	25	3	45	4
Parkhurst	30	6	135	27
Pentonville	15	1	50	4
Peterborough	10	1	30	3
Preston	25	4	45	6
Swaleside	10	1	150	20
Swansea	20	4	25	6
Swinfen Hall	25	4	90	14
Wakefield	10	2	35	5
Wandsworth	15	1	75	5
Winchester	15	2	25	3
Woodhill	30	4	30	4
Wormwood Scrubs	15	1	90	2

Notes
1. Total IPP population includes all establishments, however, the breakdown only includes those establishments with 10 or more IPPs in each year.
2. Total population figures have been rounded to nearest 100, figures at establishment level are rounded to nearest 5.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of the prison population are being detained as a result of probation recall in (*a*) total and (*b*) each region; and if he will make a statement. [179100]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the number and proportion of recalled prisoners in prison establishments in England and Wales as at 30 November 2007:

	Recall population	As a percentage of the total prison population
North East	394	10
North West	944	7
Yorkshire and Humberside	539	8
Wales	117	8
West Midlands	513	8
East Midlands	699	8
Eastern	428	7
South West	492	8
South Central	329	5
London	333	6
Kent and Sussex	208	4
High Security	222	4
Contracted Prisons	540	6
Total	5,407	7

Notes
1. The total prison population includes the remand population (unfilled and convicted unsentenced), sentenced prison population (including fine defaulters) and non-criminal prisoners.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people who had been in prison for (*a*) more than 10 years, (*b*) between five and 10 years, (*c*) between two and five years and (*d*) between one and two years were released in each of the last 10 years. [179145]

Mr. Hanson: The following table gives the available information on the numbers of persons discharged, by original sentence length band, for adult (aged 21 and over) and young offender (aged 18 to 20) prisoners released between 1997 and 2006 from all prison establishments in England and Wales. These figures were taken from tables 3.13 and 4.11 in the annual prison statistics England and Wales for data relating to 1997 to 2002 and from table 10.1 and 10.2 in the annual Offender Management Caseload Statistics for data relating to 2003 to 2006. The published tables also indicate the average time served within these bands. Copies of these publications can be found in the House of Commons Library and at the websites:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/omcs.html

and

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Number of persons discharged from prisons[1], by length of determinate sentence, on completion of sentence or on licence 1997 to 2006: England and Wales

Number

Sentence length[2]	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Adult males and females										
All lengths of sentence less than indeterminate	58,000	65,300	71,300	68,430	65,805	69,899	69,611	71,600	70,500	65,900
Up to and including 3 months	17,650	20,050	21,800	18,700	18,247	18,224	17,255	18,100	17,800	16,300
Over 3 months up to and including 6 months	15,850	17,250	19,150	18,110	17,769	19,239	19,532	19,900	18,900	17,900
Over 6 months less than 12 months	5,100	5,700	5,950	6,150	5,696	6,075	5,917	6,200	6,100	6,200

Number of persons discharged from prison[1], by length of determinate sentence, on completion of sentence or on licence 1997 to 2006: England and Wales

Number

Sentence length	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
12 months	3,350	3,550	3,600	3,190	2,984	3,144	2,954	3,000	3,000	2,800
Over 12 months up to and including 18 months	4,500	5,000	4,950	5,220	4,704	5,127	5,062	4,800	4,900	4,600
Over 18 months up to and including 3 years	7,450	8,250	9,050	9,150	8,530	9,582	9,895	9,400	9,500	8,900
Over 3 years less than 4 years	650	1,050	1,450	1,940	1,907	2,298	2,708	2,700	2,900	2,700
4 years	1,000	1,350	1,550	1,600	1,375	1,477	1,547	1,600	1,700	1,400
Over 4 years up to and including 5 years	950	1,300	1,600	1,830	1,859	1,938	1,948	2,300	2,400	2,200
Over 5 years up to and including 10 years	1,350	1,600	1,950	2,300	2,435	2,518	2,471	2,600	2,800	2,700
Over 10 years less than indeterminate	180	250	250	240	299	277	322	400	400	300
Young offenders males and females										
All lengths of sentence less than indeterminate	15,450	18,130	20,130	18,112	15,642	16,914	15,459	14,700	14,500	12,500
Up to and including 3 months	3,510	4,980	5,930	4,196	3,513	3,103	2,796	2,700	2,800	2,800
Over 3 months up to and including 6 months	4,220	5,100	5,730	5,935	5,256	5,645	5,051	5,100	5,000	4,700
Over 6 months less than 12 months	2,060	2,030	2,070	2,120	1,849	2,324	1,929	1,900	1,900	1,900
12 months	1,140	1,280	1,230	1,121	1,138	1,400	1,268	1,200	1,200	700
Over 12 months up to and including 18 months	1,700	1,780	1,830	1,623	1,367	1,716	1,590	1,400	1,300	700
Over 18 months less than life	2,790	2,950	3,340	3,117	2,519	2,726	2,825	2,400	2,400	1,500

[1] Excludes discharges following recall after release on licence, non-criminals, persons committed to custody for non-payment of a fine and persons reclassified as adult prisoners.

Note

Additions may not add to totals because they have been rounded separately.

TREASURY

Academies

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will make a statement on the progress of the review of academy schools by the Number 10 Delivery Unit; [178552]

(2) what the names are of all those who have worked for the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit in the last 12 months; [179064]

(3) whether a copy of the review of academy schools by the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit will be made publicly available; [179065]

(4) when the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit review of academy schools will report; [179066]

(5) how many people are working on the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit review of academy schools; [179067]

(6) what the timescale is for the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit review of academy schools. [179068]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Minister of State for Children, Schools and Families gave to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 624W and also to the remarks made on the Floor of the House by the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 561-62. PMDU reviews are confidential advice to Ministers; we do not disclose the recommendations or publish the report.

The review of the academies programme is being jointly led by a number of officials in the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit in partnership with Treasury and DCSF officials in the Academies and Capitals Group of the Department. The serving Director of the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit is Richard Page-Jones and Ray Shostak is the Head of the Unit.

Carbon Markets Expert Group

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 809W, on Carbon Markets Expert Group, when invitations will be issued to prospective members of the group; and by what date answers will be requested; [178409]

(2) what experience will be required of members of the Carbon Markets Expert Group. [178410]

Angela Eagle: Invitations were issued to 16 prospective members of the group on 19 December 2007, and answers were requested by 5 January 2008. Members have been selected in order to bring experience of a wide range of issues related to carbon markets and emissions trading, including investment banking, trading, brokerage, project credit development, and related professional services. The members are from the following firms:

Barclays Capital;

Cameo Global;

Cantor CO2e;

CEAG (Consilience Energy Advisory Group);

Citigroup;

Climate Change Capital;

Ecosecurities;

European Climate Exchange;

JP Morgan;

KPMG;
Lehman Brothers;
Merrill Lynch;
Morgan Stanley;
Natsource;
TFS;
UBS.

Delivery Services

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what outsourced couriers and postal service providers HM Revenue and Customs has used since 2005-06; and how much was paid to such providers in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08. [171491]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 6 December 2007]*: For the year April 2006 to March 2007, HMRC handled approximately 300 million pieces of outgoing post.

HM Revenue and Customs postal and courier services are supplied by Royal Mail; TNT UK Ltd.; G4S; Lynx International Ltd. and the DX Group Ltd.

The amounts paid to these providers since 2005-06 to date is as follows:

	£
2005-06	86,000,000
2006-07	86,000,000
April 2007 to November 2007	54,000,000

Note
Amounts rounded to the nearest million.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of total mail deliveries made on behalf of his Department and its agencies were carried out by mail carriers employed by HM Revenue and Customs in the last 12 months. [169890]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 3 December 2007]*: 68.5 per cent. of official mail deliveries from the Treasury building at 1 Horse Guards road in 2007 were carried out by mail carriers also employed by HM Revenue and Customs.

Departmental Christmas

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs will hold a (i) Christmas pantomime or similar production and (ii) Christmas party in 2007. [175188]

Angela Eagle: Neither the Treasury nor HMRC held a Christmas party or Christmas pantomime in 2007.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times the police have investigated security breaches in agencies of his Department in the last five years. [178937]

Angela Eagle: There has been only one police investigation of an information security breach in the past five years.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many discrete physical searches there have been in his Department for missing data discs in the last 12 months. [179078]

Jane Kennedy: Information on the total number of discrete physical searches that have been conducted for missing data discs is not available centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the number of discs containing data protected by the Data Protection Act 1998 that were sent to the National Audit Office in the last 12 months. [179082]

Jane Kennedy: This information is not available and could be collated only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisors

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any of his Department's special advisers have outside appointments. [178487]

Angela Eagle: Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the Model Contract and Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

Departmental Public Bodies

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for which regulators and inspectorates his Department has had responsibility in each year since 1997; what the budget was of each such body in each year; and what the cost to the public purse was of any restructuring of each such body in each year. [175301]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury has not had responsibility for any publicly funded regulators or inspectorates in any year since 1997.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what weight of paper his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [179452]

Angela Eagle: The weight of paper in metric tonnes recycled from the Treasury building in 1 Horse Guards road in each of the last five years was:

	Tonnes
2003	116.3829
2004	179.1666
2005	156.4906
2006	138.2113
2007	171.4356

Dismissal

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs staff in *(a)* total, *(b)* England, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* Wales, *(e)* Northern Ireland and *(f)* each region of England were dismissed because of (i) their attendance record and (ii)

their attendance record on grounds of sickness in each year since 2005. [179308]

Jane Kennedy: The total numbers of HM Revenue and Customs staff dismissed since 1 April 2005 are shown in the following table. Records of the reasons for dismissal are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Region/country	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 to date
East	19	14	21
East Midlands	22	16	15
London	33	25	22
North East	86	59	34
North West	89	70	55
South East	44	34	16
South West	20	13	18
West Midlands	25	20	18
Yorkshire and Humberside	54	23	12
England	392	274	211
Northern Ireland	8	9	9
Scotland	73	68	42
Wales	22	18	17
Total	495	369	279

Excise Duties: Fuels

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider derogating from EU regulations, as negotiated by the French Government, to enable a reduction in fuel duty in rural areas by three per cent. until 2011, with particular reference to the Scottish islands. [174202]

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to implementing a scheme whereby those living in rural and remote areas with extremely high dependence upon cars are allowed preferential rates of fuel duty. [176744]

Angela Eagle: Fuel duty helps the Government meet their objectives of reducing polluting emissions and funding public services. A derogation to alter fuel duty rates in this way would have to be carefully considered in the light of the above objectives as well as administrative and fraud considerations and the Government have no current plans to seek one.

Interest Rates

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* net and *(b)* gross (i) household and (ii) national savings rate was (A) quarterly and (B) annually in each year for which data is available. [171918]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 January 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question on what (a) the net and (b) the gross rate of (i) household and (ii) national savings was quarterly and annually in each year for which data is available. (171918)

Data for this are shown in the table below. In the UK National Accounts, following international guidelines, the household sector is combined with the non-profit institutions serving households sector (NPISH), and it is not possible to separate the two. Examples of institutions included within the NPISH sector are: charities; trade unions, universities, churches and political parties.

An estimate of a UK national saving ratio is not published but has been derived using UK gross saving and UK gross national income as the denominator.

Quarterly estimates of net saving are not published so only annual estimates are shown back to 1987. Net saving is calculated as gross saving less the consumption of fixed capital.

Data on gross saving, consumption of fixed capital, net saving, and gross and net saving ratios for the households and NPISH sector are shown in Table 1 below annually back to 1987. The household saving ratio is available back to 1948 annually and 1955 quarterly.

Data on gross saving, consumption of fixed capital, net saving, and gross and net saving ratios for the UK are shown in Table 2 below annually back to 1987, data before this time is not available.

Table 1: Gross and net savings for the household and NPISH sector

	£ million			Percentage	
	Gross saving (NSSH)	Consumption of fixed capital (QWLL)	Net saving	Gross saving ratio (RVGL)	Net saving ratio
1987	17673	12545	5128	6.4	1.9
1988	15071	14760	311	4.9	0.1
1989	22980	15390	7590	6.7	2.2
1990	30393	16935	13458	8.0	3.6
1991	42262	17750	24512	10.3	6.0
1992	51376	17117	34259	11.7	7.8
1993	49820	18066	31754	10.7	6.8
1994	44836	19025	25811	9.3	5.4
1995	51790	20087	31703	10.2	6.2
1996	51183	21756	29427	9.4	5.4
1997	54390	23704	30686	9.5	5.3
1998	41844	25053	16791	7.0	2.8
1999	33136	27976	5160	5.3	0.8
2000	33584	30517	3067	5.1	0.5
2001	45137	32909	12228	6.4	1.7
2002	36301	36043	258	5.0	0.0
2003	37421	36903	518	4.9	0.1
2004	29307	42366	-13059	3.7	-1.7
2005	46745	42623	4122	5.6	0.5
2006	43840	42877	953	5.0	0.1

Table 2: Gross and net savings for the UK

	£ million			Percentage	
	Gross saving (NQET)	Consumption of fixed capital (NQAE)	Net saving (NQET)	Gross saving ratio	Net saving ratio
1987	73904	55248	18656	17.7	4.5
1988	82481	60488	21993	17.6	4.7
1989	89833	65741	24092	17.5	4.7
1990	92819	72787	20032	16.8	3.6
1991	92152	78145	14007	15.8	2.4
1992	89139	79331	9808	14.6	1.6
1993	92538	81312	11226	14.4	1.8
1994	108806	83649	25157	15.9	3.7

1995	117281	86160	31121	16.3	4.3
1996	125240	90145	35095	16.3	4.6
1997	142061	91935	50126	17.4	6.1
1998	158257	95051	63206	18.1	7.2
1999	146294	101055	45239	16.1	5.0
2000	147613	106372	41241	15.4	4.3
2001	156483	110434	46049	15.5	4.6
2002	167161	116007	51154	15.5	4.8
2003	175725	119239	56486	15.4	5.0
2004	187751	128427	59324	15.5	4.9
2005	186347	131093	55254	14.8	4.4
2006	191385	133936	57449	14.5	4.4

Note:
Quarterly data are only published for series listed as follows and can be downloaded from the ONS website http://www.statistics.gov.uk/
Household and NPISH Gross Saving (NSSH)
Household and NPISH Gross Saving Ratio (RVGL)
UK Gross Saving (NQET)
Source:
UK National Accounts, the Blue Book 2007
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1143

Marginal Tax Rates

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 617W, on marginal tax rates, what estimate he has made of the number of households which will experience marginal deduction rates of between *(a)* 60 and 61 per cent. and *(b)* 62 and 63 per cent. under the 2008-09 tax and benefits system. [178343]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates of the number of families facing marginal deduction rates above 60, 70, 80 and 90 per cent. under the 2008-09 tax and benefits system were published in the 2007 pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review, table 5.2.

These estimates are not sufficiently reliable to be broken down into narrower ranges for marginal deduction rates.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when a reply will be sent to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire's letter of 9 November 2007 on capital gains tax and the loss of indexation allowance (PO reference: 1/52674/2007, HMT reference: 1154N 07/08). [178998]

Jane Kennedy: I have written to the hon. Member and regret not having done so earlier.

Young People

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff aged between 16 and 18 were employed by his Department *(a)* directly and *(b)* through an employment agency in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of these were given time off work to undertake some form of training; and what proportion were provided with some form of training (i) wholly and (ii) partially funded by his Department. [171283]

Angela Eagle: The number of staff aged between 16 and 18 recruited to the Department in each of the following years is:

	Number
1998	3
1999	2
2000	3
2001	1
2002	1
2003	1
2004	2
2005	1
2006	2
2007	2

Provision for training is arranged locally by individual line managers, and central records are not kept on the amount of time or funding allocated to individuals.

The Department does not hold any personal data of those working via an employment agency.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Admissions

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of accident and emergency department admissions at *(a)* Barnet and Chase Farm hospital, *(b)* Royal Free hospital and *(c)* Northwick Park hospital were seen, treated and discharged or admitted within target times set in the most recent period for which figures are available; what the equivalent figures were in 1997; what the (i) average and (ii) longest waiting time for treatment was in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [177995]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available centrally in the format requested.

Data is collected on the proportion of attendances at accident and emergency (A and E) departments that are seen and admitted, transferred or discharged within four hours of arrival. It is not possible to establish the proportion of patients who are admitted to hospital via A and E departments that were also seen, diagnosed and treated within four hours of arrival.

Information is also not available at the level of individual hospitals. For 2006-07 and quarters 1 and 2 of 2007-08 the percentage of patients who were seen and admitted, transferred or discharged within four hours of their arrival at the relevant national health service trusts is shown in the following table. Data available on performance against the operational standard do not go back to 1997.

			Percentage
	2006-07	*2007-08 Q1*	*2007-08 Q2*
Barnet and Chase Farm hospitals NHS trust	97.5	99.1	99.2
North West London hospitals NHS trust	97.1	97.5	97.8
Royal Free Hampstead NHS trust	98.4	98.5	98.6

Note:
The Department collects A and E data at trust rather than hospital level. The table shows data for the relevant trusts. The Northwick Park hospital information is provided by North West London hospitals NHS trust.
Source:
Department of Health dataset QMAE

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many attendances there were at *(a)* Barnet Hospital accident and emergency department, *(b)* Royal Free Hospital accident and emergency department and *(c)* Edgware Hospital walk-in centre in (i) each of the last three years and (ii) 2007-08 to date; and if he will make a statement. [178083]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available centrally in the format requested, as data on accident and emergency (A and E) attendances are not collected at the level of individual hospitals and services.

The following table shows the number of attendances at A and E departments for the relevant trusts for the requested years.

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	139,165	149,082	150,859	74,418
Barnet PCT	77,124	88,787	95,263	46,563
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	75,949	78,411	77,228	38,635

Note:
The 2007-08 data include quarter 1 and quarter 2 only.
Source:
Department of Health dataset QMAE

The Department collects A and E data at trust rather than hospital level, and the table shows data for the relevant trusts. The Edgware Hospital walk-in centre is provided by Barnet PCT.

Ambulance Services: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps are being taken to improve emergency ambulance services in Barnet; [177898]

(2) what the *(a)* target response time and *(b)* average response time in the (i) last 12 months and (ii) in 2008 and *(c)* longest response time in the (A) last 12 months and (B) 2007-08 for an NHS ambulance service call was in Barnet; and if he will make a statement. [177903]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is for strategic health authorities (SHAs), as the local headquarters of the national health service, and primary care trusts, as commissioners, to ensure that national response time standards are delivered and maintained by ambulance trusts, and we understand that my hon. Friend has raised this directly with Barnet primary care trust.

The Department implemented a £25 million capital incentive scheme during 2006-07. A similar scheme operated in 2004-05. Both schemes rewarded trusts who demonstrated improved levels of performance including response times.

NHS ambulance trusts are required to meet the following response times:

Category A (presenting conditions which may be immediately life threatening) calls should be responded to within eight minutes irrespective of location, in 75 per cent. of cases. All NHS ambulance trusts should respond to 95 per cent. of category A calls, with a vehicle capable of transporting the patient, within 19 minutes of the request for transport being made.

Category B (presenting conditions which though serious are not immediately life threatening) calls should be responded to within 19 minutes in 95 per cent. of cases.

Since 1 October 2004 local NHS organisations have had responsibility for managing and monitoring the ways in which local services respond to category C (presenting conditions which are not immediately serious or life threatening) calls.

The data that the Department collect on ambulance response times is published on an annual basis in the statistical bulletin, "Ambulance Services, England". The latest statistical bulletin, "Ambulance Services, England, 2006-07" was published in June 2007.

These documents are available in the Library and on the information centre for health and social care website:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs

Ambulance Services: Expenditure

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of running the Ambulance Control Centre was in *(a)* Shropshire and *(b)* Warwickshire in (i) 2004 and (ii) 2006. [165841]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not held centrally at the level of detail requested.

However, NHS West Midlands strategic health authority has advised that locally held comparative management information for 2006-07 indicates that the Warwick (Leamington Spa) ambulance control centre was more efficient than the Shropshire (Shrewsbury) centre in terms of both cost per member of staff and cost per call dealt with. Management information of this nature is not audited by the Department and is designed for local analysis and decision making.

Barnet and Chase Farm Hospital

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the review of services at Barnet and Chase Farm hospital; and if he will make a statement. [177996]

Mr. Bradshaw: The provision of services at Barnet and Chase Farm hospitals national health service trust is a matter for the local NHS.

However, we have been informed that following formal public consultation, the boards of Barnet, Haringey and Enfield primary care trusts decided on 12 December 2007 to proceed with option 1 as proposed in the Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Clinical Strategy. This proposes that Chase Farm hospital becomes an elective surgery centre, with emergency care moving to Barnet and North Middlesex hospitals.

Breast Cancer: Screening

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what progress is being made on the breast screening service in Barnet; what estimate he has made of how long it will take to clear outstanding cases; and if he will make a statement; [177900]

(2) what progress has been made on breast cancer screening for Hendon residents. [178179]

Mr. Bradshaw: London strategic health authority (SHA) has advised that the North London Breast Screening Service, which provides services to Barnet and Hendon residents, was suspended for safety reasons in December 2006. The service resumed in May 2007, and was reintroduced gradually. As of October 2007, there were no outstanding cases and the service is running to full capacity.

Cancer: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of cancer patients in Barnet were *(a)* seen and *(b)* treated within the target time of (i) one month from diagnosis to treatment and (ii) two months for urgent GP referral to treatment; what the performance of (A) Barnet Chase Farm and (B) Royal Free hospitals was in each category; and if he will make a statement. [177902]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested for quarter 2 of 2007-08 is as follows:

One month (31-day) diagnosis to treatment standard (quarter 2 2007-08):

Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust: 100 per cent.

Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust: 100 per cent.

Two month (62-day) urgent general practitioner referral to treatment standard (quarter 2 2007-08):

Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust: 98.2 per cent.

Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust: 96.9 per cent.

Chiropody: Stoke-on-Trent

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the availability of NHS chiropody services for pensioners in Stoke-on-Trent; and if he will make a statement. [178081]

Dawn Primarolo: It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, outlined in the national service frameworks, and to commission services accordingly. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community, including the provision of chiropody.

Chlamydia: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were screened by each local Chlamydia screening programme in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07. [179339]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is shown in the following tables. The programme was rolled out to primary care trusts (PCTs) in a phased way. The introduction of the programme in all PCTs is currently being completed. At the end of September 2007, we had 65 programme areas reporting data to the Health Protection Agency.

Number of men and women screened for Chlamydia within each programme area, 2005-06

Programme area	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
Birmingham	532	4,582	5,114
Brent and Harrow	548	1,882	2,430
Brighton	1,049	4,603	5,652
Camden and Islington	145	3,070	3,215
Cornwall	1,988	4,167	6,155
Coventry	153	1,102	1,255
Durham and Teeside	1,656	2,794	4,450

Number of men and women screened for Chlamydia within each programme area, 2005-06

Programme area	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
East Cheshire	426	2,958	3,384
East Kent	638	2,621	3,259
East Yorkshire	145	200	345
Enfield and Haringey	123	1,366	1,489
Hull	556	2,405	2,961
Lambeth and Southwark	781	6,158	6,939
Leeds	1,275	3,287	4,562
Lewisham	817	3,471	4,288
Liverpool	1,455	9,541	10,996
Luton and Bedfordshire	302	1,314	1,616
Milton Keynes	18	114	132
Norfolk and Waveney	428	2,057	2,485
Nottingham City	629	5,775	6,404
Portsmouth	286	4,757	5,043
South East Essex	133	1,886	2,019
Sheffield	541	3,292	3,833
Berkshire East	1,013	1,330	2,343
Stoke (North Staffordshire)	605	2,573	3,178
West Cheshire	130	1,452	1,582
Winchester now Hampshire	1,380	2,435	3,815
Wirral	406	3,612	4,018
York	292	1,752	2,044

Note:
Total includes records where sex is unknown/not specified. Consequently, males and females may not add up to total.
Source:
The National Chlamydia Screening Programme. Data as of 17 December 2007.

Number of men and women screened for Chlamydia within each programme area, 2006-07

Programme area	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
Ashfield	13	15	28
Birmingham	780	5,956	6,736
Bournemouth and Poole	234	459	694
Bradford and Craven	181	867	1,048
Brent and Harrow	500	1,753	2,253
Brighton	1,001	4,735	5,736
Buckinghamshire			14
Cambridge and Peterborough	440	991	1,431
Camden and Islington	246	3,158	3,404
Central Lancashire	176	1,202	1,378
Cornwall	2,787	5,289	8,076
Coventry	345	1,563	1,908
Dorset	362	232	594
Durham and Teeside	3,797	3,335	7,132

Number of men and women screened for Chlamydia within each programme area, 2006-07

Programme area	Males	Females	Total
East Cheshire	536	3,386	3,934
East Kent	583	2,617	3,200
East Lancashire	105	377	482
East Yorkshire	283	474	757
Enfield and Haringey	363	1,511	1,874
Greater Manchester	1,336	6,530	7,925
Hastings	108	424	532
Hounslow	58	176	234
Hull	633	3,035	3,668
Lambeth and Southwark	1,506	7,847	9,353
Leeds	1,472	4,037	5,509
Leicester	44	167	213
Lewisham	1,157	5,341	6,498
Liverpool	1,646	9,809	11,509
Luton and Bedfordshire	453	1,556	2,011
Milton Keynes	532	2,261	2,793
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	446	759	1,205
Norfolk and Waveney	552	1,987	2,539
Northern Lincolnshire	42	90	132
Nottingham City	822	5,953	6,775
Portsmouth	560	4,237	4,797
Plymouth	[1]	[1]	[1]
South East Essex	266	2,137	2,403
Sheffield	802	4,234	5,036
Berkshire East	1,201	1,444	2,645
South Staffordshire	43	306	349
Southampton	103	289	392
Stoke (North Staffordshire)	647	3,589	4,236
Suffolk	160	1,033	1,193
West Cheshire	137	1,640	1,777
West Kent	307	1,472	1,780
West Sussex	17	26	44
Western Wakefield	46	290	336
Winchester - now Hampshire	2,283	3,508	5,791
Wirral	726	4,516	5,256
York	1,064	2,508	3,572

Number of men and women screened for Chlamydia within each programme area, 2006-07

Programme area	Males	Females	Total

[1] Cell size of one to four have been masked to protect deductive disclosure in accordance with Office for National Statistics guidelines.

Note:

1. Total includes records where sex is unknown/not specified. Consequently, males and females may not add up to total.
2. The data from the NCSP are screens outside of genito-urinary medicine.
3. The data available from the NCSP are the number of screens and not the number of people screened.
4. The data only include those aged 13-24.

Source:

The National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP). Data as of 17 December 2007.

Contraception: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS community contraception clinics there are in *(a)* Hampshire, *(b)* Southampton and *(c)* Southern Test Valley. [177417]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not held in the format requested.

Primary care trusts are responsible for commissioning services to meet the needs of the communities they serve. This includes the provision of community contraception clinics.

Contraception: Young People

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information is provided for *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls aged between 13 and 15 on the services provided by NHS community contraception clinics. [177422]

Dawn Primarolo: The recommended standards for sexual health services advise that primary care trusts (PCTs) should ensure information about local sexual health service provision is readily available to enable people to access appropriate services. It also states that PCTs should target specific population groups who are less well serviced by, or find it more difficult to access existing provision. Specific service provision will be based on local need but should include services for young people.

In addition, sex and relationships education guidance from the Department for Children, Schools and Families recommends that young people should be given information on where they can access local contraceptive advice services. In order to achieve "healthy school" status arrangements must be in place to refer students to specialist services that can provide advice on contraception including community contraceptive services.

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 996W, on departmental expenditure, what written guidance documents were provided by the finance directorate; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the note entitled "Financial Planning and CSR2007". [178010]

Mr. Bradshaw: As was the case in previous Administrations it is not Government practice to put internal guidance documents in the public domain.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to paragraph 6.2 of his Department's resource accounts for 2006-07, on which local authority schemes there was slippage; and for each such scheme what costs arose from such slippage. [178271]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not collected centrally. It is for strategic health authorities working with national health service organisations in their economy, to agree and monitor detailed plans for both revenue and capital investment with local authorities.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to paragraph 6.4 of his Department's resource accounts for 2006-07, for what reasons his Department underspent its non-cash budget by £490 million. [178274]

Mr. Bradshaw: The £490 million non-cash underspend relates to non-cash resources held in the departmental unallocated provision. This was set aside to cover unplanned non-cash expenditure but was not needed during 2006-07.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to paragraph 4.34 of the NHS in England's Operating Framework for 2008-09, if he will break down the £5,859 million from central budgets to be devolved to strategic health authorities. [178306]

Mr. Bradshaw: The allocation of the 2008-09 strategic health authorities (SHAs) bundle of central budgets to be devolved to SHAs for their local management is currently being finalised, taking account of views from SHA representatives, but will provisionally include funding to support the following areas:

PMEDs: Personal Administration Costs for Non Dispensing Doctors
Securing Recombinant Clotting Factors
Childhood Vaccination
Training and Co-ordination for End of Life Care
Cancer Network Support
Genetics White Paper services
Revenue Support
Executive Leadership Development
High Security Infectious Disease Units
National Artificial Eye Service
London Ambulance Service
National Intensive Care Bed Register
Choose and Book Appointments Line
Hospital Chaplaincy
Olympics support
Student Bursaries/Multi-professional education and training (MPET)/MPET levy
Getting Ahead of the Curve Public Health Laboratory Service
High Cost Area Adjustment
Heart Improvement
National Screening Programmes Pilots and Quality Management.
Diabetes
Rare Conditions—Burns
Cancer Related Training including Endoscopy
Training and Co-ordination for End of Life Care
Cancer Peer Review
National Cancer Programme - central support
National Cancer Screening Management
Primary Care Trust Commissioning Development and Fitness for Purpose Programme
Mental Health Choice and Inclusion
Care Services Improvement Partnership
Community Equipment
Mental Capacity Act
New General Medical Services Contract fees for Dispensing Doctors
Local Pharmaceutical Services
Clinical Excellence Awards
Community and Prison Drug Treatment
Prison healthcare payments to Home Office
Dangerous People with Severe Personality Disorders
Independent Sector Treatment Centres
NHS Direct—non contestable core services

Departmental Regulation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for which regulators and inspectorates his Department has had responsibility in each year since 1997; what the budget was of each such body in each year; and what the cost to the public purse was of any restructuring of each such body in each year. [175307]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the Department's Public Bodies, including their remit and budget, is published annually by the Cabinet Office in the Public Bodies Directory. This is available at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/other/agencies/public_bodies/index.asp

The directory for each year from 1998 to 2006 is currently available and the 2007 directory will be available shortly.

The information on the cost of restructurings is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Developing Patient Partnerships

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to fund Developing Patient Partnerships beyond April 2008; and if he will make a statement. [174855]

Mr. Bradshaw: A further grant to Developing Patient Partnerships was agreed on the condition that it worked towards self-sufficiency by increasing its subscriber base. There are therefore no plans to provide any further support for Developing Patient Partnerships beyond its current Section 64 grant arrangements that end in March 2008.

Edgware Hospital: Admissions

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being considered to provide more beds at Edgware hospital. [178061]

Mr. Bradshaw: The provision of beds at Edgware hospital is a matter for the local national health service.

However, we understand that there are no plans to close any beds at Edgware hospital.

Edgware Hospital: Ophthalmology

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in allowing opticians to refer patients direct for ophthalmology services at Edgware Hospital. [178117]

Mr. Bradshaw: The provision of ophthalmology services is a matter for the local national health service.

We understand that a project looking at direct referral from opticians to ophthalmology is under way in the Barnet Primary Care Trust (PCT) area. The project is looking at how and when Barnet PCT can implement direct referral.

Edgware Hospital: Rehabilitation

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to develop rehabilitation services at Edgware hospital. [178062]

Mr. Bradshaw: The development of rehabilitation services at Edgware hospital is a matter for the local national health service.

Edgware Hospital: Standards

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to improve management of out-patient and follow-up appointments at Edgware hospital. [178060]

Mr. Bradshaw: The management of appointments at Edgware hospital is a matter for the local national health service.

However, we understand that Healthcare Commission wrote to Barnet and Chase Farm hospitals NHS trust regarding problems with the installation of its patient administration system. We have been assured that the problems have now been resolved.

Eyesight: Testing

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pensioners in Hendon aged over 60 years had free eye tests in the last year for which figures are available. [177501]

Mr. Bradshaw: The latest year for which data broken down by patient eligibility type are available is 2005-06. During the year ending 31 March 2006, there were 68,633 sight tests paid for by the national health service in Barnet primary care trust (PCT), of which 24,121 were for persons aged 60 or over.

During the year ending 31 March 2007, there were a total of 70,226 sight tests paid for by the NHS in Barnet PCT. Reliable information broken down by patient eligibility type is not currently available. Information is not available at constituency level.

Family Practitioner Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure that the proposed 100 new general practitioner practices in the 25 per cent. of primary care trusts with the poorest primary care provision have a remit to prevent as well as treat disease. [178270]

Mr. Bradshaw: It will be for primary care trusts to determine the precise nature of their service specifications to meet local need. However, the Department has asked that they reflect a strong focus on preventing ill health by reaching out to those communities who need it most and may not readily seek care.

Family Practitioner Services: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest number of patients registered with a GP in Barnet was (i) in 1997 and (ii) at the most recent date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [177904]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows patients registered with a practice, rather than a specific general practitioner (GP) within a practice in Barnet in 1997 and 2006.

Selected statistics for selected area as at 1997 and 2006

Number (headcount)

	Barnet health authority, 1997	*Barnet primary care trust, 2006*
Total practices	83	77
GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)[1]	195	218
Registered Patients	363,544	372,760
Average GP list size	1,864	1,710
Average practice list size[2]	4,380	4,841
Largest practice list size[2]	13,292	15,189

[1] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes GP providers and GP others data as at 1 October 1997, 30 September 2006.

[2] GP census collects the number of patients who are registered to a practice rather than a specific GP, therefore it is not possible to ascertain individual GP list sizes.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.

Family Practitioner Services: Working Hours

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of GP practices offer extended opening hours, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* primary care trust area. [178302]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally. However, the latest figures from the Department's quarterly access to primary care survey show that 9 per cent. of patients say they are able to make appointments at their general practitioner practice outside 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday.

Finchley Memorial Hospital

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made with the plans to modernise Finchley Memorial Hospital; and if he will make a statement. [178164]

Mr. Bradshaw: The future of services provided at Finchley Memorial Hospital is a matter for the local national health service.

However, we have been informed that NHS London approved the strategic outline case for the redevelopment of Finchley Memorial Hospital, including the re-siting of the Marie Foster Centre, in summer 2007.

Food: Environmental Health

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will require local authorities to publish on the web a list of all restaurants and establishments serving food to the public with *(a)* the date when last inspected by environmental health officers, *(b)* their hygiene scores and *(c)* details of any successful prosecutions for breaches of food safety legislation; and if he will make a statement. [177894]

Dawn Primarolo: It is not currently a legal requirement for local authorities to display a food business's hygiene inspection information on a website, although over a hundred choose to do so voluntarily. The Food Standards Agency is carrying out an evaluation of these schemes and will consider making a recommendation about a national approach to publishing this information. The recommendation will be based on research the Agency has commissioned on the type of information consumers find useful when making choices about where they purchase food. The Agency will also consider how it can support and encourage all local authorities in publishing this data.

Food: Labelling

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking with food manufacturers to improve food labelling. [178228]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has actively engaged with food manufacturers on a number of food labelling issues such as voluntary front of pack nutrition labelling and the European Commission Review of Food and Nutrition Labelling legislation. The FSA's recommended traffic light colour-coded approach to nutrition labelling has been adopted by eight retailers, whose combined sales make up more than 40 per cent. of the retail market, as well as 16 manufacturers and four service providers.

The Agency is also working with all stakeholders to improve food labelling information through the revision of existing voluntary guidance on clear labelling, country of origin labelling and marketing terms.

Gastrointestinal System: Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultations his Department has had with gastroenterologists on the new referral pathways under the choose and book system for patients with gastroenterological disease. [178046]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are no new referral pathways under the choose and book system for patients with gastroenterological disease. Referral pathways are not the role or purpose of the choose and book system.

The national choose and book team have however worked closely with senior gastroenterologists and members of specialist gastroenterology organisations to define clinic types and key words that will enable referrers to find these types of services effectively using the choose and book system.

General Practitioners: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what GP practices in Barnet offer specialist services; what these services are; and if he will make a statement. [177

Mr. Bradshaw: The provision of specialist services by general practitioners (GP) is a matter for the local national health service.

However, we have been informed that since the introduction of the new GP contract, Barnet primary care trust has introduced and completed a training programme which has led to the creation of specialist practitioners covering diabetes, dermatology, coronary heart disease and medicines for older people.

General Practitioners: Income

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest annual income was among GPs in Barnet in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [177896]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information for both average and highest annual earning general practitioners in Barnet in 1997 and 2006-07 is not collected centrally.

Health Education: Alcoholic Drinks

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Government plan to spend in each of the next three years on improving the public's knowledge of what constitutes a unit of alcohol. [179412]

Dawn Primarolo: Public knowledge of what constitutes a unit of alcohol forms a part of all Department of Health and Home Office Social Marketing Campaigns dealing with the risks associated with drinking above recommended Government limits.

In the financial year 2007-08 the Home Office will spend £3.5 million and the Department £1.3 million on campaigns to raise public awareness about binge drinking.

For the financial year 2008-09 the Department plans to spend £6 million on a new national campaign to raise public awareness about the risks of binge and harmful drinking. The major component of this campaign will seek to improve public knowledge about units and how to assess how much you drink. The level of Home Office contribution to this campaign has not been confirmed.

The current campaign targeting 18 to 24-year-old binge drinkers will continue. We expect the overall national campaign to run over a number of years, however, for the financial year 2009-10, funding decisions have not yet been made.

Health Services: Armed Forces

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 107W, on health services: armed forces, whether specific financial provision is made for each primary care trust to provide care to injured service personnel once they have left the military. [178540]

Mr. Bradshaw: The national health service is responsible for the health care of service personnel on leaving the armed forces. Funding for ex-service personnel is on the same basis as funding for other members of the population.

Health Services: Foreigners

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what circumstances foreign national patients are expected to pay for *(a)* emergency treatment, *(b)* routine hospital treatment, *(c)* GP services and *(d)* primary care; and if he will make a statement. [179057]

Dawn Primarolo: Free national health service treatment is based on ordinary residence in the United Kingdom. Foreign nationals may have to pay for NHS treatment if they are not ordinarily resident in the UK.

For primary medical services, acceptance onto an NHS list is at the discretion of general practitioner (GP) practices. If a practice refuses an application to provide free primary medical services to a foreign national on the basis that the individual cannot be regarded as ordinarily resident in the UK, they can offer to treat the person as a private patient. The amount charged is a matter for the practice.

For hospital treatment, anyone who is not ordinarily resident in the UK is considered an overseas visitor and is subject to the "NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989", as amended. They will be charged for any hospital treatment unless an exemption from charge category within these regulations applies to them.

No charge may be made to anyone, regardless of residency, for treatment provided by a GP that he or she considers to be immediately necessary, or for treatment provided solely in an Accident and Emergency (A and E) department of a hospital. Emergency treatment provided in a hospital other than in an A and E department will not be free unless the individual is entitled to free treatment in his or her own right.

Health Services: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of levels of health inequality in each council area in Hampshire over the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [178202]

Dawn Primarolo: Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for commissioning services to meet the needs of the communities that they serve. PCTs use information on health inequalities as part of their assessment of the health needs of local populations, which in turn inform their operating frameworks.

The South Central Strategic Health Authority has assured the Department that PCT frameworks for 2008-09 and beyond, are currently being produced alongside and in conjunction with the local area agreements produced by local authorities.

One of the main criteria that is checked when these plans are assessed by the strategic health authority is that they address health inequalities adequately.

Health Services: Hendon

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to improve community health services for Hendon residents; and if he will make a statement. [178065]

Mr. Bradshaw: The provision of community services is a matter for the local national health service.

However, we understand that Barnet primary care trust is looking at ways to improve community services as part of the Barnet, Enfield and Haringey clinical strategy.

Health Services: Publicity

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much is being spent in the End Waiting, Change Lives campaign on *(a)* button badges, *(b)* lapel badges, *(c)* stickers, *(d)* campaign packs and *(e)* patient leaflets; and what volume of each item is being produced. [170192]

Mr. Bradshaw: The total cost of the button badge, lapel badge and stickers is £8,165. 20,000 button badges, 30,000 lapel badges and 70,000 stickers have been produced.

The total cost of the campaign packs is £71,292 which includes copywriting, design, and print costs. In total 23,350 campaign packs have been produced.

The total cost of the patient leaflet is £35,493. This includes copywriting, design, print, translation and production of alternate formats. 1 million copies were produced.

Health Services: Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria are used to determine that it is not in the best interests of an individual patient for the 18-week referral-to-treatment target to apply to them. [178308]

Mr. Bradshaw: There will always be some patients for whom starting treatment within 18-weeks of referral would not be clinically appropriate.

Decisions on whether it is clinically appropriate to start treatment within 18 weeks of referral rests with clinicians in consultation with patients.

Health: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in Barnet were diagnosed with *(a)* type 2 diabetes, *(b)* obesity problems as (i)

adults and (ii) children, *(c)* alcohol dependency and *(d)* drug dependency in (1) 2006-07 and (2) 1997; and if he will make a statement. [178177]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested. Data on the number of people in Barnet with type 2 diabetes, alcohol dependency and drug dependency are not available centrally.

The following table provides estimated prevalence of obesity among adults aged 16 and over, along with associated confidence intervals for Barnet local authority (LA). These estimates are taken from model-based estimates of healthy lifestyle behaviours, and are only for the combined years 2003-05. Model-based estimates by LA are not available for children.

Model-based estimates of obesity prevalence in Barnet local authority, 2003-05

	Percentage
Estimated prevalence of obesity	16.8
95 per cent. lower confidence interval	15.2
95 per cent. upper confidence interval	18.6
Comparison of estimated prevalence for obesity with national estimate[1,2]	1

[1] The national estimate is derived directly from the Health Surveys for England 2003-05 (with associated confidence intervals) and therefore is not a model-based estimate.
[2] It should be noted that the scores for comparing the synthetic estimate to the national estimate relate to the data as follows:
1=CI significantly below NE
2=overlapping,
3=CI significantly above NE.
The national estimate is derived directly from the health surveys for England 2003-05 (with associated confidence intervals) and therefore is not a model-based estimate.
Sources:
1. Model-based Estimates of Healthy Lifestyle Behaviours, 2003-05
2. Neighbourhood Statistics, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Hospitals: Cleaning Services

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many representations his Department received from *(a)* strategic health authorities, *(b)* primary care trusts, *(c)* hospital trusts and *(d)* members of the public on lack of (i) clean towels and (ii) clean bedding in hospitals in each year since 1997. [177975]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department receives around 100,000 letters and e-mails a year from hon. Members and members of the public. In the three-year period to 31 December 2007, a total of around 3,000 of these concerned the wider need to ensure that patients in hospital are treated in a clean and safe environment. It is not possible to identify how many of the inquiries were specifically concerned with the availability of clean towels and bedding.

Local health service managers are responsible for the provision of adequate supplies of clean linen, including towels and bedding, and it is recognised that patients' care is supported by their effective use.

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he will publish an impact assessment for the proposals contained in Arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances, and related services, to primary care revised proposals; [177314]

(2) when he will publish a summary of responses to the consultation Arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances, and related services, to primary care; and if he will make a statement; [177315]

(3) what response he has made to the results of the consultations on the arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances, and related services, to primary care; and if he will make a statement. [177875]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department intends to publish an impact assessment following detailed evaluation of the responses to the consultation entitled 'Arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances—and related services—to Primary Care Revised Proposals' and following further discussion with interested parties. The impact assessment will be published on the Department's website, giving all parties the opportunity to comment on it.

The consultation is part of an ongoing process that began in October 2005 and two earlier partial regulatory impact assessments were prepared. The first was published in October 2005 with the initial consultation. This included dressings and reagents, as well as stoma and incontinence appliances, as we were also reviewing arrangements for them at that stage. The new arrangements for dressings and chemical reagents were implemented in October 2006. The second was published in November 2006. Copies of both of these have been placed in the Library.

The latest consultation closed on 28 December 2008 and responses are being evaluated. A summary of these responses—and an indication of next steps—will be published no later than 28 March 2008.

Influenza: Vaccination

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many influenza vaccinations were administered in Leicester in each of the last five years. [178039]

Dawn Primarolo: The data on influenza vaccination uptake are collected by the primary care trust (PCT). Data have been provided for the last five years for those aged 65 years and over. Data for those aged 65 years in clinical risk groups have only been collected since 2005-06 and are also provided. This information is shown in the following table.

Vaccination uptake (percentage) among the 65 years and over for Leicester for each year between 2002 to 2006 (cumulative data)

		65 years and over		
		Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland Health Authority		
Survey year	*Strategic health authority (SHA)/primary care trust (PCT) Name*	*Total persons aged 65 and over from returning practices*	*Total persons vaccinated*	*Total percentage uptake*
2002-03[1]	Eastern Leicester PCT	22,457	14,024	62.4
	Leicester City West PCT	19,784	12,162	61.5
	South Leicester PCT	25,933	18,480	71.3
	Charnwood and North West Leicestershire PCT	29,293	19,852	67.8
	Eastern Leicester PCT	21,206	15,456	72.9
	Leicester City West PCT	18,168	12,876	70.9
2003-04	South Leicester PCT	26,456	18,752	70.9
	Charnwood and North West Leicestershire PCT	36,302	25,420	70.0
	Eastern Leicester PCT	22,694	15,793	69.6
	Leicester City West PCT	19,658	12,071	61.4
2004-05	South Leicester PCT	26,796	19,708	73.5
	Charnwood and North West Leicestershire PCT	36,129	25,504	70.6
	Eastern Leicester PCT	22,708	16,132	71.0
	Leicester City West PCT	19,598	12,940	66.0
2005-06	South Leicester PCT	27,259	21,102	77.4
	Charnwood and North West Leicestershire PCT	37,203	27,686	74.4
2006-07[2]	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland PCT	104,929	77,861	74.2
	Leicester City PCT	41,445	28,425	68.6

		Under 65 years and at risk[3]		
Survey year	*SHA/PCT Name*	*Total persons aged under 65 at risk from returning practices*	*Total persons vaccinated*	*Total percentage uptake*
2005-06	Leicester City West PCT South	11,201	4,583	40.9
	Eastern Leicester PCT	14,392	8,426	58.5
	Charnwood and North West Leicestershire PCT	14,521	6,954	47.9
	Leicestershire PCT	5,828	2,683	46.0
2006-07[2]	Leicestershire City PCT	30,912	13,972	45.2
	Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	52,703	22,881	43.4

[1] For seasons 2002 to 2005 Leicester fell under Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland health authority. Data here are provided at PCT level

[2] For season 2006-07 the geography changed again and data is shown by both Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland authority and Leicester City PCT

[3] Data for individuals aged under 65 years and in a risk group has only been collated since the 2005-06 season and therefore unavailable for previous years

Notes:

1. Uptake figures include only those general practitioner practices who have returned confirmation to the survey and reflect data for individuals vaccinated at these premises.
2. The change in geography reflected in uptake returns by PCT mapped to the designated area.

Source:

Health Protection Informatics web based reporting site (HPI)
Influenza Immunisation Uptake Monitoring Programme Health Protection Agency/Department of Health

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Hendon residents received influenza vaccinations for the 2007-08 winter. [178180]

Dawn Primarolo: The data on influenza vaccination uptake are collected by the primary care trust (PCT). Provisional influenza vaccination uptake data up to the end of November 2007 are available for Barnet PCT which includes the constituency of Hendon. They show that 34,693 people aged 65 years and over, and 9,504 people aged under 65 years in clinical risk groups, have received influenza vaccine by the end of November 2007.

National Blood Service

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will hold a meeting with hon. and rt. hon. Members with a National Blood Service centre in their constituency to discuss the McKinsey report into the National Blood Service as soon as it is presented to Ministers. [178066]

Mr. Bradshaw: The National Blood Service (NBS) is an operating division of NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT). The chairman and chief executive of NHSBT have indicated that they would be willing to meet with stakeholders, including any hon. Members to explain any changes as a result of the work carried out by McKinsey once they have been agreed.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made in relation to the review of the National Blood Service, with particular reference to the Colindale Centre. [179091]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Blood Service (NBS) is an operating Division of NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT). The senior management team and the Board of the NHSBT are currently considering the results of a review of the NBS strategy.

Details of the proposals for NBS, including plans for the centre in Colindale, will be published shortly. As part of this process, NHSBT will write to all hon. Members.

Negligence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many clinical negligence cases were open on the NHS Litigation Authority database at the most recent date for which information is available; and how many of those cases are being funded by *(a)* legal aid, *(b)* conditional fee agreements, *(c)* before the event insurance, *(d)* private means and *(e)* other means. [178411]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 14 January 2008]*: The information requested is shown in the following table. The NHS Litigation Authority supplied the data.

Number of clinical negligence cases open on the NHS Litigation Authority database and their funding arrangements where known as at 31 December 2007:

	Number of reported incidents[1] open at 31 December 2007	*Number of actual claims open at 31 December 2007*	*Total number of open cases at 31 December 2007*
BTE Insurance	17	598	615
Conditional Fee Arrangement	88	2,703	2,791
Legal Services Commission	355	4,492	4,847
Self Funded	30	647	677
Unknown	779	2,203	2,982
Total	1,269	10,643	11,912

[1] Reported incidents are incidents that have been reported but which have not yet been made into an actual claim

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many clinical negligence cases were brought in the last year for which information is available; and how many of those cases were funded by *(a)* legal aid, *(b)* conditional fee agreements, *(c)* before the event insurance, *(d)* private means and *(e)* other means. [178412]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 14 January 2008]*: The information requested is in the following table. The NHS Litigation Authority supplied the data.

Number of clinical negligence cases received by the NHS Litigation Authority in 2006-07 and their funding arrangements where known as at 31 December 2007

Funded by	*Number of clinical negligence cases received in 2006-07*
BTE Insurance	310
Conditional Fee Arrangement	1,456
Legal Services Commission	1,251
Self Funded	591
Unknown	1,812
Total	5,420

NHS Equipment: Private Sector

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department gives to NHS hospital trusts on the use of NHS equipment for private patients; and whether there are restrictions on NHS hospital trusts using specialist equipment purchased by the NHS for treating private patients. [170296]

Mr. Bradshaw: Legislation allows a national health service trust to offer private health care so long as this does not to any significant extent interfere with the performance of its functions or obligations under NHS contracts.

A NHS foundation trust may offer private health care, provided that it complies with any restrictions in its authorisation and that the provision of NHS services remains its principal purpose. Legislation limits the total proportion of income a NHS foundation trust may derive from private charges to its 2002-03 level.

This has been reiterated in guidance. Most recently, the 'Code of Conduct for Private Practice - Guidance for NHS Medical Staff', published in 2003, said that

"Provision of services for private patients should not prejudice the interests of NHS patients".

NHS Foundation Trusts: Mergers

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has produced on mergers between an NHS foundation trust and a non-foundation NHS trust; what his policy is on the treatment of non-foundation NHS trust historic deficits when merging with a NHS foundation trust; and if he will make a statement. [178245]

Mr. Bradshaw: Monitor (the statutory name of which is the independent regulator of national health service foundation trusts) has issued guidance which address mergers and also acquisitions involving NHS foundation trusts (NHSFTs). These are available on Monitor's website at:

www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk.

Where an NHS trust and NHSFT come together the normal practice has been to deal with these by acquisition rather than merger. The assets and liabilities of the NHS trust transfer intact at their balance sheet value. These values will reflect the impact of historic surpluses or deficits.

The Department is currently working with Monitor and others on the development of guidance on NHS corporate transactions. This guidance is described in further detail on page 54 of the 2008-09 Operating Framework for the NHS in England.

NHS: Computerisation of Personal Records

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made towards computerisation of NHS records of Barnet residents. [178073]

Mr. Bradshaw: Computerisation of national health service patient records in both primary and secondary care has been a reality across the NHS for many years.

Barnet and Chase Farm hospital NHS Trust went live with the Cerner Millennium patient administration system, provided through the national programme, in 2007.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the financial position of *(a)* Barnet Primary Care Trust, *(b)* Barnet Chase Farm NHS Trust and *(c)* Royal Free NHS Trust (i) was at the end of 2006-07 and (ii) is expected to be at the end of (1) 2007-08 and (2) 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [177905]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows the final accounts for 2006-07 and the quarter 2 2007-08 forecast outturn position for Barnet primary care trust (PCT), Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust and Royal Free Hampstead NHS trust. Information on the financial plans for 2008-09 is not collected centrally.

£000

Organisation name	2006-07 final accounts surplus/(deficit)	2007-08 quarter 2 forecast outturn surplus/(deficit)
Barnet PCT	46	0
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	(11,398)	2,594
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	18,005	10,088

Notes:
1. Information in the table provided is already in the public domain and in the Library.
2. An initial high level financial plan for 2008-09 will be collected by the Department on the 31 January. This will be followed by a full collection on the 1 March, and it is planned that these will be signed off by the 31 March.
3. In 2006-07, the system of cash brokerage and planned support that had previously operated across the NHS, was replaced for NHS trusts by a formal system of interest-bearing loans. This is consistent with moving trusts to a foundation trust regime where they need to borrow for working capital needs.

Sources:
Audited summarisation schedules 2006-07.
Department of Health financial returns 2007-08.

NHS: Questionnaires

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of posting the Ipsos MORI NHS questionnaire and reply envelopes by first class post; and what estimate was made of the cost of sending the questionnaires and replies by second class post. [179411]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is not possible to provide a detailed breakdown of postal or other individual costs involved in the general practitioner patient survey as these relate to the commercial contract with Ipsos MORI. However we can assure that the postal survey was achieved at a substantially discounted rate. First class post has been used as independent expert evidence on postal surveys has shown this to be more effective in administering successful surveys including increased response rates and reducing the need for reminders (and therefore costs).

Nurses: Pay

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average salary of a *(a)* newly qualified nurse, *(b)* qualified nurse and *(c)* nurse consultant in Barnet was in (i) 1997 and (iii) 2007; and if he will make a statement. [177986]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested.

It is not possible to distinguish between a newly qualified nurse and a qualified nurse in order to calculate an average salary. Data for nurse and nurse consultant pay are not collected by primary care trust area.

However, the starting pay for a newly qualified nurse in England in 1997-98 was £12,385. In 2007-08 it was £19,454 in April rising to £19,683 in November.

Nurse consultants did not exist in 1997.

There are two pay bands for nurse consultants which depend on the demands of the job.

In 2007 the nurse consultants' pay bands ranged from £36,712—£90,607.

Nutrition: Sustainable Development

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are taken by the Food Standards Agency to ensure that advice offered to the public on nutrition is compatible with the principles of sustainable development. [178356]

Dawn Primarolo: The Agency seeks to take sustainable development into account in its activities and policy decisions, including nutritional advice to the public. This commitment is supported by training and written guidance for staff on applying the principles of sustainable development.

Osteoporosis

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 14 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 447W, on osteoporosis, what steps his Department has taken to ensure that strategic health authorities spend the capital provision for dual x-ray absorptiometer scanning provision for that purpose. [179554]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The capital provision of £17 million to improve national health service capacity in dual X-ray absorptiometer (DXA) scanning provision in the diagnosis of osteoporosis has been included in strategic health authorities' (SHAs) strategic capital allocation and is not ring fenced. While the Department does not monitor how SHA strategic capital is spent, it has been clear in its expectations that this funding is spent exclusively on DXA provision. In May 2006, the National Director for Older People, Professor Ian Philp, wrote to SHAs to highlight the importance of DXA scanning in delivering the relevant elements of the National Service Framework for Older People.

Osteoporosis: Drugs

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in the appraisal of drugs for osteoporosis; and if he will make a statement. [179104]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) received four appeals against its two Final Appraisal Determinations (FADs) on treatments for the primary and secondary prevention of osteoporotic fragility fractures in postmenopausal women.

The appeals were heard by NICE's Appeal Panel on 22 October 2007. The Appeal Panel upheld the appeals and referred both FADs back to the Appraisal Committee to reconsider its guidance. NICE expects to publish final guidance later in 2008.

Further detailed information, including the Appeal Panel's decision, is available on NICE's website at:

www.nice.org.uk/search/guidancesearchresults.jsp?keywords=Osteoporosis&searchType=guidance

Patient Choice Schemes

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether all patients must be offered access to a consultant within 13 weeks of referral under the choose and book system; whether it is possible to book appointments more than 13 weeks ahead under the choose and book system; and if he will make a statement. [175583]

Mr. Bradshaw: For the past two years, the national health service has had in place an operational standard for a maximum 13-week wait from general practitioner (GP) referral to first out-patient appointment with a consultant. All patients can expect this minimum standard of access regardless of how the referral is made.

The choose and book system can facilitate the booking of appointments more than three weeks ahead. It is the responsibility of providers to ensure that they publish sufficient appointment slots on the system to enable GPs and patients to directly book into these slots.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was raised from NHS prescription charges in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the most recent year for which figures are available. [178238]

Dawn Primarolo: Revenue raised from national health service prescription charges collected by pharmacists, appliance contractors and from prescription prepayment certificate fees, in England, are accounted for by financial year. The data requested is shown in the following table:

	Prescription charge revenue (£ millions)
1996-97	295.7
1997-98	326.9
2006-07	411.7

Notes:
1. Prescription charge income prior to 2001-02 drawn from cash data in appropriation accounts. 2001-02 and subsequent years' data drawn from resource data in summarised accounts.
2. The 2006-07 figure excludes prescription charges collected by dispensing doctors, which are not collected centrally, but remains with primary care trusts.

Pressure Sores

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when information on the number of pressure ulcer incidents which have occurred in the last five years will be available; and if he will make a statement. [178414]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The number of pressure ulcer incidents in private and public care homes, broken down by local authority, is not collected centrally.

Primary Care Trusts: Tribunals

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether funding was made available by the Government to primary care trusts to cover the cost of reimbursing nursing care charges arising from appeals tribunals. [172707]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Primary care trusts have paid out over £180 million as a consequence of retrospective reviews of continuing healthcare, funding was made available by the Department to cover this.

Radiotherapy

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many radiotherapy linear accelerators for cancer treatment are in use in each acute hospital trust in the eastern region; and if he will make a statement. [178579]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As at the 30 November 2007, there were 31 linear accelerators for cancer treatment installed in six trusts in the East of England Strategic Health Authority region. The following table identifies the individual trusts where the machines are installed.

Name of trust	*Number of linear accelerators installed*
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	7
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Foundation Trust	9
Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust	3
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	4

Name of trust	Number of linear accelerators installed
Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Trust	4
Southend University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	4
Total for the region	31

Source
Health Protection Agency November 2007

The Department does not routinely keep data on whether the machines are in clinical use or used for research purposes or as a backup machine for routine maintenance.

Recycling

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recycling schemes are in operation in each building operated by his Department. [176376]

Mr. Bradshaw: For each building for which the Department is responsible, its recycling activity forms part of its general cleaning and waste management contract.

Retirement

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to ensure that people retiring early to live in another EEA country are able to obtain an E106 form. [177031]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for South-West Devon (Mr. Streeter) on 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1026W.

Ritalin: Children

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many methylphenidate prescriptions were issued to children under the age of 18 years in the last year. [179420]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 838W.

Royal Free Hospital

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the Royal Free hospital's bid to become a Foundation Trust. [177993]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Royal Free Hampstead NHS trust has received the support of the Secretary of State to make an application to Monitor (the statutory name of which is the independent regulator of national health service foundation trusts) to be considered for authorisation as a NHS foundation trust. Subject to meeting Monitor's criteria for assessment, the trust will be authorised on 1 March 2008.

Royal Free Hospital: Paediatrics

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the outcome of the reorganisation of children's services at the Royal Free Hospital. [178166]

Mr. Bradshaw: The provision of children's services at the Royal Free Hospital is a matter for the local national health service.

However, we have been informed that the Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust is conducting patient surveys to see how children and families view the new service.

Royal Free Hospital: Patient Choice Schemes

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the choose and book system at *(a)* the Royal Free and *(b)* Barnet and Chase Farm hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [177998]

Mr. Bradshaw: Royal Free Hampstead hospital NHS trust is currently live with the choose and book (CAB) system, and offers patients direct booking. Barnet and Chase Farm hospitals NHS trust is also live with the CAB system, and currently offers indirect booking, with direct booking scheduled to commence in spring 2008.

Utilisation of CAB for both providers is shown in the following table.

	Percentage December 2006	Percentage December 2007
Royal Free	17	39
Barnet and Chase Farm	17	24

Smoking: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people who stopped smoking in Barnet in each of the last three years. [177981]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows the estimate of the number of people to stop smoking in Barnet in the last three financial years.

	Number that successfully quit smoking at the four-week follow up
2004-05	837
2005-06	1,673
2006-07	2,941

Sources
Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England, April 2004 to March 2005
Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England, April 2005 to March 2006
Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England, April 2006 to March 2007

The numbers are based on those who self-report as having successfully quit smoking at a four-week follow up. This indicates someone that has not smoked at all in the two weeks after their initial quit date.

Smoking: Public Places

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the impact of the prohibition of smoking in public places on health since its introduction; and if he will make a statement. [179669]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 18 December 2007: *Official Report*, column 1365W to my hon. Friend the Member for Livingston (Mr. Devine).

Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has conducted on the likely effect changing the BCG vaccination programme to a selective scheme will have on rates of tuberculosis infection in children. [177978]

Dawn Primarolo: The change in BCG vaccination policy was taken following advice from the independent Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). JCVI has considered the scientific and medical evidence, and a statement of its position on BCG vaccination is available at:

www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/jcvi/bcg-jcvi-statement_updateAug2007.pdf

Written Questions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to answer written questions *(a)* 172430, tabled on 4 December 2007, *(b)* 169534, tabled on 26 November 2007 and *(c)* 169605, tabled on 26 November 2007; what the reason for the delay is in each case; and if he will make a statement. [177737]

Dawn Primarolo: Answers were given on 9 January. We endeavour to answer all parliamentary questions as soon as possible and are taking a number of steps to improve our performance.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Sustainable Development

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) whether his Department is on course to meet the commitments in the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate targets *(a)* to source at least 10 per cent. of its electricity from renewables by 31 March 2008 and *(b)* to increase recycling to 40 per cent. of its waste by 2010; [175568]

(2) whether his Department met the target in the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate to reverse the then upward trend in carbon dioxide emissions by April 2007; [175569]

(3) whether his Department is working towards an accredited certified environmental management system (such as ISO 14001 or EMAS) *(a)* for its whole estate and *(b)* in some of its buildings. [175570]

Phil Hope: The Cabinet Office is on track to exceed the commitment in the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) targets to source at least 10 per cent. of its electricity from renewables by 31 March 2008. The Department is also on target to meet the commitment to recycle 40 per cent. of its waste by 2010.

The Cabinet Office has implemented an environmental management system (EMS) accredited to ISO 14001 environmental standards. The EMS covers the whole of the Department's core central London estate including Downing street.

Due, primarily, to a large increase in the size of the Department since the baseline year, the Cabinet Office did not meet the target to reverse the current upward trend in carbon emissions by April 2007.

The Cabinet Office is committed to meeting the SOGE: climate change and energy targets. As part of this, the Cabinet Office has signed up to the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management programme to improve our energy management practices, identify likely areas for potential energy savings, reduce energy consumption, associated carbon emissions and costs.

Public Participation: Incentives

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1344W, on public participation: incentives, what payment was made to each participant excluding the cost of accommodation and travel. [174879]

Edward Miliband: Each participant received £75 in addition to the cost of accommodation and travel.

Smith Institute

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when the Charity Commission will complete its investigation into the Smith Institute; and when it will publish the report. [178553]

Phil Hope: This is a matter for the Charity Commission as the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales. The Commission has told me that it cannot, at this stage, provide a precise timeline for the completion of its inquiry, but that it is currently expected to conclude in the next few months. The Commission will, as is its normal practice, publish a report of its findings after the inquiry is completed, setting out any wider lessons for the charity sector.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children Daycare

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent on each means of communication under the national communications campaign to communicate the benefits of formal childcare in each month since its launch. [177974]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

Since the launch of the DCSF national communications campaign to communicate the benefits of formal childcare to low income parents in March 2007, the following has been spent on each means of communication by month:

										2007 £
	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Direct mail	115,356					49,299		200,345	189,872	
Leaflet distribution through door drop and third parties	17,406					14,854	17,126	69,592	12,861	7,988
Face to face in supermarkets and shopping centres in low income areas	49,545							149,443	65,383	
Advertising (radio, press, posters,)	332,069						93,880		44,396	21,466
PR			28,536	28,536	28,536			22,860	37,860	22,860

This spend includes costs for several campaign strands, all of which communicate the benefits of formal childcare: the affordable childcare campaign which used direct mail, leaflet distribution, advertising and face to face; the London Childcare Affordability Programme campaign, which used direct mail and leaflet distribution; the targeted campaign to Pakistani and Bangladeshi parents, which launched in December with radio advertising; and PR activity to promote early learning and childcare.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the amount of extra maintenance which might be paid by compliant non-resident parents under the provisions of the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill. [164284]

Mr. Plaskitt: Table 19.5 of the September 2007 Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics shows that in the year to April 2007, the CSA collected or arranged through Maintenance Direct £890 million of child maintenance, including the collection of arrears.

In the year to April 2016 the value of child maintenance collected or arranged through the statutory maintenance service is expected to be around £1.3 billion. The reforms are also expected to create an additional 200,000 voluntary arrangements, with an estimated value of maintenance flowing of £250 million.

These figures are based on the current best available evidence base. They are however subject to behavioural uncertainties and depend on the choices that parents make, as well as the decisions that would be made by the Commission and should therefore be treated as indicative only.

Departmental Illegal Immigrants

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many illegal immigrants have been discovered working for his Department and its agencies in the last year for which figures are available. [170483]

Mrs. McGuire: There are no cases of which we are aware of illegal immigrants who have been discovered working for the Department for Work and Pensions in the last year.

Departmental Manpower

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women of each civil service grade are employed by his Department. [172733]

Mrs. McGuire: The number of people employed in the Department appear in civil service statistics collected and published by the Office for National Statistics. The most recent publication is for the year to 30 September 2006. Table H of the publication presents permanent employees by Department, responsibility level, ethnic origin and gender.

This can be found at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/2006CivilServiceStatistics.pdf

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/2006CivilService2006TablesandCharts.xls

Departmental Sustainable Development

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department is working with an accredited certified environmental management system *(a)* for its whole estate and *(b)* in some of its buildings. [172981]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 10 December 2007]*: The Department for Work and Pensions meets the mandate within targets for sustainability on the Government estate by operating a corporate environmental management system, based on ISO 14001 across all its functions. It is not, at this time, intended to seek certification for this. Jobcentre Plus (an executive agency of DWP) operates an environmental management system which is accredited to ISO 14001 within its South East area—this covers 88 buildings and 6,000 staff.

Additionally, our estates partner—Land Securities Trillium—operates an environmental management system accredited to ISO 14001, covering all the estates functions delivered by them at sites occupied by DWP.

Elderly: Scotland

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department plans to take to assist elderly people in Scotland over the winter months in 2008. [177115]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In winter 2006-07 we made 1,028,120 winter fuel payments to people in Scotland. Figures are not yet available for this winter, but we expect the numbers to be similar.

In addition, we are currently undertaking a fuel poverty partnership pilot with the energy industry. This targets 250,000 pensioners in receipt of pension credit throughout England, Scotland and Wales, which aims to increase the take up of energy efficiency measures and Warm Front grants. In Scotland 16,500 recipients of pension credit will be contacted.

In the event of sustained freezing temperatures, eligible customers (generally those in receipt of income related benefits) may be entitled to cold weather payments. All of these activities are part of the cross government Keep Warm Keep Well initiative which aims to tackle fuel poverty.

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people employed in his Department work on administering EU structural funds, and what the cost of such staff was in 2006-07. [176043]

Mr. Plaskitt: In 2006-07 people were employed in the Department for Work and Pensions on administering EU structural funds, and the running costs related to these staff were £2.2 million.

Financial Services: Religion

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Government are taking to improve access to suitable financial instruments to reduce financial exclusion amongst those unable to use conventional financial arrangements due to their religious beliefs. [177881]

Andy Burnham: I have been asked to reply.

It is the Government's strong belief that everyone, irrespective of their religious beliefs, should have access to appropriate financial products and services. To this end, the Government have introduced a number of legislative changes since 2003, including those to allow the equal tax treatment of mortgages that comply with Sharia'a principles, and will continue to make further changes where necessary. In addition, in April 2007 my right hon. Friend the Member for Normanton (Ed Balls), the then Economic Secretary to the Treasury, announced that National Savings and Investments (NS&I) would assess the feasibility of the Government issuing Sharia'a compliant retail products. NS&I will report back to Ministers in spring 2008.

Fuel Payments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 333-34W, on fuel payments, in what form information relating to eligibility for winter fuel allowance is *(a)* collected and *(b)* made available; and what estimate his Department has made of the number of pensioner households eligible for the winter fuel allowance in (i) Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, (ii) the south west and (iii) England. [172795]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The vast majority of winter fuel payments are made automatically because most people aged 60 and over are receiving a DWP benefit which allows us to check their eligibility based on information on our departmental computer systems. A person is ineligible for a winter fuel payment if, for example, they are serving a custodial sentence or have been in hospital for more than 52 weeks.

A small number of people who are not in receipt of a benefit administered by DWP need to complete a claim form so that we can assess their eligibility. Our publicity campaign, which we run each year, includes advertisements in the press and information in leaflets. This informs people of the qualifying conditions and how to claim if they need to.

It is not possible to give an estimate of the number of pensioner households eligible for a winter fuel payment in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, the south west and England. This is because we do not know whether people whose details are not held by departmental systems may be eligible, unless they provide the relevant information on a claim form.

Notes:

1. To qualify for a winter fuel payment a person has to be aged 60 or over and ordinarily resident in Great Britain during the September qualifying week but there are some exclusions to the qualifying conditions.

2. Statistics showing the number of households and individuals who receive winter fuel payments are placed in the Library each year.

Jobcentre Plus: Rural Areas

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 803-04W, on Jobcentre Plus: rural areas, (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of introducing flexible support arrangements for jobseekers; [176954]

(2) what assessment of need takes place in planning provision for flexible support arrangements by Jobcentre Plus; [176955]

(3) what flexible support arrangements are put in place by Jobcentre Plus, broken down by area. [176956]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves, dated 16 January 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions about the provision of flexible service support arrangements provided by Jobcentre Plus. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to Ms Strathie as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. I am replying in her absence as Acting Chief Executive.

We wrote to you on 13 December providing information regarding those factors that District Managers consider when reviewing local Service Delivery Plans. Every effort is made to ensure that all customers can access our services regardless of where they live. If there are concerns about customer access to a Jobcentre, we can arrange for flexible service provision.

The provision of services in our Districts, including flexible arrangements, follows an assessment of customer needs. This takes into account local knowledge, local circumstances, national priorities, and follows consultation with local stakeholders as how best to meet customer needs in the most efficient and effective manner.

I am sure that you will be aware of the "Cornwall Works" programme (that part of Cornwall's Local Area Agreement delivering on the worklessness agenda). This programme is a successful consortium of service providers, including a key input from Jobcentre Plus, and has introduced a Neighbourhood Action Team for Pengegon and Parc an Tansys. The collective effort of this group has facilitated the provision of services directly to customers in housing estates who need more support to address worklessness. This is clearly helping those who would not normally seek out services from a Jobcentre and is helping those in greatest need to find work or support in becoming ready for work. I am pleased that the concept of the Neighbourhood Action Team is likely to be expanded with the help of European Social Funding. I understand that Pengegon and Parc an Tansys as well as Redruth North, parts of Pool and Illogen are specifically earmarked.

The District has already successfully used European Social Funding to finance a series of projects, working with local organisations, to target help and support for those communities where there is greatest need.

There is also a great deal being done to meet the needs of customers in the Devon and Cornwall District in general and specifically for customers in and around your constituency. The flexible service provision includes:

access to a New Deal Lone Parent Adviser on an ad hoc basis in Children's Centres in Falmouth, Penryn and at a Family Centre in Falmouth;

access to a New Deal Lone Parent Adviser and Disability Employment Adviser on a fortnightly basis at 'Link into Learning' in Falmouth;

joint working arrangements with the Children's Centres in Redruth, Camborne and St Day.

Furthermore during the consultation period on the closure of Camborne Jobcentre, Kerrier District Council offered the possibility of sharing their premises. This was subject to agreement by their Scrutiny Committee.

I am confident that the variety of programmes and activities supports our customers in Devon and Cornwall and your constituents. I encourage this type of support activity throughout Jobcentre Plus as it helps focus on greatest need and compliments the services already provided through our network of Jobcentres, Contact Centres and Benefit Delivery Centres.

Jobcentre Plus does not maintain a central list of the flexible support arrangements in place or a central record of the cost associated with introducing those arrangements and this information could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. Information is held at District level because the arrangements tend to change and adapt to meet local circumstances.

Carolyn Webster, European Social Fund Manager for Devon and Cornwall, would be happy to help if you would like to discuss this local information in more detail, Carolyn can be contacted on 01872 355021.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in Peterborough constituency in receipt of jobseeker's allowance who have been offered suitable work and have refused it in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [174411]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is that from August 2006 to July 2007, 10 people in Peterborough received jobseeker's allowance sanctions for refusal of employment.

Joint Child Poverty Unit

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his responsibilities are in relation to the Joint Child Poverty Unit; and what arrangements are in place for liaison with other Departments on the work of the Unit. [178426]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 14 January 2008]:* The Child Poverty Unit brings together officials from both the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Children, Schools and Families. It will report to Ministers in both Departments and to a child poverty board comprised of senior officials from across Whitehall. At ministerial level, this board will report to the Cabinet Committee on Domestic Affairs (Families, Children and Young People).

The unit will play a lead co-ordinating role, as the Government pursue their multi faceted child poverty strategy which includes transport, health and regeneration as well as employment, skills and the tax and benefit system, on the way towards our ambitious but vital goal of eradicating child poverty by 2020 a reality.

The unit is also currently setting up working groups with officials across a number of Government Departments and local government offices, and will work closely with HM Treasury.

Pensions

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people receive the retirement pension age addition for those aged 80 years or over in each constituency in England. [175072]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information has been placed in the Library.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions officials in his Department have had with officials from HM Treasury on increasing the level of trivial commutation. [177954]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Officials meet regularly with officials from HM Treasury on this and other matters.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in which year the Government plans to reinstate the link between earnings and the basic state pension. [178493]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In the Government's White Paper "Security in retirement: towards a new pensions system" we stated,

"During the next Parliament...we will re-link the uprating of the basic state pension to average earnings. Our objective, subject to affordability and the fiscal position, is to do this in 2012 but in any event at the latest by the end of the next Parliament. We will make a statement on the precise date at the beginning of the next Parliament."

Pensions: Financial Assistance Scheme

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the Financial Assistance Scheme's running costs were in each year in which figures are available. [175721]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Total administration costs since the Financial Assistance Scheme was announced in May 2004 are shown in the following table.

Financial year	*Expenditure (£ million)*
2004-05	1.06
2005-06	4.73
2006-07	3.99
2007 November 2007	1.79

Note:
The administrative costs for 2005-06 include the initial set up costs for the procurement, development and delivery of the FAS IT system to support FAS assessments and payments.

Performance Appraisals

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what percentage of staff in his Department met *(a)* 100 per cent. *(b)* 90 per cent. *(c)* 80 per cent. *(d)* 70 per cent. *(e)* 50 per cent. *(f)* 40 per cent. *(g)* 30 per cent. *(h)* 20 per cent. *(i)* 10 per cent. and *(j)* none of their objectives and targets in their most recent appraisals; [177962]

(2) what percentage of staff in his Department met *(a)* 100 per cent. *(b)* 90 per cent. *(c)* 80 per cent. *(d)* 70 per cent. *(e)* 60 per cent. *(f)* 50 per cent. *(g)* 40 per cent. *(h)* 30 per cent. *(i)* 20 per cent. *(j)* 10 per cent. and *(k)* none of their objectives and targets in their most recent appraisals. [179402]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is not available in the format requested.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what objectives, targets or standards new employees in his Department are required to meet in their probationary period; and how the performance of new recruits in his Department is assessed. [177964]

Mrs. McGuire: Probationers and new recruits are expected to work to the same standards of behaviour and attendance as all other employees in the Department.

New recruits must complete a probation period of six months. During this time the probationer's attendance, capability and conduct is monitored. Appropriate objectives and targets are set by line managers according to the particular role and degree of training required.

The performance of new recruits is assessed in the same way as any other employee in the Department. DWP has a Performance and Development System to support day-to-day performance management which applies to all staff up to and including Grade 6.

Social Fund

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many successful applications to the Social Fund have been made in each of the last five years; and what proportion of these applications were made *(a)* by telephone, *(b)* in writing and *(c)* by face-to-face interview. [173432]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is given in the following tables. The data cannot be broken down into applications made by *(a)* telephone, *(b)* in writing and *(c)* by face-to-face interview.

Social fund initial awards for Great Britain

thousand

	Community care grants	*Crisis loans*	*Budgeting loans*
2002-03	245	1,064	1,251
2003-04	256	1,059	1,250
2004-05	261	1,000	1,200
2005-06	275	1,016	1,217
2006-07	271	1,072	1,298

Social fund initial awards for Great Britain

thousand

	Sure start maternity grants	*Funeral payments*	*Total (all five award types)*
2002-03	225	42	2,827
2003-04	226	43	2,834
2004-05	225	40	2,727
2005-06	225	38	2,771
2006-07	224	37	2,902

Notes:
1. Figures do not include awards made after review, reconsideration or appeal.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source:
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

Social Security Benefits: Pensioners

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average value of benefits in kind provided by the state was to *(a)* single pensioners and *(b)* pensioner couples in Huddersfield in 1996-97 and in each year since then. [162540]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A wide range of services and benefits in kind are available to older people and these are administered both centrally and locally. As a result, the information is not available in the format requested: some information is not collected and some could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The information which is available is given as follows.

(i) NHS services

People aged 60 and over are able to claim free prescriptions and eye tests on the grounds of age.

The NHS services information is not available broken down into single pensioner and pensioner couples.

Information on the value of medicines provided by the national health service (NHS) to pensioners is available only at primary care trust level.

The following table shows the estimated net ingredient cost (NIC) of medicines dispensed by the NHS in the community, to patients aged 60 and over, in the South Huddersfield and Huddersfield Central PCTs which existed from October 2000 to September 2006.

Total NIC spent on people over 60 claiming free prescriptions

Financial year	*PCT South Huddersfield - NIC*[1]	*PCT Huddersfield Central NIC*[1]
		£
October 2000 - March 2001	1,556,247	4,578,673
April 2001 - March 2002	3,660,956	9,996,305
April 2002 - March 2003	4,274,282	11,269,579
April 2003 - March 2004	5,031,551	12,547,823
April 2004 - March 2005	5,363,708	13,115,300
April 2005 - March 2006	4,986,221	11,766,929

[1] These figures have been taken from the prescription cost analysis database and are estimates based on a sample of prescriptions.

Notes

Net Ingredient Cost (NIC) - NIC is the basic cost of a drug. It does not take account of discounts, dispensing costs, fees or prescription charges income.

Data for the period April 2006 to September 2006 are not available as they are part year.

Free NHS sight tests were made available to people aged 60 and over from 1 April 1999. Information on the value of NHS sight tests provided to people aged 60 and over within the area of the former Huddersfield Central primary care trust (PCT) and South Huddersfield PCT is only available on a consistent basis for the years set out in the following table:

Financial year	*Number of free NHS sight tests given to people aged 60 and over within Huddersfield Central PCT*	*Estimated cost of NHS sight tests to people aged60 and over in Huddersfield Central PCT (£)*	*Number of free NHS sight tests given to people aged60 and over within South Huddersfield PCT*	*Estimated cost of NHS sight tests to people aged 60 and over in South Huddersfield PCT (£)*
2003-04	16,598	286,000	2,863	49,000
2004-05	15,868	283,000	2,875	51,000
2005-06	16,632	306,000	3,483	64,000

Note

2006-07 sight test data are not available at PCT level. Strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT) level data for the first half of 2007-08 will be available in the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care's publication "General Ophthalmic Services: Activity Statistics for England and Wales: April 2007-September 2007" due to be published by March 2008.

Information on the age of adults who qualify on grounds other than their age for help with other NHS services, such as optical vouchers or relief from dental charges, is not collected centrally.

(ii) Social services

The table shows gross current expenditure for Kirklees metropolitan district council, which includes Huddersfield council, on older people aged 65 or over from 1996-97 to 2005-06. Social services information is not available broken down into single pensioner and pensioner couples. Information is not available separately for Huddersfield.

Gross current expenditure[1] *by Kirklees metropolitan council on older people (aged 65 or over)*

Year (1 April to 31 March)	*Gross current expenditure*
	£000
1996-97	39,360
1997-98	40,113
1998-99	43,639
1999-2000	46,928
2000-01	48,970
2001-02	54,971
2002-03[2]	58,353
2003-04[3]	60,522
2004-05	70,552
2005-06	77,061

[1] Gross expenditure includes income from client contributions, but excludes capital charges and certain income items which count as expenditure elsewhere in the public sector, such as contributions from primary care trusts. This is to avoid double counting within the aggregate public sector accounts of the money involved.

[2] From 2002-03 onwards, the data include clients who transferred to council with social services responsibilities (CSSR) support on 8 April 2002, who were formally in receipt of higher rates of income support under the Department for Work and Pensions preserved rights scheme.

[3] From 2003-04, additional funding was made available to CSSRs via the Supporting People grant.

Source

Revenue outturn (RO3) and personal social services expenditure (PSS EX1) returns

(iii) Television licences

Free television licences for people aged 75 or over were introduced in November 2000. TV Licensing, who administer free licences as agents for the BBC, are not able to provide geographical breakdowns of licences issued. However, figures, shown in the following table, are available for the number of households with at least one person aged 75 or over claiming Winter Fuel Payments in Huddersfield constituency. These people would be eligible for a free television licence.

Huddersfield constituency

	Number of households with someone aged 75 or over
2004-05	5,085
2005-06	5,180
2006-07[1]	5,150

[1] Main payment run only

Note

Data prior to 2004-05 are not available.

Social Security Benefits: Telephone Services

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average cost of making a benefit claim by telephone. [170794]

Caroline Flint: The Department estimates the average cost of making a benefit claim by telephone using a BT landline telephone is in the following table.

Benefit	*Basis of calculation*	*Cost (p)*
Attendance allowance	0800 number	Nil
Carers allowance	0800 number	Nil
Disability living allowance	0800 number	Nil
Incapacity benefit	0800 number	Nil
Income support	0800 number	Nil
Jobseeker's allowance	0800 number	Nil
Pension credit	0800 number	Nil
State pension	0845 number. Monday to Friday 6am to 6pm. Based on an average call of 20 minutes at 3.95p per minute including a 6p set up fee per call.	86
State pension	0845 number. Monday to Friday before 6am and after 6pm and on Saturday. Based on an average call of 20 minutes at a BT rate of 1p per minute including a 6p set up fee per call.	26
Social fund crisis loans	0800 number	Nil

The Pension Service will always offer to call state pension customers back if they express any concerns about the costs being incurred.

Customers calling an 0800 or 0845 number from their mobile phone, non BT phone network or from abroad will be charged at the specific operator's call rate.

Social Security Benefits: Young People

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women aged *(a)* 19 years and under and *(b)* 15 years and under, with dependent children, are in receipt of income-related benefits in England; and what the average amount of benefit is they receive. [177203]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

There are currently five income-related benefits: income support; income-based jobseeker's allowance; pension credit; housing benefit; and council tax benefit. All the benefits have different rules as regards to the minimum age of claimants. Income support and jobseeker's allowance cannot be paid to anyone under 16 years of age. Pension credit is for those aged 60 and over. There is no lower age limit for housing benefit, but it is payable to those under 16 years of age only in very exceptional circumstances. Council tax benefit is not payable to anyone under 18 years of age; under that age an individual cannot be liable for council tax.

New claims for income support and jobseeker's allowance no longer include amounts for children; parents receive child tax credits instead. Because of this, there is no reliable information on those claimants who have dependent children.

As at May 2004, the most recent available figure, there were 22,000 women aged 16 to 19 claiming housing benefit who had a dependent child in their household. This figure includes both single claimants and those with a partner. The average weekly amount of housing benefit in these cases was £80.10.

As at May 2004, the most recent available figure, there were 18,000 women under 19 years of age claiming council tax benefit who had a dependent child in their household. This figure includes both single claimants and those with a partner. The average weekly amount of council tax benefit in these cases is £13.00.

Telephone Services

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the suitability of his Department's call centre automated response systems to meeting the needs of customers; and if he will make a statement. [173433]

Mrs. McGuire: The National Audit Office report on the Department's contact centres ("Delivering effective services through contact centres" (HC941 published 15 March 2006) noted that

"all the automated systems used by the Department comply with good practice. In particular, they have short scripts and offer useful information to the caller".

These systems are kept under constant review by managers to ensure they continue to be as helpful as possible.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures are in place to ensure that his Department's customer contact centres facilitate the provision of support to individuals who have a variety of cross-cutting queries to be addressed in a single contact; and if he will make a statement. [173434]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department's contact centres provide a good quality of service to the majority of its customers but we do recognise that customers who need to deal with more than one part of the Department may not always find it as easy as we would like to get answers to cross-cutting queries. The Department has recently introduced a new internal directory for customer contact staff to use to help signpost customers to the right point of contact for the resolution of their inquiry. This is the first step towards the introduction of a more integrated approach. Our aim is that in the future there should be 'no wrong door' for customers who contact the Department.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Peter Hain

Adam Price: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether the Electoral Commission has received the final and comprehensive account of the donations that the right hon. Member for Neath (Mr.

Hain) received as part of his campaign for the deputy leadership of the Labour party; and what steps the Commission plans to take with regard to the previously undeclared donations. [179356]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the right hon. Member for Neath (Mr. Hain) provided further information on 10 January about donations made to his deputy leadership campaign. The Commission is undertaking initial permissibility checks on this information before publishing the relevant details on its website in the register of donations to regulated donees. The Commission will then follow up any outstanding compliance issues.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1235W, on political parties: finance, whether the sponsorship or subsidy of a regulated donee's website is a donation or a donation-in-kind; and what records the Commission holds of the regulated donors which have declared such sponsorship. [177637]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that subsidy of a regulated donee's website might constitute a donation (cash or non-cash), depending on the particular circumstances. In the Commission's view, donations in support of websites do not fall within the definition of 'sponsorship' in paragraph 3 of Schedule 7 to the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

The register of donations made to regulated donees is published on the Commission's website and includes both cash and non-cash donations. There are two entries on the register of donations to regulated donees which explicitly mention non-cash donations given for website services.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 17 January 2008

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bats: Ecology

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department issues on the qualifications required of a bat ecologist; and if he will make a statement. [177547]

Joan Ruddock: We do not hold numbers on bat ecologists but there are currently just over 800 volunteer bat workers. Volunteer bat workers who provide advice on Natural England's behalf receive training from experienced bat specialists. The Bat Conservation Trust provides a service to Natural England in supporting these trainers. In addition they receive written guidance and instructions.

Batteries: Recycling

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government have taken to increase levels of recycling of batteries. [179566]

Joan Ruddock: We are currently consulting on the transposition of the EU batteries directive. When transposed, the directive will reduce the quantity of hazardous and non-hazardous waste batteries going to landfill and increase the recovery of the materials they contain. Collection targets set by the directive for portable batteries are 25 per cent. by 2012, rising to 45 per cent. by 2016. The prohibition of incinerating or landfilling industrial and automotive batteries implies a 100 per cent. collection and recycling target for industrial and automotive batteries.

The consultation is due to close on 14 March and the UK, along with all other member states, has a deadline of 26 September this year to transpose the directive's provisions into national law.

Research and trials to provide evidence for the consultation and to investigate the best ways of implementing the batteries directive have been carried out on portable batteries. The waste and resources action programme (WRAP) is currently working in partnership with a range of local authorities and not-for-profit organisations that already run recycling collection services to pilot portable waste battery collection trials in the UK. Trials include establishing 'drop off' points at places such as supermarkets, as well as other methods of collection including at the kerbside.

Supported by funding from DEFRA through the business resource efficiency and waste (BREW) programme and the devolved administrations, the trials form part of a wider effort to develop cost-effective ways for the UK to meet the targets of the batteries directive.

The results of the various trials will be used to help Government identify the best mechanisms and most efficient methods of collecting batteries in line with directive targets.

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many tonnes of equivalent carbon dioxide emissions have been offset by the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund in each year since its creation. [176170]

Mr. Woolas: The Government Carbon Offsetting Fund (GCOF) offset 120,111.42 tonnes of equivalent carbon dioxide emissions in 2006-07.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many plastic bags *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste Resources Action Programme has purchased in the last 24 months for which figures are available; and at what cost. [176555]

Joan Ruddock: The core-Department purchases in the region of 4,100 clear plastic bags per month, for both recycling and under-desk bins. This totals some 98,400 bags over 24 months, at a cost of £6,000.

WRAP's purchases of plastic bags in the last 24 months are:

Type of bag	*Number purchased in last 24 months*
Plastic carrier bags	0
Kitchen bin liners	2,500
Zip-lock reusable plastic sample bags[1]	15,000
Biodegradable liners for home composting	4,000
Biodegradable liners for food waste collections	2,000

[1] The zip-lock reusable plastic sample bags have been used at various public exhibitions to give out samples of green waste-derived compost, containing a flower bulb suitable for planting in a domestic garden, in order to demonstrate that green waste-derived compost is a good growing medium. After use for this primary purpose, these bags could be re-used for other purposes in the home or garden.

Information on the WRAP's costs of purchase could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Energy: Conservation

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on steps the Government are taking to improve domestic energy efficiency. [179531]

Mr. Woolas: We regularly meet ministerial colleagues to discuss domestic energy efficiency and its contribution to the climate change agenda. The Secretary of State met the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on issues including this in mid-December. Progress against our domestic climate change and energy security objectives is reviewed by Cabinet Ministers though the Economic Development (Environment and Energy) Committee, chaired by the Chancellor.

Floods: Yorkshire and the Humber

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what Flood Defence Budget has been allocated to Yorkshire and the Humber for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [179259]

Mr. Woolas: The indicative allocation for the Yorkshire Regional Flood Defence Committee which covers Yorkshire and the north bank of the Humber estuary is shown in the following table:

	Allocation (£ million)
2008-09	43.4
2009-10	51
2010-11	58.2

Allocations are from the Environment Agency to the Regional Flood Defence Committee.

These figures do not include funding for local authorities or internal drainage boards.

The Department will be seeking promotional activity on these figures to reassure the public.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Expenditure

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Government have spent on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in each year since 1997, broken down by main components of expenditure in each year. [179151]

Mr. Woolas: A full response to this question could be made at disproportionate cost only.

Heathrow Airport: Sustainable Development

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what role his Department had in relation to the project for the sustainable development of Heathrow; and if he will make a statement; [179975]

(2) whether he made representations to the Department for Transport in relation to the project for sustainable development of Heathrow airport; and if he will make a statement. [179965]

Mr. Woolas: Ministers and officials in DEFRA engage regularly with colleagues at the Department for Transport on matters relating to Heathrow which affect DEFRA lead policy responsibilities: notably on air quality, noise, and climate change impacts. DEFRA officials were engaged in the project for sustainable development of Heathrow modelling work in relation to air quality, and have been involved in the noise, air quality and climate change elements of the subsequent development of the public consultation on the development of Heathrow.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of Warm Front assessors' recommendations have led to work being carried out *(a)* in Nottinghamshire, *(b)* Bassetlaw and *(c)* England. [177742]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 10 January 2008]*: The percentage of instances where an insulation measure recommended by a Warm Front assessor leads to the work being completed is as follows.

Insulation

Area	*Proportion (percentage)*
Nottinghamshire	79.5
Bassetlaw	80.5
England	80.3

The percentage of instances where a heating measure recommended by a Warm Front assessor leads to assistance being provided, including where this only involves an installer technical survey being completed, is as follows:

Heating

Area	*Proportion (percentage)*
Nottinghamshire	96.7
Bassetlaw	94.2
England	96.1

Available data do not identify figures for the proportion of instances where a recommendation for heating assistance leads to a heating measure being installed or the repair of an existing system being completed. Further analysis of the data is taking place.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Conflict of Interests

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to prevent a conflict of interest arising from the managing agents of the Warm Front scheme owning the contractor Iguana Services Ltd. [177000]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA employ independent quality assessors who audit the performance of both Iguana and eaga plc. This ensures that Iguana's position as a subsidiary of eaga does not adversely affect scheme delivery.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Standards

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received from recipients of assistance under the Warm Front programme in relation to the performance of contractors; what steps he has taken in response; and if he will make a statement. [179972]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Shrewsbury and Atcham (Daniel Kawczynski) on 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 861W.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made of the performance of eaga and its subsidiaries in operating the Warm Front programme; and what plans he has to review the operation of *(a)* the programme and *(b)* its commercial contractors. [179973]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA monitors the performance of Warm Front as part of an ongoing monthly reporting cycle.

DEFRA also employs independent quality assessors, who provide in-depth analysis of the performance of Warm Front contractors, both as part of a regular audit cycle, and on an individual project basis where required.

Labour Party: Elections

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he *(a)* informed the Permanent Secretary of the relevant Department of the donations he received as part of his campaign for the deputy leadership of the Labour party and *(b)* registered them with the Cabinet Office in accordance with the Ministerial Code. [179969]

Hilary Benn: In accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Code, a list of Ministers' relevant interests declared to their Permanent Secretary will be published in due course.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimates have been made of whether the proposed new charges for domestic rubbish collection are expected to increase or decrease the total tax burden on families with children. [176535]

Joan Ruddock: There are no proposed new charges for domestic rubbish collection. The Government intend to allow five local authorities to pilot waste incentive schemes. Under these schemes those who make the most effort to reduce or recycle their waste would earn a rebate. For schemes which include a charging element, those throwing away the most residual waste could pay more. The impact on families with children could depend on several factors, including the design of individual schemes, the size of the household and, of course, the amount of waste each family throws away.

DEFRA has not made any estimates of how waste incentive schemes will affect families with children. For illustrative purposes, the Impact Assessment, which is available on the DEFRA website, presented a distributional analysis which gives an example of how one type of scheme, in a local authority with particular characteristics, would impact upon families of different sizes and income levels. This assesses how financial transfers might feel to different types of households, with poorer households valuing these more highly. It does not present actual financial flows, as it was primarily included to show local authorities how they might account for impacts of the distribution of financial burdens.

The actual impact on the tax burden faced by families will depend on how the scheme is set up and how well families are able to respond to the price signal provided by the scheme. The example distributional analysis in the Impact Assessment was based on a separate study showing that larger households (e.g. families with children) tend to produce more waste overall. As can be seen in the Climate Change Bill, local authorities piloting a waste incentive scheme must take account of disadvantaged groups. It would be up to local authorities to decide whether families with children (and any other group in society) should be treated differently under a waste incentive scheme and, if so, how. My Department intends to work with stakeholders to develop guidance on this issue.

Waste Management: Standards

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to make proposals for regional development agency waste performance targets. [177937]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to him on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 69W.

Wildlife: Finance

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many local authorities applied for funding from his Department to support local wildlife facilities in each of the last five years. [179763]

Joan Ruddock: Local wildlife facilities could mean any number of organisations, for example: nature reserves, wildlife parks, zoos, rescue centres, rehabilitation facilities etc. To be able to provide the information required by my hon. Friend a more specific request is required, including what type of funding is being referred to. My hon. Friend is welcome to write to me with the details and I will respond to him.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Databases

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what obligations his Department and its agencies place on contractors in relation to the audit of personal data and IT equipment. [176468]

Mr. Woodward: Auditing of personal data and IT equipment is not carried out by contractors in the Northern Ireland Office.

English Language Classes

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on English language classes for staff in the last year for which figures are available. [177434]

Mr. Woodward: In 2007-08 further education funding is available for learning and development considered to be essential to a member of staff's current post. English language would be considered under this category but no applications were submitted.

Morgan Allan Moore

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with representatives of the company Morgan Allan Moore in the last 12 months. [179594]

Mr. Woodward: Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not the usual practice of Government to disclose details of such meetings.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many laboratories are licensed for animal testing in the UK. [177931]

Meg Hillier: There are currently 201 designated establishments licensed under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many proposals were made under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 to use animals in science in 2007; and how many of these proposals were accepted. [177933]

Meg Hillier: During 2007 617 project licences were applied for under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. Of these 475 were granted, 136 are still outstanding and six have not been proceeded with.

Foreign Workers: EU Nationals

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 583-4W, on foreign workers: EU nationals, what her most recent estimate is of the number of dependants aged under 17 years residing in the UK with A8 nationals working in the UK. [169336]

Mr. Byrne: The only available data relate to dependants reported to be accompanying A8 nationals when they register on the Worker Registration Scheme and are published quarterly in the Accession Monitoring Report (AMR). This report currently gives data from 1 May 2004 to 30 September 2007. The information on dependants under 17 years of age is published in table 5 of the report.

A copy of the AMR will be placed in the House Libraries.

Passports

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will lower the age of eligibility for free passports to 65 years. [174596]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* When the then Home Secretary announced the introduction of free passports on 19 May 2004, he made it clear that this was a special concession for the second world war generation, as a way of recognising all those who had contributed to the national effort during the war years. Those who qualify are British nationals born on or before 2 September 1929 and therefore were old enough by the end of the war to have made a substantial contribution to the national effort.

There are no plans to provide free passports to all those aged 65 or over. This would be considerably more expensive and could lead to an increase in passport fees for all other applicants.

Passports: Applications

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 292W, on passports: applications, how many passport interview offices were fully operational by 31 December 2007. [178986]

Meg Hillier: 59 interview offices were in live operations by 31 December 2007. A further two offices have already gone live in early January with another five opening by end January 2008.

WALES

Morgan Allan Moore

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with representatives of the company Morgan Allan Moore in the last 12 months. [179593]

Mr. Hain: Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not the usual practice of Government to disclose details of such meetings.

Renewable Energy

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had on the tendering process conditions imposed by the Welsh Assembly Government on renewable energy company investors for schemes that exceed 50 megawatts; and if he will make a statement. [179934]

Mr. Hain: I have regular discussions about all aspects of renewable energy production in Wales, which I strongly support. However, tendering is entirely a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government. I understand prospective developers are assessed against open and objective criteria. It is important that their financial, economic and technical capacity are fully assessed so that the project can be delivered for the benefit of Wales.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what targets he has set for upgrading all single living accommodation to grade *(a)* 1 and *(b)* 2 categories under the grade for charge initiative; and when he expects these targets to be met. [179928]

Derek Twigg: The Department's targets only envisage delivering new or improved single living accommodation bed-spaces to the highest standard (grade 1). We plan to deliver some 30,000 new or improved bed-spaces by 2013.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many single living accommodation bed-spaces were upgraded to grade *(a)* 1 and *(b)* 2 categories under the grade for charge initiative in each of the last four years. [179929]

Derek Twigg: The Department has targets to deliver only grade 1 bed-spaces. For each of the last four financial years the number of bed-spaces delivered is shown in the following table.

Financial year	*Number of new or improved bed-spaces*
2006-07	5,565
2005-06	5,540
2004-05	5,635
2003-04	2,915

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many newly-acquired *(a)* grade 1, *(b)* grade 2, *(c)* grade 3, *(d)* grade 4 and *(e)* ungraded single living accommodation bed-spaces were added to stock in each of the last five years; and what targets he has for adding new bed-spaces to stock in each grade for charge. [179932]

Derek Twigg: The Department only targets the delivery of new or improved single living accommodation (SLA) to Grade 1 standard. Numbers of newly built or improved SLA bed-spaces delivered in each year are only available for the last four financial years and are shown in the following table.

Financial year	*Number of new or improved bed spaces*
2006-07	5,565
2005-06	5,540
2004-05	5,635
2003-04	2,915

The Department will build or improve a further 30,000 bed-spaces to grade 1 standard by 2013.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many personnel who have served in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan are recorded as having a mental health problem, broken down by condition. [177532]

(2) how many personnel who have served in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan have been diagnosed with a mental health condition. [173722]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is detailed in the latest version of UK Armed Forces Psychiatric Morbidity Report (January to March 2007), copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

The Defence Analytical Services Agency is currently validating and analysing the data for the second quarter of 2007 (April to June), and their report will be published shortly.

Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at what locations Ministry of Defence police officers have been replaced with *(a)* civilian police forces and *(b)* private security forces since 2003. [177588]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence Police have never been replaced by a civilian police force or a private security force at any functioning Defence establishment. However, when establishments close and all MOD functions have withdrawn it is possible that private security forces are used, but this would provide a guarding not policing service.

PRIME MINISTER

Gordon Brown

Adam Price: To ask the Prime Minister whether he *(a)* informed the Permanent Secretary at the Treasury of the donations he received as part of his campaign for the Leadership of the Labour Party and *(b)* registered them with the Cabinet Office in accordance with the Ministerial Code. [179967]

The Prime Minister: In accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Code, a list of Ministers' relevant interests declared to their permanent secretary will be published in due course.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether personal data for which his Department is responsible are *(a)* stored and *(b)* processed overseas; and if he will make a statement. [176014]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office does not retain personal data.

Departmental Databases

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what obligations his Department places on contractors in relation to the audit of personal data and IT equipment. [176469]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office does not retain personal data and is an integral part of the Scottish Executive's IT system who undertake a rolling audit of IT equipment.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what audits his Department carried out in relation to personal data and IT equipment in each of the last 10 years. [176488]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. The office does not retain personal data and is an integral part of the Scottish Executive's IT system who undertake a rolling audit of IT equipment.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what products featuring departmental or Government branding were procured by his Department in each of the last five years. [179784]

David Cairns: Business cards.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many posters or displays there are in the offices of his Department displaying the names and photographs of Ministers; and what the cost has been of producing such posters or displays in the last five years. [179850]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office does not have any such posters or displays in its offices, except the gallery of previous Secretaries of State that is displayed in Dover House. The Office has added photographs to this gallery in the last five years but separate records of the costs involved are not maintained.

Departmental Redundancies

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 350W, on departmental redundancies, how many staff in the Scotland Office are on loan from each Government Department. [180459]

David Cairns: The figures at 31 March 2007 were:

Department	*Number on loan*
Scottish Executive	29
Ministry of Justice	21
Total	50

Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what meetings he has had with trade union officials since 1 July 2007; on what dates; and with which trade unions. [179864]

David Cairns: Ministers meet many people as part of the process of policy development. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council of England: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many regularly funded organisations are supported by Arts Council England. [179702]

James Purnell: In 2007-08 Arts Council England supported 990 regularly funded organisations.

Arts Council of England: Grants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which Arts Council England regularly funded organisations were informed in December 2007 that their funding was to be reduced. [179448]

James Purnell *[holding answer 16 January 2008]:* Arts Council England operates at arm's length from the Government and decisions about which arts organisations to fund are entirely for them. They have said the following in response to requests to see the names of the organisations listed in their proposals:

> "Our proposals for non-renewal of funding cannot be made available until our National and Regional Councils make final decisions. This information is considered confidential and commercially sensitive during the response period. This is especially so in the case of a recommendation that might be overturned by the National Council or a Regional Council. Regularly funded organisations who have a right to respond to our recommendation, should be able to do so freely without fear that our intention to reduce or stop their funding is potentially unnecessarily, and without their consent, released into the public domain. A full announcement will be made at the beginning of February."

Arts Council of England: Standards

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what criteria Arts Council England uses when assessing the artistic quality of the work of their regularly funded organisations. [179700]

James Purnell: Arts Council England operates at arm's length from the Government and decisions about which arts organisations to fund are entirely for them.

In October 2006 Arts Council England published guidance on how it assesses artistic quality. A copy of the guidelines will be placed in the Library of the House.

This is also available on Arts Council England's website at:

http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/publications/information_detail.php?rid=0&sid=&browse=recent&id=92

Arts Council England is reviewing these guidelines this year following the publication of the McMaster Review.

Arts: West Midlands

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government have taken to support the creative industries in the West Midlands since 1997. [179149]

James Purnell *[holding answer 15 January 2008]:* My Department has sought to co-ordinate action across government in support of the creative industries. In November 2005, we established the Creative Economy Programme which brought together DCMS, DTI (as it then was), industry representatives and Government bodies such as the Arts Council, the UK Film Council and the Design Council. We will shortly launch a strategy document for the creative industries which will set out the challenges that Government and industry will need to address in order to sustain and grow this vitally important sector of the economy.

Key agencies in the West Midlands with responsibility for growing the creative industries, including the Regional Development Agency Advantage West Midlands, Culture West Midlands, Business Link, the Learning and Skills Council, Arts Council England, Screen West Midlands and Skillset, have come together to form the Creative Industries Strategy Group. This group is developing a regional "Creative Industries Manifesto", which will help raise the profile of the sector nationally and internationally; it will also work to bring key initiatives to the region, such as national centres of excellence or major events.

In addition, since 1997, funding from the European Regional Development Fund has supported a number of projects, including business support and venture capital projects, related to the development of the creative industries in the region. Projects in the 2000-06 Objective 2 Programme have included the establishment of the Advantage Creative Fund (£1.6 million), Business Support for Creative Industries in Birmingham (£2.5 million) and the West Midlands Media Production Fund (£3.7 million).

BBC America: Finance

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what procedures are in place to ensure that licence fee moneys are not used to subsidise BBC America *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly; and if he will make a statement. [178433]

James Purnell *[holding answer 15 January 2008]*: Under the terms of its charter and agreement, the BBC is prohibited from using licence fee revenue to fund any commercial service or any service aimed primarily at users outside the UK. The BBC's Fair Trading Guidelines, available on the BBC website, set out the BBC's approach to complying with its obligations to keep licence fee revenue separate from its commercial operations.

Sports

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which activities his Department define as sports; and when the list of activities included within his Department's definition of sport was last revised. [179502]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State wrote to the Local Government Association on 23 December 2007 confirming that the definition of sport in the new performance measurement framework will remain largely unchanged from the definition currently used for the DCMS public service agreement on moderate intensity sport and for the Comprehensive Performance Assessment. A copy of this letter has been placed in the House Library.

The definition of sport will continue to measure sport and active recreation such as recreational walking and cycling. From April 2008 the definition of sport will also include measurement of some lighter intensity sports and physical activities such as yoga, bowls and pilates for those aged 65 or over; as these activities place a degree of physical demand on that age group.

This broad definition supports the Government's aim of getting 2 million more people more active by 2012.

Sport England are developing a new strategy on how they will build a world-class community sport infrastructure. As part of this work Sport England will review which sports fall within their funding remit. Her Majesty's Treasury is leading on a cross-Government physical activity strategy for all, which will look at policy, funding and delivery of wider physical activity.

Sports: Greyhounds

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to regulate greyhound racing; and if he will make a statement. [177814]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government welcome the recent report by Lord Donoughue into greyhound racing, and we endorse the view that the industry needs to introduce significant reform if it is going to meet the welfare standards expected in the 21st century. While any regulation would be a matter for my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Department for the Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs, we agree with the recommendation in the report that the industry must aim to be self-regulated. I hope that everyone involved in administrating, promoting, funding and providing gambling facilities for the sport will work together to develop a collective response to Lord Donoughue's recommendations.

Swimming: Finance

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the availability of funding to swimming clubs in Greater London. [178080]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Swimming clubs in London are eligible to apply for lottery funding from Sport England's London region, which has £29 million for investment in community projects in 2004-09, of which approximately £15 million remains to be allocated.

Swimming is also part of the Exchequer-funded community club development programme (CCDP), which provides investment in equipment and facilities in clubs. Six clubs in London have benefited from the CCDP programme.

Sport England has also awarded £247,500 of lottery funding to the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) between 2007 and 2010 to fund three coaches to raise the standard and quality of coaching in identified swimming clubs in London. A fund of £750,000 (comprising £375,000 from Sport England and £375,000 from the Learning Skills Council) has been established for coach qualification bursaries in 2007-09. Swimming coaches linked to clubs in London have the opportunity to apply for grants from this fund to support their personal professional development.

Sport England has also awarded the ASA £8.8 million over four years to support the delivery of its 2005-09 national strategic plan. This enables it to

allocate resources to its London regional development staff whose role is to deliver development programmes (including the PE and School Club Links programme) and lever further investment into swimming from the public, private, voluntary and charitable sectors, which will benefit clubs. The ASA runs workshops to update clubs on funding opportunities, and publishes a quarterly newsletter for clubs with details of potential avenues for club funding.

Television: Licensing

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate his Department has made of the percentage of households which *(a)* have no television licence, *(b)* do not have a television and *(c)* have a television but are unlicensed. [178422]

James Purnell: This is a matter for the BBC. I have, therefore, asked the BBC's Head of Revenue Management to consider the question raised by my hon. Friend and to write to her direct. Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children in Care: Higher Education

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research his Department has undertaken on levels of debt of looked-after children on graduation from university. [179570]

Kevin Brennan: During the consultation on our Green Paper "Care Matters: Transforming the Lives of Children and Young People in Care" children and young people told us that they faced financial barriers to entering higher education, including a belief that they will not be able to meet the additional costs. This is supported by research evidence from the Institute of Education and the Frank Buttle Trust which showed that young people who have been looked after typically have higher levels of debt on graduation than their peers and identified significant variations in the level of financial support offered by different local authorities.

The consultation confirmed the support for our proposal to introduce a £2,000 higher education bursary for care leavers to ensure that they get a minimum level of financial support. Eighty three per cent. of young people at the "Care Matters" consultation events thought the bursary was a good idea and 73 per cent. thought it would encourage more young people who were looked after to go on to higher education.

Departmental Coordination

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people in his Department are responsible for liaising with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. [178123]

Kevin Brennan: Following the Machinery of Government changes last year, three separate Departments were established with clear demarcation of responsibility. However, we have sought to maintain effective communication links across the three new Departments to minimise disruption to our customers. A range of officials in DCSF are in regular discussion with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills across a number of issues, covering both policy and the provision of corporate services. The issues being discussed and number of people involved varies.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what efficiency savings his Department was required to make as part of its spending review 2004 (SR04) targets; what efficiency projects have been undertaken in the Department in pursuit of those targets; on what date each was initiated; and how much each was predicted to contribute to the SR04 target. [163193]

Kevin Brennan: The Department is jointly committed with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS), to the efficiency target set originally for the Department for Education and Skills (DFES).

The DFES target is 2.5 per cent. a year over the spending review 2004 period. This means being able to demonstrate cumulative gains against our baseline of £1.45 billion in 2005-06, £2.9 billion in 2006-07 and £4.35 billion in 2007-08.

Details of the specific initiatives which contribute to our Gershon efficiency target are set out in our Efficiency Technical Note, which is available on the Department's website:

www.dcsf.gov.uk

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 19 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 531W, on Departments: cost effectiveness, what the target is for efficiency savings to be divided between the two newly created Departments. [163386]

Kevin Brennan: Machinery of Government changes within the Department have resulted in the Department for Education and Skills (DFES) target being split between the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

Treasury are keen that there is a shared responsibility for the overall target and that this is agreed formally. Both DCSF and DIUS permanent secretaries have set out their continued commitment to the overall target. However, it is important for governance and accountability purposes that each Department knows which initiatives within the programme it is responsible for. We have calculated an indicative split of the Gershon Targets and progress towards them is outlined in the autumn performance reports for each Department. The Department published its autumn performance reports in December 2007, which are available on our website:

www.dcsf.gov.uk

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether any of his Department's special advisers have declared a conflict of interest. [163194]

Kevin Brennan: Special advisers are appointed under the terms and conditions set out in the Model Contract for Special Advisers. Copies of the Model Contract are available in the Libraries of the House.

Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what meetings he had with executives of the OCR exam board in each of the last three months; and what was discussed at such meetings. [178572]

Kevin Brennan: My right hon. Friend has not had any meetings with the executives of the OCR exam board in the last three months.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how frequently he meets executives of the OCR exam board. [178573]

Kevin Brennan: My right hon. Friend has not met the executives of the OCR exam board, and as of 14 January 2008 no meetings with the board are scheduled.

Private Sector

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what departmental investigations have taken place since 1 January 2007 into the management of his Department's contracts with private sector agencies; and if he will make a statement. [177830]

Kevin Brennan: The Department carries out a programme of regular risk based audit assessments across the range of its business. This includes reviews of the quality of contract management.

Investigations may be carried out into issues where there appears to be evidence of possible malpractice or impropriety. Since 1 January 2007, the Department has undertaken two formal investigations that have concerned or included consideration of issues relating to the management of contracts with private sector organisations.

Regulation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for which regulators and inspectorates his Department has had responsibility in each year since 1997; what the budget was of each such body in each year; and what the cost to the public purse was of any restructuring of each such body in each year. [175315]

Kevin Brennan: The following table sets out the annual budget for each of the financial years from 1998-99 to 2006-07 for each of the regulatory and inspectorate bodies that were the responsibility of the former Department for Education and Skills (2001-02 to 2006-07) and the former Department for Education and Employment (1998-99 to 2000-01). Final figures are not currently available for 2007-08 for the Department for Children, Schools and Families and information is not readily accessible prior to 1998-99.

The Department does not hold specific financial information in relation to the cost of any restructuring that these bodies may have undertaken. This information could be gathered from the bodies themselves only at disproportionate cost.

Annual budget provision for regulatory and inspectorate bodies of the former Department for Education and Skills and the former Department for Education and Employment since 1998-99

£000

Financial year	Adult Learning Inspectorate	Office for Fair Access	Office of the Children's Commissioner	General Teaching Council	Qualifications and Curriculum Authority
2006-07	27,100	500	3,000	449	150,900
2005-06	26,100	400	3,000	609	151,000
2004-05	30,712	500	—	3,007	155,014
2003-04	30,000	—	—	3,300	94,700
2002-03	25,400	—	—	3,500	69,900
2001-02	21,500	—	—	7,400	54,269
2000-01	—	—	—	—	61,326
1999-2000	—	—	—	—	58,292
1998-99	—	—	—	—	54,800

Note:
Adult Learning Inspectorate transferred to Ofsted from 1 April 2007.
Source:
Departmental resource accounts from 1998-99 to 2006-07.

Schools: Sports

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many school governing bodies and school sport associations work with competition managers. [179061]

Kevin Brennan: Competition managers work with schools, national governing bodies of sport and school sport associations within each county area to increase inter-school sport competition. The national school sport competition framework has been developed in partnership with some 20 national governing bodies of sport.

School sport partnerships now include all maintained schools in England. There are currently 90 competition managers in post, each working across two school sport partnerships. On average, there are 48 schools per partnership. This means that competition managers are currently working with around 7,200 primary schools and 1,440 secondary schools. The appointment of a total of 226 competition managers by January 2009 will ensure that all maintained schools in England will be included in this framework.

Special Educational Needs: Greater London

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils have been statemented in schools in each London borough in each of the last five years. [179289]

Jim Knight: The information requested is given in the following table.

Maintained mainstream schools: number of pupils for whom statements were newly made, London local authorities, 2002-06, position in January each year

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
London[1]	4,840	4,930	4,520	4,040	3,840
Inner London[1]	1,790	1,860	1,710	1,460	1,450
Camden	103	169	179	117	94
City of London	5	0	4	[2]	[2]
Hackney	174	147	149	142	136
Hammersmith and Fulham	128	127	104	92	66
Haringey	159	181	137	118	146
Islington	92	87	102	130	100
Kensington and Chelsea	60	46	36	43	32
Lambeth	126	197	143	112	166
Lewisham	250	121	182	136	126
Newham	37	41	45	40	50
Southwark	213	241	178	149	166
Tower Hamlets	186	199	190	166	125
Wandsworth	164	204	165	133	131
Westminster	95	99	97	82	108
Outer London[1]	3,050	3,070	2,810	2,580	2,390
Barking and Dagenham	160	140	114	80	62
Barnet	161	87	116	143	157
Bexley	194	197	208	207	120
Brent	117	171	156	141	168
Bromley	206	166	152	198	186
Croydon	244	273	240	193	145
Ealing	181	196	156	156	146
Enfield	210	203	188	139	82
Greenwich	111	167	149	129	186
Harrow	152	150	108	102	119
Havering	97	113	94	67	36
Hillingdon	248	187	100	103	103
Hounslow	230	250	230	174	121
Kingston upon Thames	79	89	98	72	46
Merton	149	140	165	128	100
Redbridge	170	150	168	161	187
Richmond upon Thames	79	66	75	78	78
Sutton	107	142	107	123	131
Waltham Forest	157	185	186	188	214

[1] Regional totals have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[2] One or two pupils.
Source:
SEN 2 Survey 2003-06.

TRANSPORT

A63

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to de-trunk the A63. [179697]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency published Draft Statutory Orders to de-trunk the A63/A19 route, between the Boot and Shoe roundabout at Micklefield and Loftsome Bridge, on 28 June 2007. A number of objections have been received to the proposal from local councils, including North Yorkshire county council and Leeds city council. Objections have also been received from the hon. Member for Selby (Mr. Grogan) and some local residents. The Highways Agency aims to resolve the objections to enable de-trunking in 2008.

Aviation: Noise

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport public consultation has taken account of the Putting noise on the map airport noise maps information published on 18th December 2007 by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs relating to Heathrow airport; and if she will make a statement. [176961]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* Paragraphs 51-54 of Annex E of the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport Consultation document drew attention to the requirements of the European Environmental Noise Directive (END) 2002/49 EC for major airports to produce strategic noise maps. Following preparations of the noise maps, airports will have to produce action plans setting out measures to mitigate aircraft noise.

However the consultation document noted that, given the difference in parameters, it was not possible to draw any meaningful conclusions between the END Lden maps and the annual summer Leq contours used by the Department. The environmental commitment given in the Future of Air Transport White Paper undertook not to increase the size of the area significantly affected by noise as measured by the annual departmental 57dBA Leq noise contour.

British Railways Board

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people are employed by the British Railways Board (Residuary); and what that body's budget was in 2006-07. [178138]

Mr. Tom Harris: Full details of BRB (Residuary) Ltd's budget and results for 2006-07 are available in the annual report and accounts for the company which can be found on their website at www.brbr.gov.uk

This shows that the company made a statutory profit before tax of £9.4 million in 2006-07 and employed 27 people on a full-time equivalent basis.

Commissioners of Irish Lights: Finance

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will publish the Review of Funding for the Commissioners of Irish Lights in hard copy and electronically. [179005]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to my reply given on 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 843W. The report of the Irish Lights Study will be published in hard copy and in electronic format.

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Republic of Ireland *(a)* have contributed to the funding of the Commissioners of Irish Lights in the last five years, *(b)* will contribute to the funding of the Commissioners of Irish Lights for 2007-08 and *(c)* is recommended to contribute towards the funding of the Commissioners of Irish Lights by the recent review of such funding. [179006]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is set out as follows.

	Irish Government supplement (€000)	*Light dues collected in ROI (€000)*	*Sundry income generated in the ROI (€000)*	*Total contributed by ROI to the GLF (€000)*	*Average exchange rate for year*	*Total contributed by ROI to the GLF (£000)*
2002-03	3,455	5,279	304	9,038	1.5661	5,771
2003-04	4,113	4,998	717	9,828	1.4382	6,833
2004-05	5,734	4,489	746	10,969	1.4701	7,462
2005-06	5,456	4,754	1,007	11,217	1.4660	7,652
2006-07	5,808	4,614	646	11,068	1.4728	7,515
2007-08 (estimated)	5,800	4,700	980	11,480	1.3900	8,259

Note:
The Irish Lights Evidence Study has not yet been completed. Following its completion there will be negotiations between the two Governments to determine appropriate contributions towards the funding of the Commissioners of Irish Lights.

Daedalus Airfield

Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the status of Daedalus airfield at Lee-on-Solent. [179830]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency and its parent Department, the Department for Transport have now reviewed the status of Daedalus airfield and are of the view that it is not a Government aerodrome, within the meaning of the Air Navigation Order 2005. It is a civilian (unlicensed) aerodrome in the occupation of the Hampshire Police Authority (HPA).

The HPA occupies the site as lessee and under the terms of its lease is responsible for the operational management of the aerodrome, including matters of safety and airfield access.

Departmental Redundancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost was of redundancies in her Department in the 12 months preceding *(a)* 30 June 2004, *(b)* 30 June 2005 and *(c)* 30 June 2006. [175339]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport and its agencies had no compulsory or voluntary redundancies between 2004 and 2006, but made headcount reductions by undertaking voluntary staff exit schemes, including early retirements. The cost across the seven agencies and the central Department based on financial accounting years were:

	£ million
2003-04	1.7
2004-05	7.1
2005-06	10.4

The Department is only able to provide derails of the voluntary exit schemes in the time spans requested at disproportionate cost.

Electric Vehicles

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the contribution to *(a)* carbon dioxide emissions and *(b)* congestion reduction targets of permitting the use of two-wheeled, self-balancing electric transportation devices on the public highway; what plans she has to bring forward measures to allow the use of such devices on such highways; and if she will meet representations of manufacturers of such devices to discuss their merits. [179961]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has made no assessment of the contribution to carbon dioxide emission or congestion reduction targets of permitting the use of two-wheeled, self-balancing electric transportation devices. However, if, as I understand, their use is likely to be as an alternative to walking or cycling then their potential in terms of greenhouse gas and local pollution reduction would appear to be at best negligible.

There have been a number of meetings, demonstrations and exchanges of correspondence, both at ministerial and official level, with manufacturer representatives. There are currently no plans for further meetings.

Freight

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage changes there were in the movement of freight within the United Kingdom by *(a)* road, *(b)* rail, *(c)* water and *(d)* pipeline in each year since 2001. [178145]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The available information on domestic freight by mode for Great Britain is published in Transport Statistics in Great Britain Table 4.1. The web link for this table is:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/freight/tsgbchapter4datatables.xls.

Table Domestic freight transport by mode

Billion tonne kilometres/percentage

	Goods moved							
	Road		*Rail*[1]		*Water*		*Pipeline*	
	Billion tonne kilometres	*Percentage inc*	*Billion tonne kilometres*	*Percentage inc*	*Billion tonne kilometres*	*Percentage inc*	*Billion tonne kilometres*	*Percentage inc*
2001	158.5		19.4		58.8		11.5	
2002	159.4	0.6	18.7	-3.6	67.0	13.9	10.9	-5.2
2003	161.7	1.4	18.9	1.1	61.0	-9	10.5	-3.7
2004	162.5	0.5	20.4	7.7	59.4	-2.6	10.7	1.9
2005	163.4	0.6	21.7	6.6	60.9	2.5	10.8	0.9
2006	166.9	2.2	22.1	1.9	51.8	-14.9	10.8	0

[1] Rail figures are for financial years.

Sources:
Road and Water, DFT; Rail, ORR; Pipeline, BERR.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the annual movement of freight by road, in billion tonne kilometres, was in each year since 1997. [178133]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Annual figures for the level of road freight activity by GB-registered goods vehicles in Great Britain (measured in billion tonne kilometres), excluding foreign vehicle activity, are shown in the following table.

	Goods moved (billion tonne kilometres)
1997	157
1998	160
1999	158
2000	159
2001	159
2002	159
2003	162
2004	163
2005	163
2006	167

Source:
Table 4.1, Transport Statistics Great Britain 2007.

Heathrow Airport

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether Heathrow Airport has exceeded the number of flights operating during the night quota period in each season since winter 2006-07; [179291]

(2) whether Heathrow Airport has exceeded the quota count points system for noise levels during the night quota period in each season since winter 2006-07. [179292]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Heathrow airport has operated consistently within the Government's night flight regime requirements. This regime specifies seasonal maxima covering both aircraft movements and noise quota amounts. The maxima for the seasons from winter 2006-07 to date are as follows:

	Winter 2006-07	*Summer 2007*	*Winter 2007-08*
Movements	2,550	3,250	2,550
Quota	4,140	5,610	4,140

The night restrictions regime has recognised for a number of years that there will be occasions when the airport can be affected by extraordinary circumstances which cannot be anticipated (for example aircraft delays caused by security, severe weather or ATC situations). Accordingly, in such circumstances, there is provision under the regime that flights may be dispensed i.e. will not count against the limits.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which individuals and organisations have been sent a copy of the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation document; and if she will make a statement. [179450]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 16 January 2008]:* On the launch of the 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport' consultation we sent out 766 consultation documents to a wide range of organisations, as set out in Annex G of the consultation document. The full list of these organisations has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

We also sent out over 217,000 Summary Documents to residents around the airport, which recommends that they request the full Consultation Document to inform their response. To date we have sent over 900

copies of the consultation document to a range of different organisations, interests and members of the public who have requested a copy. Our obligations under data protection legislation prevent us from releasing the names of individuals concerned. The consultation document is available at the consultation exhibitions which we are running in the communities around the airport. To date, 470 copies of the Consultation Document have been given out at the exhibitions. Seven of these exhibitions had taken place by 15 January, with five remaining.

Heathrow Airport: Pollution

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate her Department has made of nitrogen dioxide emissions at Heathrow airport in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [179437]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 16 January 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 4W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Henley (Mr. Johnson)

Heathrow Airport: Sustainable Development

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment was made as part of the Project for the Sustainable Development of Heathrow of the carbon dioxide emissions in relation to option *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2 and *(c)* 3 from the additional passenger traffic travelling to and from Heathrow under each option; and if she will make a statement. [179963]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The carbon dioxide emissions from additional passengers travelling by air under options one, two, and three in the "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" consultation are set out in annex B of the consultation document, available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/heathrowconsultation/consultationdocument/

Carbon dioxide emissions from additional surface access trips to Heathrow would depend on the detail of the surface access strategy accompanying any extra capacity. This would need to be developed by the airport operator as part of a comprehensive transport assessment prior to a planning application.

Network Rail: Private Roads

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many unadopted roads in the UK Network Rail owns. [179709]

Mr. Tom Harris: This is an operational matter for Network Rail, as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for a response to his question.

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London NW1 2EE

Parking

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what obligations are placed on local parking enforcement authorities to make refunds when an adjudicator has ruled a particular parking zone or bay illegal or not fully in compliance with legislation. [179698]

Ms Rosie Winterton: An adjudicator who allows an appeal against a penalty charge may direct an authority to refund any money already paid in respect of the penalty charge, sale, or release of the vehicle. The authority must comply with such a direction without delay. Adjudicators can only make such directions in relation to individual appeal cases.

Railways

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the profit margins achieved by rolling stock companies and the contingent effect upon the rail network. [179138]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 15 January 2008]:* This is a matter which is being considered as part of the Competition Commission's investigation into the leasing of rolling stock to passenger rail operators.

Railways: Essex

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the reasons were for the overrunning of engineering works affecting train services between Liverpool Street and Essex over the Christmas and New Year period; and if she will make a statement. [179569]

Mr. Tom Harris: The independent Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) has launched an investigation into Network Rail's management of engineering projects including the causes of the major engineering over-run at Liverpool Street over Christmas and the new year. The ORR expects to publish its findings by 29 February 2008. We will not seek to pre-empt the ORR's investigation by speculating on causes before its report is issued.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the reasons are for the disruption of the Liverpool Street to Chelmsford rail line experienced since 31 December 2007; what steps are being taken to improve the quality of service for commuters on that line; and if she will make a statement; [179431]

(2) for what reasons Liverpool Street Station was not fully operational for commuters on 1 January 2008; and if she will make a statement. [179432]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 16 January 2008]:* The independent Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) has launched an investigation into Network Rail's management of engineering projects including the causes of the major engineering over-runs at Liverpool Street over Christmas and the new year. The ORR expects to publish its findings by 29 February 2008. We will not seek to pre-empt the ORR's investigation by speculating on causes before its report is issued.

Railways: Finance

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will estimate the costs of running a Sunday rail service (a) overall and (b) for each train operating company (i) on Christmas day and (ii) on Boxing day. [177134]

Mr. Tom Harris: We have no plans to do so. Whether or not to run services on Christmas day and Boxing day is primarily a matter for the commercial judgment of Network Rail and train operators who are best placed to assess the potential costs and revenue. This has, though, to be balanced against the need to carry out major infrastructure upgrades at times when trains are not running.

Railways: Overcrowding

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of levels of overcrowding (a) at peak times, (b) at off-peak times and (c) on Saturdays at each station on the Portsmouth to Cardiff via Salisbury rail route in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [179505]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport has made no estimate of the levels of crowding at each station on the Portsmouth to Cardiff rail route.

Railways: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the reasons are for the time taken to complete the works on Upper Gungate Bridge in Tamworth constituency by Network Rail. [179768]

Mr. Tom Harris: This is an operational matter for Network Rail, as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for a response to his question:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London NW1 2EE

Tyres: Safety

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is considering to raise the awareness of driving with under-inflated tyres; and what data she has on numbers of vehicles on the road with under-inflated tyres. [179696]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport launched the ACT ON CO_2 communications campaign in March 2007. One element of the campaign is to provide drivers with tips for more fuel efficient 'smarter' driving techniques to help reduce CO_2 emissions. This includes ensuring that tyres are maintained at the correct pressure.

The Department has used a variety of media to raise awareness of the campaign, including television, radio, online and print media, directing people to the ACT ON CO_2 website for more detailed advice.

In October 2007 the Department for Transport endorsed TyreSafe's 'Tyre safety month' to raise awareness of the issue.

The Department does not collect data on the numbers of vehicles on the road with under-inflated tyres, however a survey in 2007 carried out by Michelin found that 80 per cent. of cars were running with incorrect tyre pressures. Further research conducted by TNO for the Dutch Ministry of Environment showed that 50 per cent. of cars were running on under-inflated tyres.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Accidents: Farms

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many farm accidents there were in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [176848]

Mrs. McGuire: A total of 1,315 accidents were reported to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR) in 2006-07 by duty holders in the agriculture and hunting industry, including farms. This also includes accidents to workers, the self-employed and members of the public from work activities in the agriculture and hunting sectors.

The total includes fatal and 'major injuries' and 'over three day injury' accidents as defined in RIDDOR. In simple terms, a major injury is defined as an amputation, fracture (not in fingers/toes), certain dislocations, and injury requiring immediate medical treatment or a stay in hospital for over 24 hours. An over three day injury is one where the injured person was required to be absent from normal (work) duties for more than three whole days (including week ends). It also includes accidents to workers, the self-employed and members of the public from work activities in the agriculture and hunting sectors.

2006-07 is the most recent full year for which data are available. However, because of late reporting to HSE, the data are provisional and will be finalised next year in 2008.

Health and Safety Executive: Bureaucracy

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the Health and Safety Executive minimises administrative burdens to business in carrying out its functions. [176988]

Mrs. McGuire: The Health and Safety Executive has, alongside other Departments and regulators, outlined its commitment to reducing administrative burdens by 25 per cent. through the publication of its second simplification plan in November 2007, accessed at:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/simplification/index.htm.

To date, HSE's plan identifies projects that are designed to do so by 22 per cent. by 2010.

Industrial Health and Safety: Local Authorities

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance the Health and Safety Executive has given to local authorities on (*a*) outdoor Christmas lights, (*b*) outdoor lighting in general and (*c*) working at heights. [176246]

Mrs. McGuire: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has not provided any specific guidance to local authorities on (*a*) outdoor Christmas lights or on (*b*) outdoor lighting in general.

HSE has provided good straight forward guidance to local authorities on (*c*) working at heights. An operational circular (No 200/31) for HSE and local authorities on the interpretation and enforcement of the work at height regulations 2005 was published along with an inspection pack for enforcing authorities. These can be accessed through HSE's website www.hse.gov.uk together with other guidance on work at height.

Jobcentre Plus: Administration

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent on average per year on the administration of Jobcentre Plus in the last five years, and what proportion of this has been spent on the delivery of frontline services. [172629]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to reply to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mel Groves, dated 17 January 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked the Chief Executive to reply to your question concerning how much has been spent on average per year on the administration of Jobcentre Plus in the last five years and what proportion of this has been spent on the delivery of frontline services. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to Ms Strathie as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. I am replying in her absence as Acting Chief Executive.

The information available is set out in the table below. This contains details of the administration expenditure in Jobcentre Plus over the past four years since 2003/4. Not all costs can be accurately split between customer facing and non customer facing activities. However, the proportion of staff deployed on customer facing activities provides a good approximation of the proportion of costs spent on customer facing activities. This is because most costs are either staff or staff related.

	Net administration costs (£ million)	*Proportion staff deployed on front line activities*
2003-04	3,042	71
2004-05	3,244	73
2005-06	3,463	84
2006-07	3,542	89

Notes:

1. The administration cost totals for each year relevant annual report and accounts. The last report being 2006-07.
2. The proportion of staff deployed on front line services is extracted from our activity based management system. Information is only available for 2003-04 onwards.

I hope this is helpful.

Morgan Allan Moore

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what meetings (*a*) he and (*b*) officials in his Department have had with representatives of the company Morgan Allan Moore in the last 12 months. [179595]

Mr. Hain: Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not the usual practice of Government to disclose details of such meetings.

Pension Credit

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of households in which at least one person will receive (*a*) pension credit and (*b*) the minimum income guarantee credit in 2008. [174804]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Current forecasts for 2008-09 show 2.72 million households in receipt of pension credit, of which 2.04 million are estimated to be in receipt of the pension credit guarantee credit.

Notes:

1. Forecasts are rounded to the nearest 10,000 and are annual average case loads consistent with forecasts published at the 2007 pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review. Benefit expenditure and caseload tables are available at www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
3. The number of households in receipt of guarantee credit includes those in receipt of guarantee credit only and those in receipt of both guarantee credit and savings credit.

Source:

DWP Forecasts

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in each region have had at least one person in receipt of (*a*) pensioner credit and (*b*) the minimum income guarantee credit in each year since their introduction. [174884]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The answer is in the following table.

Households in receipt of pension credit and the pension credit guarantee credit 2003-07

	November 2003		*May 2004*		*May 2005*		*May 2006*		*May 2007*	
	Pension credit	*Guarantee credit*	*Pension credit*	*Guarantee credit*	*Pension credit*	*Guarantee credit*	*Pension credit*	*Guarantee credit*	*Pension credit*	*Guarantee credit*
All	2,084,700	1,842,690	2,490,760	2,004,780	2,682,730	2,088,990	2,717,380	2,118,830	2,733,500	2,135,850
North East	124,280	106,690	147,570	114,570	156,680	117,740	157,430	118,870	157,440	119,250

Households in receipt of pension credit and the pension credit guarantee credit 2003-07

	November 2003		May 2004		May 2005		May 2006		May 2007	
	Pension credit	*Guarantee credit*	*Pension credit*	*Guarantee credit*	*Pension credit*	*Guarantee credit*	*Pension credit*	*Guarantee credit*	*Pension credit*	*Guarantee credit*
North West	285,980	252,980	332,590	271,230	354,960	280,740	357,560	283,640	356,140	285,530
Yorkshire and the Humber	200,810	175,270	241,840	189,990	258,880	195,910	261,650	197,750	262,390	198,420
East Midlands	144,690	126,030	178,600	139,330	193,290	145,490	195,990	148,020	196,580	148,540
West Midlands	216,810	193,350	256,910	208,710	276,840	216,420	279,420	218,570	280,340	219,360
East of England	159,940	141,240	202,300	158,220	220,610	166,890	224,190	169,950	227,080	172,260
London	233,480	218,160	264,860	232,370	285,420	243,410	290,220	247,690	292,420	250,490
South East	205,480	179,090	254,320	199,340	276,770	209,530	282,030	213,660	285,280	217,100
South West	171,570	147,080	205,590	161,720	221,070	169,140	224,820	172,320	225,770	173,520
Wales	121,890	108,170	145,900	119,260	158,370	125,680	161,330	128,360	162,720	129,950
Scotland	219,650	194,440	259,980	209,780	279,370	217,660	282,420	219,720	283,530	220,680
Unknown	190	180	280	240	460	360	330	280	810	740

Notes

1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Pension credit was introduced in October 2003 so data for 2003 are as at November.
4. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
5. The number of households in receipt of guarantee credit includes those in receipt of guarantee credit only and those in receipt of both guarantee credit and savings credit.
6. Time series data include minimum income guarantee (MIG) cases; households on income support where the claimant and/or partner are aged 60 or over. About 1.8 million MIG cases transferred to pension credit on 6 October 2003.

Source

DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many (*a*) single pensioners and (*b*) pensioner couples received (i) pension credit and (ii) income support in England in each year since 1997. [175071]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The answer is in the following tables.

Pensioners in receipt of pension credit 2003-07

	Single pensioners in receipt of pension credit	*Pensioner couples in receipt of pension credit*
November 2003	1,398,000	345,000
May 2004	1,639,000	446,000
May 2005	1,756,000	488,000
May 2006	1,771,000	503,000
May 2007	1,779,000	507,000

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Pension credit was introduced in October 2003 so data for 2003 are as at November.

Source:

Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent data. DWP Information Directorate

Pensioners in receipt of income support/minimum income guarantee 1997-2003

As at May	*Single pensioners in receipt of income support/minimum income guarantee*	*Pensioner couples in receipt of income support/minimum income guarantee*
1997	1,202,000	224,000
1998	1,161,000	212,000
1999	1,137,000	206,000
2000	1,135,000	214,000
2001	1,205,000	233,000
2002	1,215,000	242,000
2003	1,229,000	259,000

Notes

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Pensioners are defined as benefit units where either the claimant and/or partner are aged 60 or over.
4. From April 1999 income support for pensioners became the minimum income guarantee.
5. Figures from 1997 to 1999 are taken from a five per cent. sample are subject to a degree of sampling variation. They are also adjusted to be consistent with the overall caseload from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Source

Five per cent. data and Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data, DWP Information Directorate

Pensioners

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the net cost would be of increasing the basic state pension for all pensioners to £119.05 a week in 2008-09. [172160]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The estimated net cost is approximately £21 billion in 2008-09 which takes savings from income-related benefits into account.

Notes:

1. 'All pensioners' is defined as all individuals over state pension age living in the United Kingdom. The estimate does not include pensioners claiming a UK pension, but living overseas. Including this group would increase the estimated costs.

2. Savings from income related benefits have been estimated using the Department's Policy Simulation Model.

3. The estimate is consistent with mid-2004 GAD population projections.

4. The estimate is in 2007-08 prices and has been rounded to the nearest £ billion.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the net cost would be of increasing the basic state pension for all existing pensioners to 60 per cent. of median population income in 2008-09. [172161]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The estimated net cost is approximately £22 billion in 2008-09 which takes savings from income-related benefits into account.

Notes:

1. 60 per cent. of median population income for a single person with no children after deducting housing costs was £108 per week in 2005-06 (Households Below Average Income, DWP). This figure has been uprated by average earnings to £121.60 per week in 2008-09.

2. 'All pensioners' is defined as all individuals over state pension age living in the United Kingdom. The estimate does not include pensioners claiming a UK pension, but living overseas. Including this group would increase the estimated costs.

3. Savings from income related benefits have been estimated using the Department's Policy Simulation Model.

4. The estimate is consistent with mid-2004 GAD population projections.

5. The estimate is in 2007-08 prices and has been rounded to the nearest £ billion.

Pensions

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people made contributions into a group personal pension scheme in 2005-06. [175052]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is presented as follows:

Employer sponsored group personal pensions

	Thousand
	Number of members
Personal pensions	1,890
Stakeholder pensions	870

Notes:

1. The information shows the number of Personal and Stakeholder pension scheme members. They are derived from monthly and annual statistical returns submitted to HMRC by pension providers alongside claims for the repayment of basic rate income tax on contributions. Due to lags in providers submitting monthly returns the number and amounts shown in the tables will tend to underestimate the number of members during the year.

2. The number of members relates to members of each reporting provider and should not be taken as numbers of individuals, since individuals can have more than one pension provider.

3. Employer sponsored schemes include group personal pensions, group stakeholder pensions and all contracts set up under a trust by an employer.

Source:

As reported to HMRC by providers between 6 April 2005 to 5 April 2006

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged *(a)* 18 to 25, *(b)* 25 to 45 and *(c)* 45 to 65 years are contracted out of the state second pension; and what proportion of the working population in each age group these figures represent. [175063]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The latest available information is in the following table:

Age-group	*Number of people contracted out (Thousand)*	*Percentage of corresponding workforce*
18-25	633	17
26-45	6,779	49
46-64	3,743	43

Notes:

(a) Contracting-out figures are based on a one per cent. sample of LLMD 2 and are shown to the nearest thousand.

(b) Workforce figures on which the percentages are based are from the Office for National Statistics mid-2003 population estimates.

(c) The "46-64 age group" excludes women aged between 60 and 64 as people cannot contract out beyond state pension age (currently 60 for women and 65 for men).

(d) The age-groups set out in the answer differ slightly from those set out in the question to avoid overlapping and to take account of the fact that men cannot contract out beyond state pension age.

Source:

Lifetime Labour Market Database (LLMD) 2, 2003-04

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners have had their pension payment date *(a)* advanced to 21 December 2007 and *(b)* set to be paid on 24 December 2007. [175078]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is as follows.

Approximately 5.4 million customers had their payments advanced to 21 December 2007. This figure includes customers in receipt of state pension as well as those people of working age who receive widows benefit and bereavement benefit.

Approximately 3.6 million customers received their payments on 24 December 2007. This figure includes pension credit, state pension and income support customers.

Pensions: Carers

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Eastbourne constituency, *(b)* England and *(c)* the UK receive the carer's credit for the state second pension; and what percentage of the population in each area each figure represents. [175073]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The new carer's credit, replacing home responsibilities protection (HRP), will apply to those reaching state pension age from 6 April 2010. It will allow, in certain circumstances, a parent, a registered foster parent or a carer to build up entitlement to basic state pension and state second pension.

It is estimated that the more generous crediting arrangements will mean up to one million more people (around 90 per cent. of whom are women) will be accruing state second pension.

Currently HRP provides entitlement to state second pension as well as reducing the number of qualifying years needed for a full basic state pension. HRP is awarded to people who receive child benefit for a child under six years old, carers who receive carer's allowance, and certain other carers.

The latest figures available (2003-04) show that in that year just under 1.9 million people in the UK qualified for state second pension because they had

caring responsibilities. This represented just over four per cent. of the UK working age population at that time. Figures for England and at a constituency level are not available.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Damascus: Entry Clearances

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the restricted visa service at the British embassy in Damascus. [179385]

Dr. Howells: A restricted visa service has been in operation at our embassy in Damascus since 2 May 2007 for security reasons. Arrangements are therefore in place for Syrian nationals and others resident in Syria to apply at our embassies in Amman or Beirut. It will not be possible for a full service to be resumed until the embassy has relocated to a new building. This is likely to take at least two years. Any inconvenience caused is regretted.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the British embassy in Damascus will resume a full visa service; and if he will make a statement. [179387]

Dr. Howells: A restricted visa service has been in operation at our embassy in Damascus since 2 May 2007 for security reasons. Arrangements are therefore in place for Syrian nationals and others resident in Syria to apply at our embassies in Amman or Beirut. It will not be possible for a full service to be resumed until the embassy has relocated to a new building. This is likely to take at least two years. Any inconvenience caused is regretted.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed Conflict

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of clashes between security forces and the Bundu dia Kongo religious sect in the west of the Democratic Republic of Congo; what assessment he has made of the implications of such events for the political situation in that country; and if he will make a statement. [179486]

Meg Munn: On 5 January 2008 the Bundu dia Kongo (BdK) announced that it wished to replace the elected political leader of Seke Banza territory in western Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) with one of its members. The police arrested three members of BdK in the territory on the same day. Unrest followed as a group of about three hundred BdK members, some armed with stones and sharpened sticks, confronted the police in the town of Seke Banza. During this incident the BdK attacked the vehicle of a police commander. As the vehicle left the area it ran over and killed four members of the BdK. A police officer was killed during the violence and twenty-two other people were injured and treated in hospital. The area has been calm since 5 January.

The Government are concerned by these events. The UK supports the effective function of legitimately-elected political leaders in DRC. As the anniversary of the violent clashes in 2007 between DRC security forces and the BdK in the same region approaches, it is hoped that further violence can be avoided through a professional and well-planned response.

Derek Pasquill

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who in his Department took the decision to refer the matter of Mr Derek Pasquill to the Crown Prosecution Service. [179693]

Meg Munn: The Metropolitan police took the decision to refer the matter to the Crown Prosecution Service.

Entry Clearances: Internet

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what procedures are in place to allow individuals to apply for visas online. [179386]

Dr. Howells: Individuals can apply for visas online through the following website:

www.visa4uk.fco.gov.uk.

This is currently available to applicants in 111 countries and is due to be available globally by April 2008.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken since August 2006 to secure the release of the Israeli soldiers kidnapped by Hamas and Hezbollah in June and July 2006. [179110]

Dr. Howells: The UK remains concerned about the welfare of Gilad Shalit, captured by militants in Gaza, and Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev captured by Hezbollah in northern Israel in 2006.

The UK and the international community continue to work for the release of these soldiers as a high priority. Egypt has led international efforts to secure the release of Corporal Shalit. We have remained in close contact with the Egyptian authorities, as well as the Israeli government and Palestinian Authority, and continue to offer our support.

We believe that the most effective way to achieve the release of Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev is to support efforts by the UN to mediate between the parties as part of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701. The UN Secretary-General has appointed a special facilitator to try and obtain the release of Eldad Regev and Ehud Goldwasser. I was encouraged by an exchange of prisoners between Israel and Hezbollah in October 2007 and hope that this will lead to more progress in the negotiations for the release of these soldiers. We will continue to support the UN's efforts. We will also raise the fate of all of these servicemen with those who might have information about their whereabouts whenever an opportunity arises.

In November 2007 I met the wife and father of Ehud Goldwasser and expressed sympathy for their situation. Shortly before the first anniversary of their capture, I reiterated our call for the release of Gilad Shalit, Eldad Regev and Ehud Goldwasser in a debate in the House on 27 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 87-92WH. In addition, I made a public statement calling for their release.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to Syria on using its influence to try to secure the release of the Israeli soldiers kidnapped by Hamas and Hezbollah in June and July 2006. [179111]

Dr. Howells: The UK remains concerned about the welfare of Gilad Shalit, captured by militants in Gaza and Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev captured by Hezbollah in northern Israel in 2006. In July 2006, following the kidnap of Goldwasser and Regev, the Syrian ambassador was called to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Syria was urged to use its influence to secure the release of these soldiers. During meetings between Syrian and UK Ministers since then we have consistently called on Syria to play a helpful role in Lebanon and the middle east more broadly. This includes supporting full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which calls for the release of the captured soldiers. We also continue to support the efforts of the government of Israel, Egypt and others to negotiate the release of Gilad Shalit.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to Iran on using its influence to try to secure the release of the Israeli soldiers kidnapped by Hamas and Hezbollah in June and July 2006. [179112]

Dr. Howells: The UK remains concerned about the welfare of Gilad Shalit, captured by militants in Gaza and Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev captured by Hezbollah in northern Israel in 2006. While the UK has not made any specific representations to the Iranian Government on this issue, we continue to encourage the Iranian Government to play a more helpful role in the region. We believe that most effective way to achieve the release of the soldiers captured by Hezbollah is to support efforts by the UN to mediate between the parties, as part of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701. We also continue to support the efforts of the Government of Israel, Egypt and others to negotiate the release of Gilad Shalit.

Sri Lanka: Human Rights

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the observance of human rights in Sri Lanka of the end of the Sri Lankan Monitoring Mission; and if he will make a statement. [179489]

Dr. Howells: We regret and are very concerned at the departure from the country of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission, following the abrogation of the 2002 Cease-Fire Agreement by the Sri Lankan Government. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, paid tribute to their effort in his statement of 4 January, available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Patge&cid=1007029391629&a=KArticle&aid=1199197354598%20&year=2008&month=2008-01-01&date=2008-01-04

The departure of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission can only add to the case for an expanded presence and mandate in Sri Lanka for the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Sri Lanka: Peace Negotiations

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with the *(a)* Sri Lankan Government and *(b)* Norwegian Government on the status of the ceasefire agreement in Sri Lanka. [179485]

Dr. Howells: On 4 January, my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, issued a statement on the abrogation of the 2002 Cease-Fire Agreement by the Sri Lankan Government. We continue to reiterate to the Sri Lankan Government their responsibility for addressing Tamil grievances and for setting out a viable framework for a just political solution. My noble Friend also paid tribute to the unstinting work of the Norwegians, whom we continue to consult given their wide experience over five years as facilitators of the peace process.

The full text of my noble Friend's statement is available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029391629&a=KArticle&aid=1199197354598%20&year=2008&month=2008-01-01&date=2008-01-04.

Syria: Lebanon

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports the Government have received of the *(a)* scale and *(b)* circumstances of the smuggling of weapons from Syria into Southern Lebanon. [179109]

Dr. Howells: In his most recent report on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1701 in October 2007, the UN Secretary-General reported that arms smuggling across the Syria/Lebanon border was continuing. In particular, the Secretary-General highlighted claims by the Government of Israel that the smuggling of weapons continues from both Iran and from Syria. Israel now claims that Hezbollah has been able to rearm itself to higher levels than before the 2006 conflict and that it now possesses longer-range rockets and new air defence units. Statements by Hezbollah since the conflict appear to confirm Israel's claims that Hezbollah has significantly rearmed. The UK remains seriously concerned by these reports and calls on all countries in the region, including Syria and Iran, to abide by their obligations under UNSCR 1701.

The UK is also taking practical steps to assist the Government of Lebanon to improve border security. The UK is also providing £800,000 worth of training and equipment to a German-led initiative to improve Lebanese border security capacity.

TREASURY

Child Benefit: Personal Records

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the total cost of searches conducted at HM Revenue and Customs premises to trace the lost compact discs containing child benefit data. [173352]

Jane Kennedy: The location of the missing data discs is the subject of an ongoing police investigation and no estimate of the total costs has yet been made.

Child Benefit: Poland

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with his counterpart in Poland on the adequacy of the number of staff in place in Poland to check the validity of applications for child benefit made in the UK by Polish migrant workers. [179186]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC works closely with all its European partners, including Poland, to ensure that the well established processes required under the EC social security co-ordination rules, for exchanging information and verification of circumstances, work well.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which Minister in his Department reviewed the formal document submitted by his Departmental Security/IT Officer following the last risk assessment and risk management process for the information security in his Department. [179114]

Angela Eagle: The risk assessment and risk management processes for information security are kept under constant review by the Treasury, reporting to the permanent secretary.

Disabled: Children

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to help ensure the affordability of childcare for families with disabled children through the tax credits system in parallel with the childcare accessibility pilots announced in 'Aiming high for disabled children: better support for families'. [178442]

Jane Kennedy: 'Aiming high for disabled children: better support for families' committed Government to a £35 million childcare accessibility project over the 2007 comprehensive spending review period, to help test the best ways of meeting provision for families with disabled children.

HMRC's published statistics for provisional awards show that, as at December 2007, there were 118,000 families with disabled children benefiting from the disabled element of child tax credits, and of these, 49,700 families also benefited from the severely disabled element. This means that a family on maximum award with a disabled child would be entitled to an extra £2,440 per year (plus an additional £980 per year if entitled to the severely disabled child addition).

In addition to this, families eligible for the childcare element of working tax credits can receive up to 80 per cent. of the costs of childcare to a limit of £175 per week for one child or £300 per week for two or more children. This is available to families with disabled or non-disabled children.

Foreign Workers: EU Nationals

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 583-4W, on foreign workers: EU nationals, what was *(a)* the number of people of working age in employment, *(b)* the working age population and *(c)* the working age population employment rate of (i) the UK, (ii) UK citizens, (iii) UK born citizens, (iv) non-UK citizens and (v) EU A8 citizens was in each year since 2001. [169408]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about (a) the number of people of working age in employment, (b) the working age population and (c) the working age population employment rate of (i) the UK, (ii) UK citizens, (iii) UK born citizens, (iv) non-UK citizens and (v) EU A8 citizens in each year since 2001, (169408)

The attached table gives the working age population, employment level and rate, for the categories requested for the three month period ending June each year, from 2001 to 2007.

The data for analysing migrant workers comes from the Labour Force Survey. The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is routinely based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad, are of working age (16 - 64 for men, 16-59 for women), and in employment. However, you have requested data analysed by nationality and this is the basis on which this PQ has been answered.

When interpreting the figures in the table, it is important to bear in mind that the Labour Force Survey (LFS) is not designed to cover everyone who is present in the UK. The survey may undercount the numbers of people who were born overseas. The reasons are set out in the table footnote.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Working age[1] population, in employment and in employment rate[2] by nationality[3] United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted, April to June 2001 to 2007

thousand—except where indicated

	A	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*
	Total UK[4]	*UK nationals*	*UK-born UK nationals*	*Non-UK nationals*	*EU A8 nationals*
2001					
Population	35,794	33,914	32,362	1,874	46

Working age[1] population, in employment and in employment rate[2] by nationality[3] United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted, April to June 2001 to 2007

thousand except where indicated

	A Total UK[4]	B UK nationals	C UK-born UK nationals	D Non-UK nationals	E EU A8 nationals
In employment	26,607	25,452	24,411	1,153	29
Employment rate (percentage)	74	75	75	62	62
2002					
Population	35,989	33,996	32,391	1,991	46
In employment	26,735	25,499	24,408	1,234	28
Employment rate (percentage)	74	75	75	62	60
2003					
Population	36,138	34,027	32,318	2,111	53
In employment	26,935	25,614	24,453	1,321	29
Employment rate (percentage)	75	75	76	63	54
2004					
Population	36,291	34,078	32,364	2,206	78
In employment	27,015	25,585	24,444	1,429	62
Employment rate (percentage)	74	75	76	65	79
2005					
Population	36,434	34,049	32,288	2,379	167
In employment	27,136	25,615	24,425	1,518	136
Employment rate (percentage)	75	75	76	64	82
2006					
Population	36,587	33,991	32,098	2,591	285
In employment	27,187	25,430	24,153	1,756	236
Employment rate (percentage)	74	75	75	68	83
2007					
Population	36,708	33,713	31,8[illegible]	2,972	501
In employment	27,226	25,205	23,916	2,014	410
Employment rate (percentage)	74	75	75	68	82

[1] Men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.
[2] Number of people in employment of working age as a percentage of all persons of working age.
[3] Including country of birth for UK-born UK nationals.
[4] Column A equals column B plus column D plus those who did not state their nationality.

Note:
It should be noted that the above estimates:
exclude certain people who have been resident in the UK for less than six months;
exclude students in halls of residence who do not have a UK resident parent;
exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.);
are grossed to population estimates that only include migrants staying 12 months or more;
are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates as used in the Labour Market Statistics monthly First Release.

Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Fuels: Prices

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make an assessment of the merits of linking changes in the winter fuel allowance to changes in fuel prices. [179828]

Angela Eagle: The Government keep all tax rates and benefit payments under review as part of the Budget process. However, the pre-Budget report 2005 announced that winter fuel payments will be paid at their current levels for the rest of this Parliament.

Government Departments: Annual Reports

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library the guidance provided by HM Treasury to Departments on what should be included in their 2007 autumn performance reports. [179152]

Andy Burnham: A copy of the guidance to departments on their 2007 autumn performance reports (APRs) is being deposited in the Library.

HM Revenue and Customs: Delivery Services

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how HM Revenue and Customs allocates deliveries to mail carriers employed to handle outgoing mail. [169944]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs allocate mail to carriers based on contractual obligations, level of service requirements and best value.

Northern Rock

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information he has on the remuneration packages of directors and senior managers of Northern Rock. [179831]

Angela Eagle: Remuneration of staff and directors is a matter for the board of Northern Rock. Details of directors' remuneration packages are included in the annual report and accounts.

Parole Board

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the outcome was of the review of the 16 hour rule announced in paragraph 4.10 of the Parole Board Review 2004 document, Choice for Parents. [179778]

Jane Kennedy: The Government considered the option of extending entitlement to the child care element of working tax credits as set out in pre-Budget report 2004. However, as the child care element is an integral part of the overall tax credits system, it would not be practical to have a shorter hours rule for certain claimants claiming certain elements.

Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the annual cost to the Exchequer of raising the level of trivial commutation to *(a)* £16,000, *(b)* £17,000, *(c)* £18,000, *(d)* £19,000, *(e)* £20,000, *(f)* £21,000, *(g)* £22,000, *(h)* £23,000, *(i)* £24,000, *(j)* £25,000, *(k)* £26,000, *(l)* £27,000, *(m)* £28,000, *(n)* £29,000, *(o)* £30,000, *(p)* £31,000, *(q)* £32,000, *(r)* £33,000, *(s)* £34,000 and *(t)* £35,000. [177955]

Andy Burnham: The trivial commutation limit is currently £16,000 and will rise in stages to £18,000 in 2010. The cost of raising the trivial commutation limit would depend upon a number of behavioural factors, though independent research by the Pensions Policy Institute published in June 2007 suggests the cost to the Exchequer from significantly raising the current limits would most likely be very high. Figures from the ABI show that many annuitised pots are below the £16,000 ceiling for trivial commutation, which suggests the limits are already very generous.

At PBR 2006 the Government announced that HMRC would discuss with interested parties concerns raised regarding the administration costs of paying trivial commutation lump sums under current rules. The Government are exploring how the current rules impact on the interests of individual pensioners, pension savers, and pension providers and how they fit with its wider objectives of encouraging pension saving to provide people with an income in retirement.

Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what policies HM Revenue and Customs has in place to ensure that correspondence is securely delivered; and if he will make a statement. [173360]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC's post and carriage guidance determines which form of postal service should be used for the different types of mail HMRC deals with.

Taxation: Plastic Bags

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government's policy is on the proposals in the London Local Authorities Bill to introduce a new additional plastic bags tax on shops in London. [173340]

Angela Eagle: The Government pledged in the Waste Strategy for England 2007 to phase out free, single-use carrier bags. The Prime Minister made clear in his environment speech of 19 November that in the longer term it will be necessary to eliminate these bags altogether. The Government are actively considering how it can bring forward action that will enable single-use carrier bags to be phased out, but determining the right way forward needs careful consideration, including the need for compliance with E.U. law.

JUSTICE

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any of his Department's special advisers also work for organisations outside his Department. [178484]

Maria Eagle: Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the 'Model Contract' and 'Code of Conduct for Special Advisers', copies of which are in the Library of the House. My Department's special advisers have informed the permanent secretary that they hold no outside appointments.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he will reply to the letter, dated 19 November, from the right hon. Member for Manchester Gorton, regarding Mr Kurm Shezad Butt. [177550]

Mr. Straw: I apologise for the delay. The letter was sent on 16 January 2008.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he will reply to the letter of 29 November 2007 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr A. Anwar. [179263]

Mr. Straw: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 13 January. I apologise for the delay.

National Offender Management Service: Consultants

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent by *(a)* the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) on external consultancy fees and *(b)* his Department on external consultancy fees related to NOMS in each of the last three years. [179366]

Mr. Straw: Central collation of NOMS HQ costs started in February 2006, following its creation on 1 April 2005. The amount spent on consultants by NOMS during the period February 2006 to December 2007 is as follows:

	£
February 2006 to March 2006	1,893,670
April 2006 to March 2007	4,013,390
April 2007 to December 2007	4,264,450
Total	10,171,510

It is not possible to provide details of Consultancy spend for NOMS by the wider Department, since such details were not collated centrally during this period. The cost, however, is likely to be negligible in the context of information provided in the table.

National Offender Management Service: Manpower

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many full-time equivalent staff are employed by *(a)* the National Offender Management Service, *(b)* the National Probation Service and *(c)* HM Prison Service. [179367]

Mr. Straw: The last published figures were as at 31 December 2006 and showed that there were 21,370.98 full-time equivalent staff in post in the national probation service. Updated figures covering Quarter 4 2006-07 (1 January 2007 to 31 March 2007) and Quarter 1 2007-08 (1 April 2007 to 30 June 2007) are currently being validated and will be published shortly in issue 13 of the Workforce Information Report.

On 30 September 2007 there were 48,714 full-time equivalent staff employed by the public sector Prison Service.

The full-time equivalent figure for staff employed by the National Offender Management Service as at 30 September 2007 was 1601.16.

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* under 18-year-olds and *(b)* over 18-year-olds were convicted of illegally carrying (i) knives and (ii) other weapons in each year since 1997, broken down by police authority area; and if he will make a statement. [176295]

Mr. Straw: The number of persons convicted of illegally carrying (i) knives and (ii) other weapons in each year since 1997 by police force area is shown in the following tables.

Number of defendants aged 10 to 17 who were convicted at all courts for illegally carrying offensive weapons excluding knives, in England and Wales by police force area for the years 1997 to 2006[1, 2, 3]

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset	29	21	34	24	43	57	44	51	45	61
Bedfordshire	9	9	11	13	14	8	11	31	17	25
Cambridgeshire	11	13	10	13	18	23	15	12	33	20
Cheshire	25	29	25	35	27	31	17	35	51	48
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	20	12	18	20	28	25	31	30	20	35
Cumbria	20	20	21	15	21	15	22	17	27	26
Derbyshire	26	22	28	20	26	31	36	46	41	37
Devon and Cornwall	22	16	16	32	24	28	41	42	53	42
Dorset	6	9	12	13	9	13	13	14	17	24
Durham	24	23	33	34	39	36	27	42	39	56
Essex	56	52	37	43	61	46	62	97	62	83
Gloucestershire	11	21	7	13	12	14	15	18	22	15
Greater Manchester	85	103	105	129	193	175	149	201	181	185
Hampshire	50	55	46	63	85	72	78	88	88	94
Hertfordshire	11	12	8	25	16	10	27	40	43	37
Humberside	16	29	37	34	36	34	40	48	46	55
Kent	33	41	33	43	51	29	35	34	47	50
Lancashire	51	30	39	55	59	53	59	84	87	81
Leicestershire	31	35	26	34	35	41	43	45	40	48
Lincolnshire	8	27	13	15	21	17	23	27	14	22
Merseyside	68	71	48	57	64	63	67	87	96	96
Metropolitan Police	335	336	347	435	679	686	550	631	682	713
Norfolk	16	19	12	16	20	11	29	21	22	21
North Yorkshire	15	8	19	16	10	20	19	28	22	31
Northamptonshire	5	12	15	10	4	7	0	5	1	4
Northumbria	68	98	98	103	125	141	119	138	143	100
Nottinghamshire	20	34	29	44	63	48	55	59	70	64
South Yorkshire	31	35	41	57	58	80	62	63	75	80
Staffordshire[3]	25	19	25	[4]	31	31	35	42	50	37
Suffolk	13	9	19	12	12	27	26	24	42	38
Surrey	7	10	6	20	24	12	15	22	19	19
Sussex	14	21	23	32	43	30	43	55	66	57

Number of defendants aged 10 to 17 who were convicted at all courts for illegally carrying offensive weapons excluding knives, in England and Wales by police force area for the years 1997 to 2006[1,2,3]

Police force area	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Thames Valley	28	32	23	23	43	39	27	36	65	75
Warwickshire	11	12	9	11	9	7	10	15	9	15
West Mercia	12	19	18	12	41	28	28	36	52	59
West Midlands	82	95	82	135	200	180	140	158	163	186
West Yorkshire	54	44	70	65	65	76	105	121	110	112
Wiltshire	9	18	17	9	13	29	17	19	32	34
Dyfed-Powys	6	13	5	15	6	10	11	10	15	14
Gwent	15	11	20	19	19	12	17	31	23	33
North Wales	13	17	13	34	28	32	17	27	40	28
South Wales	36	43	39	49	55	53	55	58	45	56
Total	1,427	1,555	1,537	1,847	2,430	2,380	2,235	2,688	2,815	2,916

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for defendants proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.
[4] Nil.
Source:
Court proceedings database held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Ministry of Justice.
Cur reference: PQ 176295 (Table 3)

Number of defendants aged 18 years and over who were convicted at all courts for illegally carrying offensive weapons excluding knives, in England and Wales by police force area for the years 1997 to 2006[1,2,3]

Police force area	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Avon and Somerset	179	209	213	179	186	214	279	243	252	277
Bedfordshire	57	78	58	67	64	88	109	105	142	116
Cambridgeshire	64	92	79	54	69	86	88	102	101	118
Cheshire	143	123	119	114	91	112	115	119	164	162
City of London	26	15	10	11	18	37	31	33	28	17
Cleveland	68	85	67	81	81	131	133	159	150	160
Cumbria	63	83	68	64	57	64	73	91	91	79
Derbyshire	127	96	128	112	133	131	147	193	183	170
Devon and Cornwall	176	193	180	141	173	208	243	212	232	232
Dorset	44	76	68	72	69	82	92	110	124	96
Durham	85	110	117	122	113	128	126	131	182	154
Essex	195	202	195	181	196	196	211	303	292	279
Gloucestershire	62	80	44	50	65	75	65	82	95	78
Greater Manchester	515	648	543	500	576	580	637	768	750	751
Hampshire	250	244	213	207	212	241	299	317	306	320
Hertfordshire	78	66	88	104	96	114	148	164	193	163
Humberside	134	150	144	120	107	146	171	219	222	197
Kent	156	246	216	192	191	190	185	149	174	154
Lancashire	247	296	236	213	253	251	280	319	321	308
Leicestershire	130	177	147	164	149	169	191	206	210	206
Lincolnshire	90	100	108	92	118	107	111	134	120	116
Merseyside	346	367	277	227	264	344	343	413	432	460
Metropolitan Police	2,359	2,318	1,842	1,920	2,369	3,126	2,899	2,868	2,954	2,814
Norfolk	101	119	113	81	94	127	118	148	149	148
North Yorkshire	108	122	92	79	90	83	88	113	124	100
Northamptonshire	49	68	69	57	37	52	63	66	59	37
Northumbria	318	359	389	324	389	389	388	405	419	421
Nottinghamshire	144	190	158	156	150	191	245	246	257	263
South Yorkshire	177	175	202	183	203	253	276	286	328	287
Staffordshire[3]	107	143	122	[4]	116	170	166	157	147	194
Suffolk	87	59	82	83	74	92	111	128	130	170
Surrey	52	42	32	55	55	56	71	70	69	72
Sussex	152	147	167	156	166	207	186	188	224	212

Number of defendants aged 18 years and over who were convicted at all courts for illegally carrying offensive weapons excluding knives, in England and Wales by police force area for the years 1997 to 2006[1, 2, 3]

Police force area	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Thames Valley	191	189	186	132	169	213	193	233	285	297
Warwickshire	49	55	50	45	41	49	49	69	47	58
West Mercia	104	102	90	78	103	100	125	151	156	209
West Midlands	537	500	462	524	701	751	745	776	710	787
West Yorkshire	267	275	291	229	267	335	331	475	447	402
Wiltshire	48	66	77	70	79	72	72	83	95	107
Dyfed-Powys	69	74	69	64	65	70	84	81	74	53
Gwent	71	84	66	63	60	91	75	108	96	126
North Wales	106	126	113	85	89	115	117	135	147	181
South Wales	223	260	275	235	244	252	271	287	289	294
Total	8,554	9,209	8,265	7,686	8,842	10,488	10,750	11,645	11,970	11,845

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for defendants proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.
[4] Nil.

Source:
Court proceedings database held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice
Our reference: PQ 176295 (Table 4).

Number of defendants aged 10-17 who were convicted at all courts for illegally carrying knives, in England and Wales by police force area for the years 1997 to 2006[1, 2, 3]

Police force area	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Avon and Somerset	6	7	17	7	23	28	19	28	15	30
Bedfordshire	1	5	3	6	6	2	5	7	11	11
Cambridgeshire	3	6	6	2	4	11	8	6	14	10
Cheshire	7	7	13	11	6	14	6	9	24	14
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	3	5	4	6	8	12	15	12	8	17
Cumbria	10	5	12	8	11	6	9	8	17	11
Derbyshire	8	9	8	5	8	15	17	17	12	14
Devon and Cornwall	9	6	5	14	11	12	22	17	31	18
Dorset	1	4	4	4	3	10	8	6	8	12
Durham	4	6	8	11	10	17	15	19	19	26
Essex	21	24	15	20	26	14	34	45	33	42
Gloucestershire	3	5	3	4	5	5	8	8	6	8
Greater Manchester	21	37	19	46	72	59	54	68	58	88
Hampshire	19	25	18	29	35	27	45	44	33	37
Hertfordshire	7	5	3	3	2	4	15	20	21	19
Humberside	7	6	12	16	15	17	10	14	23	35
Kent	8	12	8	16	14	4	8	1	0	0
Lancashire	12	14	13	17	21	22	24	39	29	35
Leicestershire	10	11	10	9	13	19	13	18	22	23
Lincolnshire	3	9	7	7	4	10	11	7	6	11
Merseyside	28	25	23	26	15	23	33	30	30	40
Metropolitan Police	148	167	178	194	340	309	246	239	298	337
Norfolk	4	3	6	6	9	5	15	9	9	10
North Yorkshire	7	3	6	8	7	11	10	13	11	18
Northamptonshire	2	4	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northumbria	14	23	28	34	44	45	53	57	56	31
Nottinghamshire	7	5	7	13	15	13	17	20	26	31
South Yorkshire	12	12	15	20	22	37	25	18	33	41
Staffordshire[3]	5	6	5	[4]	6	17	13	11	11	12
Suffolk	4	3	8	7	6	18	15	13	16	18
Surrey	3	5	2	9	11	5	4	10	5	7
Sussex	6	9	9	20	24	15	24	23	27	30
Thames Valley	7	12	5	7	13	13	10	18	23	36
Warwickshire	2	5	4	3	3	5	4	5	5	6
West Mercia	4	8	2	1	2	1	0	3	24	12

Number of defendants aged 10-17 who were convicted at all courts for illegally carrying knives, in England and Wales by police force area for the years 1997 to 2006[1, 2, 3]

Police force area	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
West Midlands	28	25	17	41	71	62	48	67	61	71
West Yorkshire	13	5	14	10	17	22	19	44	26	29
Wiltshire	4	11	4	4	4	13	7	10	12	15
Dyfed-Powys	2	4	0	4	3	5	2	3	11	7
Gwent	5	2	6	4	4	2	4	11	10	12
North Wales	4	5	9	10	12	17	9	7	9	10
South Wales	10	11	10	15	22	18	21	15	20	20
England and Wales	482	561	547	680	963	972	939	1,035	1,113	1,265

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for defendants proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.
[4] Nil
Note:
Data for "having an article with blade or point on school premises" exclude convictions for West Mercia PFA, until clarification of these cases is obtained.
Source:
Court proceedings database held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice
Our reference: PQ 176295 (Table 1)

Number of defendants aged 18 years and over who were convicted at all courts for illegally carrying knives, in England and Wales by police force area for the years 1997 to 2006[1, 2, 3]

Police force area	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Avon and Somerset	44	62	96	80	82	116	133	118	113	138
Bedfordshire	23	31	20	34	26	38	52	61	67	50
Cambridgeshire	21	29	25	13	23	35	26	56	43	57
Cheshire	52	56	39	40	30	40	48	39	58	70
City of London	16	8	4	8	9	17	19	20	18	11
Cleveland	13	26	27	15	34	57	55	69	63	59
Cumbria	22	22	25	19	17	31	36	38	33	30
Derbyshire	31	22	28	35	45	53	65	83	67	63
Devon and Cornwall	38	72	70	56	60	98	107	109	112	102
Dorset	18	37	28	28	29	45	41	53	53	55
Durham	21	24	27	32	25	59	49	49	70	65
Essex	64	73	81	80	73	89	112	156	143	133
Gloucestershire	13	29	15	13	19	21	24	34	33	31
Greater Manchester	181	205	188	176	209	239	250	276	291	305
Hampshire	78	86	75	77	79	86	108	133	129	124
Hertfordshire	24	24	25	24	23	49	68	64	71	65
Humberside	36	39	53	39	31	52	55	92	92	90
Kent	24	61	76	61	62	29	27	12	12	6
Lancashire	93	106	84	70	85	76	112	122	121	109
Leicestershire	44	58	52	45	52	57	78	80	70	90
Lincolnshire	16	31	47	39	37	40	60	58	47	58
Merseyside	148	144	108	98	106	137	132	169	168	178
Metropolitan Police	1,110	1,160	905	970	1,167	1,562	1,441	1,376	1,400	1,354
Norfolk	25	47	40	30	32	54	54	61	60	52
North Yorkshire	30	31	39	25	38	41	40	56	55	39
Northamptonshire	4	7	14	5	3	2	2	3	6	1
Northumbria	79	78	86	87	109	126	130	154	160	186
Nottinghamshire	40	36	38	34	41	55	68	95	91	113
South Yorkshire	41	46	48	46	92	109	122	99	136	109
Staffordshire[3]	18	33	37	[4] —	28	51	50	60	49	80
Suffolk	27	19	18	23	25	43	37	55	53	88
Surrey	16	8	10	16	21	22	33	30	30	30
Sussex	53	57	83	64	76	112	99	91	94	108
Thames Valley	54	67	70	47	64	72	66	99	122	142
Warwickshire	14	25	20	16	15	21	14	22	18	24
West Mercia	17	30	25	21	6	9	18	18	22	31
West Midlands	146	126	120	163	247	281	279	290	258	312

Number of defendants aged 18 years and over who were convicted at all courts for illegally carrying knives, in England and Wales by police force area for the years 1997 to 2006[1, 2, 3]

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
West Yorkshire	33	33	42	47	70	81	89	128	142	143
Wiltshire	17	24	28	24	32	24	33	40	41	55
Dyfed-Powys	14	19	29	23	28	30	34	36	34	22
Gwent	19	16	14	17	16	31	19	37	26	44
North Wales	42	50	51	32	39	57	52	60	68	103
South Wales	59	87	91	68	72	96	90	109	100	133
Total	2,878	3,244	3,001	2,840	3,377	4,343	4,427	4,810	4,839	5,058

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for defendants proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.
[4] Nil
Note:
Data for "having an article with blade or point on school premises" exclude convictions for West Mercia PFA, until clarification of these cases is obtained.
Source:
Court proceedings database held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice
Our reference: PQ 176295 (Table 2).

HEALTH

Alan Johnson

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he *(a)* informed the Permanent Secretary in the relevant Department of the donations he received as part of his campaign for the deputy leadership of the Labour Party and *(b)* registered them with the Cabinet Office in accordance with the Ministerial Code. [179970]

Alan Johnson: In accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Code, a list of Ministers' relevant interests declared to their permanent secretary will be published in due course.

Arthritis: Industrial Health and Safety

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to increase awareness of rheumatoid arthritis in the workplace; and what plans he has to issue guidance to employers on supporting employees with rheumatoid arthritis. [172207]

Ann Keen: As part of the cross-Government Health, Work and Well-being Strategy, we are working to improve the support that is available to employers to support staff with long-term conditions, including rheumatoid arthritis, to obtain and to remain in work.

This includes a free occupational health and return to work support and advice service for small and medium sized businesses, which is being piloted by the Health and Safety Executive until February 2008.

We have also established a Vocational Rehabilitation Task Force to look at the best ways of encouraging and supporting employers to provide good quality rehabilitative services to their staff.

We are also encouraging employers to provide good quality occupational health services and through the Health, Work and Well-being Strategy, we are working to engage employers and show them the business benefits of taking action to support their staff.

British Pregnancy Advice Service

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid in fees for abortions and sexual health services by the NHS to the Peterborough branch of the British Pregnancy Advice Service in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [179272]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not collected centrally.

Cancer: Home Care Services

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects on patients of recent changes to the access that patients have to home-delivery of cancer-care equipment. [174901]

Ann Keen: The Department is not aware of any national changes in access to home delivery of cancer care equipment so has not made an assessment of any implications.

Cancer: Screening

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what budget has been allocated for each year of the National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative. [179413]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 16 January 2008]:* No specific central budget has been allocated for the National Awareness and Early Detection Initiative. The National Awareness and Early Detection Initiative will involve collaboration with many non-departmental organisations and charities, including the national health service, who do not report their costs to the Department. An overall budget for the initiative has not been calculated, as partners will fund different elements of the initiative.

Cardiac Rehabilitation

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) who is responsible for providing cardiac rehabilitation in each primary care trust in England; and where that treatment is provided; [176984]

(2) what the average cost of providing cardiac rehabilitation was in *(a)* Surrey Primary Care Trust, *(b)* the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority and (c) England following (i) a heart attack, (ii) heart bypass surgery, (iii) angioplasty, (iv) angina, (v) heart failure, (vi) implantation of cardiac devices and (vii) arrhythmias in the last 12 months; [176985]

(3) what recent assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of cardiac rehabilitation services; and if he will make a statement. [176987]

Ann Keen: Chapter 7 of the "Coronary Heart Disease National Service Framework," published in 2000, issued appropriate guidance to the national health service about the provision of cardiac rehabilitation services. Putting this into practice is a matter for the NHS, working in partnership with stakeholders and the local community. It is the responsibility of NHS organisations to plan, monitor and develop these services based on their specific local knowledge and expertise.

A new National Cardiac Rehabilitation Audit has been introduced across England, jointly sponsored by the British Heart Foundation and the Healthcare Commission. This will provide stronger evidence on effectiveness and encourage local areas to appraise and improve their provision of cardiac rehabilitation.

The Cardiac Rehabilitation Audit stated that the average rehabilitation programme costs per patient have been approximately £550, allowing for inflation, since 2001.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many representations he has received on cardiac rehabilitation since June 2007; and what meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* his Ministers and *(c)* departmental officials have had on cardiac rehabilitation in that period. [176986]

Ann Keen: The Department has regular contact with patient organisations, clinicians and other stakeholders involved in the championing and provision of cardiac rehabilitation services.

Community Equipment Programme

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to the answer of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1240W, on wheelchairs, what progress has been made in publishing the outline model for wheelchair services as part of the transforming community equipment and wheelchair services programme. [177233]

(2) if he will make a statement on how the proposed changes under the Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchair Services Programme will affect the staff members currently employed by the NHS who issue equipment under section 31 agreements; [177234]

(3) when he will report on the progress of the new delivery system of community equipment trial launched in the North West of England in October 2007; [177235]

(4) what the minimum competency level is for an approved or accredited retailer's staff, as mentioned in the outline model for the Community Equipment Programme. [177245]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 9 January 2008]*: A collaborative process to develop an outline model for delivery of wheelchair services (similar to that undertaken for community equipment services) was undertaken in 2007 and two potential models were developed. The business case to support the recommended way forward is currently being finalised.

It is a matter for each local authority and health partnership to decide whether the transforming community equipment and wheelchair services programme (TCEWS) retail market is the right solution for their locality. They will need to assess the impact on their employees as part of their decision making process.

The minimum competency levels for accredited retailers have been drafted by the working group developing the regulatory function and will be finalised in April. For further information, copies of the British Health Trades Association/National Association of Equipment Providers Newsletter, have been placed in the Library.

The TCEWS programme will be evaluating the testing of the retail model in the North West. This evaluation will be published as a report in the spring and will include the results of user views on the new model of service delivery.

Diabetes: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of people with diabetes in each London health care trust was screened for diabetic retinopathy in relation to the targets outlined in the National Framework for Diabetes: Delivery Service in each year since 2003. [175595]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested has been placed in the Library. Data are only available from 2004.

Foetuses: Surgery

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which hospitals in England and Wales have equipment which enables doctors to perform keyhole surgery on unborn babies; and if he will make a statement. [174061]

Ann Keen: The data are not collected centrally.

General Practitioners

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs are registered as having a special interest, broken down by specialty. [165655]

Ann Keen: The number of general practitioners (GPs) registered as having a special interest (GPSIs) as at 30 June 2007 was 1,752. We have no data on the numbers by specialty.

The data on the number of GPSIs is collected quarterly from all primary care trusts using the Quarterly Activity Return and it provides the numbers as at the last day of the quarter. The latest available data are for June 2007.

Source:

Department of Health Quarterly Activity Return Commissioner based.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government are taking to encourage GPs to give more detailed advice on self-management programmes to patients with long-term conditions. [177050]

Ann Keen: We have no steps to specifically encourage general practitioners (GPs) to give more detailed advice on self-management programmes to patients with long-term conditions. However, the National Service Framework for Long-term Conditions sets out the quality requirement for a person-centred service to support those living with long-term conditions in managing their condition, maintaining independence and achieving the best possible quality of life. To become full partners in care, patients need information, advice, education and support. GPs have a key role to play in meeting these needs.

Health Services

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding will be allocated to each local authority to fund contracts for local involvement networks; and when this funding will be provided to each authority. [177205]

Ann Keen: Over the next three years (2008-11) each local authority (LA) with a social services responsibility will receive funding for LINks. On 7 December, the Department wrote to all LAs confirming their allocations for 2008-09, with provisional figures for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

As set out in the comprehensive spending review settlement, from April 2008, the majority of revenue funding will be delivered to councils through the new area based grant. This area based grant is paid on an unringfenced basis to all LAs. As such LAs are able to determine locally how best to spend the grant in order to deliver local and national priorities in their areas. The area based grant will be administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government and paid to LAs on a monthly basis from the beginning of the 2008-09 financial year.

The following table outlines how much each LA is projected to receive over the next three years, it can also be found on the Department website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/PatientAndPublicinvolvement

£ million

Local authority	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Principal metropolitan cities			
Birmingham	0.558	0.556	0.554
Leeds	0.308	0.307	0.306
Liverpool	0.291	0.288	0.286
Manchester	0.288	0.287	0.287
Newcastle upon Tyne	0.171	0.170	0.168
Sheffield	0.263	0.263	0.262
Sub-total	1.879	1.871	1.863
Other metropolitan districts			
Barnsley	0.152	0.152	0.152
Bolton	0.166	0.166	0.165
Bradford	0.259	0.259	0.260
Bury	0.122	0.122	0.122
Calderdale	0.130	0.130	0.130
Coventry	0.178	0.177	0.177
Doncaster	0.172	0.172	0.172
Dudley	0.173	0.173	0.172
Gateshead	0.140	0.139	0.138
Kirklees	0.202	0.202	0.202
Knowsley	0.140	0.139	0.139
North Tyneside	0.134	0.134	0.134
Oldham	0.151	0.151	3.151
Rochdale	0.147	0.146	0.146
Rotherham	0.160	0.160	0.160
Salford	0.159	0.158	0.157
Sandwell	0.202	0.202	0.201
Sefton	0.172	0.171	0.170
Solihull	0.119	0.119	0.119
South Tyneside	0.127	0.126	0.126
St. Helens	0.132	0.132	0.132
Stockport	0.149	0.149	0.148
Sunderland	0.176	0.175	0.174
Tameside	0.146	0.146	0.146
Trafford	0.130	0.130	0.129
Wakefield	0.182	0.182	0.182
Walsall	0.170	0.169	0.169
Wigan	0.175	0.175	0.175
Wirral	0.200	0.199	0.199
Wolverhampton	0.169	0.168	0.167
Sub-total	4.833	4.824	4.814
Inner London			
City of London	0.063	0.063	0.064
Camden	0.176	0.177	0.179
Greenwich	0.188	0.188	0.188
Hackney	0.207	0.207	0.206
Hammersmith and Fulham	0.143	0.143	0.143
Islington	0.170	0.170	0.169

£ million

Local authority	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Kensington and Chelsea	0.140	0.142	0.143
Lambeth	0.207	0.206	0.205
Lewisham	0.197	0.195	0.194
Southwark	0.211	0.210	0.209
Tower Hamlets	0.208	0.208	0.208
Wandsworth	0.169	0.169	0.168
Westminster	0.174	0.176	0.178
Sub-total	2.254	2.254	2.253
Outer London			
Barking and Dagenham	0.147	0.146	0.146
Barnet	0.182	0.182	0.182
Bexley	0.131	0.131	0.131
Brent	0.185	0.185	0.184
Bromley	0.151	0.151	0.150
Croydon	0.188	0.188	0.187
Ealing	0.183	0.182	0.182
Enfield	0.179	0.179	0.178
Haringey	0.172	0.171	0.171
Harrow	0.138	0.138	0.138
Havering	0.133	0.132	0.132
Hillingdon	0.147	0.147	0.146
Hounslow	0.142	0.141	0.141
Kingston upon Thames	0.102	0.102	0.102
Merton	0.123	0.123	0.123
Newham	0.214	0.213	0.212
Redbridge	0.156	0.156	0.156
Richmond upon Thames	0.107	0.107	0.107
Sutton	0.118	0.117	0.117
Waltham Forest	0.164	0.163	0.162
Sub-total	3.062	3.054	3.047
Shire counties			
Bedfordshire	0.171	0.172	0.172
Buckinghamshire	0.182	0.182	0.182
Cambridgeshire	0.219	0.220	0.222
Cheshire	0.257	0.257	0.258
Cornwall	0.252	0.253	0.255
Cumbria	0.232	0.232	0.232
Derbyshire	0.314	0.315	0.316
Devon	0.298	0.299	0.301
Dorset	0.183	0.184	0.184
Durham	0.256	0.255	0.255
East Sussex	0.236	0.237	0.237
Essex	0.480	0.482	0.484
Gloucestershire	0.231	0.231	0.231
Hampshire	0.378	0.379	0.381
Hertfordshire	0.361	0.361	0.361
Kent	0.492	0.493	0.495
Lancashire	0.454	0.455	0.456
Leicestershire	0.219	0.220	0.221

£ million

Local authority	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Lincolnshire	0.285	0.287	0.290
Norfolk	0.342	0.344	0.345
North Yorkshire	0.222	0.222	0.223
Northamptonshire	0.253	0.254	0.256
Northumberland	0.165	0.165	0.165
Nottinghamshire	0.304	0.305	0.306
Oxfordshire	0.222	0.223	0.223
Shropshire	0.150	0.150	0.151
Somerset	0.226	0.227	0.228
Staffordshire	0.301	0.302	0.303
Suffolk	0.280	0.281	0.283
Surrey	0.333	0.333	0.333
Warwickshire	0.212	0.213	0.214
West Sussex	0.281	0.281	0.282
Wiltshire	0.181	0.182	0.183
Worcestershire	0.222	0.223	0.223
Sub-total	9.194	9.224	9.252
Shire unitary authorities			
Bath and North East Somerset	0.109	0.109	0.109
Blackburn with Darwen	0.123	0.123	0.123
Blackpool	0.126	0.126	0.126
Bournemouth	0.119	0.118	0.118
Bracknell Forest	0.086	0.086	0.086
Brighton and Hove	0.148	0.147	0.147
Bristol	0.210	0.209	0.208
Darlington	0.096	0.096	0.096
Derby	0.150	0.149	0.149
East Riding of Yorkshire	0.158	0.159	0.159
Halton	0.111	0.110	0.110
Hartlepool	0.099	0.099	0.099
Herefordshire	0.119	0.119	0.119
Isle of Wight Council	0.115	0.115	0.116
Isles of Scilly	0.061	0.061	0.061
Kingston upon Hull	0.173	0.172	0.171
Leicester	0.186	0.185	0.184
Luton	0.131	0.131	0.131
Medway	0.136	0.136	0.136
Middlesbrough	0.122	0.121	0.121
Milton Keynes	0.129	0.130	0.131
North East Lincolnshire	0.120	0.120	0.120
North Lincolnshire	0.114	0.114	0.114
North Somerset	0.121	0.122	0.123
Nottingham	0.184	0.183	0.182
Peterborough	0.122	0.122	0.123
Plymouth	0.151	0.151	0.151
Poole	0.103	0.102	0.102
Portsmouth	0.125	0.125	0.125

£ million

Local authority	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Reading	0.104	0.104	0.103
Redcar and Cleveland	0.116	0.116	0.116
Rutland	0.069	0.069	0.069
Slough	0.104	0.103	0.103
South Gloucestershire	0.124	0.124	0.125
Southampton	0.141	0.141	0.141
Southend-on-Sea	0.123	0.123	0.123
Stockton-on-Tees	0.126	0.126	0.126
Stoke-on-Trent	0.163	0.162	0.161
Swindon	0.112	0.112	0.112
Telford and The Wrekin	0.119	0.120	0.120
Thurrock	0.111	0.112	0.112
Torbay	0.119	0.120	0.120
Warrington	0.117	0.117	0.117
West Berkshire	0.095	0.095	0.095
Windsor and Maidenhead	0.093	0.093	0.093
Wokingham	0.087	0.088	0.088
York	0.108	0.108	0.108
Sub-total	5.778	5.774	5.771

Hepatology: Consultants

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many consultants specialising in hepatology there are; and how many there were in *(a)* 1996, *(b)* 1998, *(c)* 2001, *(d)* 2005 and *(e)* 2006. [177139]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Hospital Wards: Gender

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the use of mixed sex wards to end in the NHS. [163404]

Ann Keen: Guidance issued to the national health service requires the provision of single sex accommodation, which can take a number of forms. NHS trusts may provide single rooms, single sex bays within a mixed ward, single sex wards or combinations of these types. We do not collect information on the number of trusts who have mixed sex wards per se.

The NHS Operating Framework for 2008-09 includes a requirement for primary care trusts to agree, publish and implement stretching local plans for improvement, with identified time scales and monitoring mechanisms. The NHS Institute for Improvement and Innovation published guidance in December 2007 to support the NHS in delivering this.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* MRSA infection and *(b)* clostridium difficile infection have been diagnosed in staff working in the NHS in each of the last three years. [174243]

Ann Keen: The Health Protection Agency collects data on all cases of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* bloodstream infections and cases of *C. difficile* infection in patients aged two and over in acute national health service trusts in England through the mandatory surveillance scheme but this does not include information about whether patients are also NHS staff.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements are in place for routine screening of NHS staff for *(a)* MRSA infection and *(b)* clostridium difficile. [174244]

Ann Keen: Current guidance does not recommend routine screening of healthcare staff for either of these infections.

Universal screening of patients for methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) is being introduced because there is evidence that it can contribute to reducing MRSA infection rates. Expert advice is that routine screening of staff is not indicated, and therefore not recommended but may be used to help control or investigate an outbreak.

The current clinical evidence does not suggest that universal screening of staff for *Clostridium difficile* would be clinically, or cost, effective as individuals without symptoms are not considered to present an increased risk of infecting others.

Liver Diseases

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group had (i) coronary artery disease and (ii) liver cancer in (A) Southend, (B) Essex and (C) England and Wales in each of the last 10 years. [177141]

Ann Keen: The Department is not able to provide prevalence data on coronary artery disease in the form requested. However, the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) dataset does provide the number of patients with coronary artery disease (termed coronary heart disease (CHD) in the QOF). This dataset does not separate men and women and does not hold data on the age of the patients. The data are available only from the financial year 2004-05. Only practices in England who participate in QOF are included. The number of patients is shown in the following table.

The Office for National Statistics have provided data for liver cancer in the following tables.

Quality and Outcomes Framework data

Number of patients with CHD	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Southend	6,015	6,158	[1]—
Essex	56,620	58,289	[2]58,857
England	1,893,184	1,900,640	1,898,565

[1] Southend PCT was abolished in October 2007 when it merged with Castle Point and Rochford; separate data are not available.

[2] Essex strategic health authority was abolished in July 2007. This figure is an estimate obtained by adding together figures for the primary care trusts south east Essex, south west Essex, west Essex, north east Essex and mid Essex.

Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of liver cancer[1], by sex, Southend unitary authority, 1996 to 2005

	Males	Females
1996	4	3
1997	3	3
1998	5	3
1999	4	2
2000	2	4
2001	2	5
2002	8	4
2003	5	2
2004	4	5
2005	2	2

[1] Liver cancer is coded to C22 in the International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision (ICD-10). The numbers by age group for Southend and Essex would be disclosive, so only 'all ages' for Southend and two age groups for Essex have been provided.

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of liver cancer[1], by sex and age group, Essex county, 1996 to 2005

Age group	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Males										
0-74	13	13	15	14	23	14	18	15	16	18
75+	5	7	11	12	14	7	7	8	14	9
All ages	18	20	26	26	37	21	25	23	30	27
Females										
0-74	7	10	6	7	12	7	9	3	4	5
75+	3	5	9	5	12	6	8	9	11	14
All ages	10	15	15	12	24	13	17	12	15	19

[1] Liver cancer is coded to C22 in the International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision (ICD-10).

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of liver cancer[1], by sex and age group, England, 1996 to 2005

Age group	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Males										
Under 1	3	2	2	2	3	6	3	3	2	2
1-4	4	8	2	2	3	7	6	6	4	5
5-9	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	3	1
10-14	0	1	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	2
15-19	1	1	3	2	3	1	4	0	4	2
20-24	2	5	2	3	5	1	1	1	5	4
25-29	1	4	2	4	4	10	3	2	7	4
30-34	5	5	5	8	7	11	9	6	11	4
35-39	8	12	11	12	23	9	8	10	8	10
40-44	24	17	21	16	23	26	24	30	23	23
45-49	33	31	37	53	54	46	50	51	43	51
50-54	58	59	72	79	70	84	81	80	58	96
55-59	80	82	85	110	115	115	103	126	124	159
60-64	124	132	150	139	147	146	139	143	153	179
65-69	171	192	167	168	204	177	203	228	201	225
70-74	190	187	216	189	258	208	252	229	214	260
75-79	183	183	209	209	224	212	251	235	262	244
80-84	109	111	120	122	127	121	169	158	172	203
85+	63	77	63	81	80	111	114	109	90	125
All ages	1,059	1,111	1,169	1,201	1,352	1,292	1,424	1,419	1,385	1,599
Females										
Under 1	2	2	2	1	1	4	2	2	2	2
1-4	3	1	2	4	3	4	4	4	2	4
5-9	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
10-14	1	1	0	3	2	0	0	2	3	0
15-19	2	1	1	0	2	3	4	3	1	4
20-24	1	2	1	4	2	0	2	6	3	3
25-29	2	4	3	1	4	3	0	0	1	1
30-34	5	2	3	4	3	2	3	3	11	3
35-39	7	7	3	8	5	6	8	3	9	4
40-44	10	5	10	11	8	12	13	9	11	8
45-49	14	23	13	19	21	9	21	24	20	23

Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of liver cancer[1], by sex and age group, England, 1996 to 2005

Age group	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
50-54	29	32	25	39	30	32	30	29	46	34
55-59	36	38	38	37	39	48	60	46	50	55
60-64	66	51	60	63	70	69	56	53	57	67
65-69	82	101	93	87	96	95	106	99	97	117
70-74	136	128	133	111	139	139	131	120	140	127
75-79	116	147	152	138	155	191	143	149	154	169
80-84	121	126	112	120	138	155	170	170	185	179
85+	117	143	143	118	157	141	179	150	153	185
All ages	751	814	796	768	875	913	932	872	947	985

[1] Liver cancer is coded to C22 in the International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision (ICD-10)

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Maternity Units

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 504W, on maternity units, how many of each type of unit *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in each year listed; and how many delivery beds were available in each type of unit in each year. [177169]

Ann Keen: That information is not collected centrally.

National Service Framework for Older People: Osteoporosis

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the implementation of the recommendations for osteoporosis services contained in the National Service Framework for Older People. [179577]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Progress in implementation of the recommendations contained in the National Service Framework for Older People, including those for osteoporosis services, is detailed in "A New Ambition for Old Age: Next steps in implementing the National Service Framework for Older People" published in April 2006. This publication was issued at the mid-way point of the 10-year National Service Framework for Older People.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 377WA, on Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body, what the assumptions were behind his Department's central estimate of NHS cost pressures; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the underlying data. [169868]

Ann Keen: The central estimate for cost pressures, net of efficiency, on the NHS hospital and community health services in England for 2008-09 are 2.3 per cent. The underlying assumptions and data are set out in annex A of the 2008-09 Payment by Results guidance, a copy of which is available in the Library. Annex A is as follows:

Breakdown of 2008-09 tariff uplift

	2008-09 over 2007-08 baseline		
	£ million	Percentage	Assumptions
Baseline	59,540	—	—
Increase in pay and prices			
Pay	1,640	2.8	Pay settlement in line with DH recommendation to the Pay Review Bodies: 1.5 per cent. doctors' and dentists' and 2 per cent. NHS PRB. Also include pay drift and staging.
Non-pay inflation	350	0.6	GDP deflator at 2.75 per cent.
Drugs	400	0.7	Includes NICE
Clinical Negligence	210	0.4	Forecast local contributions
Revenue cost of capital	210	0.4	PFI; depreciation; cost of capital
Gross pay and price	2,810	4.7	—
Efficiency	-1,790	-3.0	Assumes 3.0 per cent. efficiency
Net pay and price	1,020	1.7	—
Quality and reform	330	0.6	To cover costs of tackling health care associated infections, pay reform/legislation, staff security and local cost of delivering the Information Management and Technology programme.
Overall	—	2.3	—

Note:
Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total overall funding allocation to primary care trusts was in each year since 2002-03; and what proportion of the total NHS budget this represented in each year. [174773]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* The information is shown in the following table.

Revenue allocations as a percentage of the total national health service revenue budget

	NHS revenue budget[1] (£ billion)	*Revenue Allocations[2, 3] (£ billion)*	*Revenue allocations as percentage of NHS budget*
2002-03	51.935	41.468	80
2003-04	61.866	45.027	73
2004-05	66.874	49.328	74
2005-06	74.168	53.925	73
2006-07	78.356	64.310	82
2007-08	86.848	70.355	81
2008-09[4]	92.642	75.880	82

[1] 2002-03 to 2005-06 figures are outturn (the actual year end position), 2006-07 and 2007-08 figures are estimated outturn, and 2008-09 is plan.
[2] Allocations were to health authorities in 2002-03 and to primary care trusts from 2003-04.
[3] 2002-03 allocations were announced on 6 December 2001, 2003-04 to 2005-06 allocations on 18 December 2002, 2006-07 and 2007-08 allocations on 9 February 2005 and 2008-09 allocations on 13 December 2007.
[4] Includes the £1.7 billion budgets which were issued alongside primary care trust allocations and which will be made recurrent from 2009-10.

NHS: Management

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average management costs were for all NHS trusts in England in *(a)* cash terms and *(b)* as a percentage of the trust's income in 2006-07; and which 10 trusts have the highest management costs (i) in cash terms and (ii) as a percentage of the trust's income. [162829]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on management costs for national health service trusts, in expenditure terms and as a percentage of NHS trust income, for 2006-07, is included at table 1.

Information on the 10 NHS trusts with the highest expenditure on management costs and the highest management costs as a percentage of the NHS trusts' income for 2006-07 is included at tables 2 and 3.

Total NHS trust spend on management costs in 2006-07 equated to 3.1 per cent. of turnover.

Table 1: Management costs NHS trusts 2006-07

	Total senior managers and managers (Thousand)	*Total income (£000)*	*As percentage of income*
5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust	4,247	93,684	4.5
Aintree University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1,876	65,740	2.9
Airedale NHS Trust	3,477	98,756	3.5
Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	5,698	179,522	3.2
Avon and Wiltshire MHP NHS Trust	7,078	183,168	3.9
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hosp NHS Trust	11,173	351,780	3.2
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	6,647	252,942	2.6
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey MH NHS Trust	4,314	182,204	2.4
Barts and The London NHS Trust	19,496	546,677	3.6
Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2,417	82,146	2.9
Bedford Hospitals NHS Trust	3,130	114,529	2.7
Bedfordshire and Luton MH and Social Care NHS Trust	4,986	81,439	6.1
Berkshire Healthcare NHS Trust	2,290	102,244	2.2
Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS trust	9,503	211,234	4.5
Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	4,890	123,046	4.0
Birmingham Women's Health Care NHS Trust	3,984	69,695	5.7
Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Trust	6,614	237,748	2.8
Bolton Hospitals NHS Trust	3,032	158,201	1.9
Bolton, Salford and Trafford Mental Health NHS Trust	6,763	117,388	5.8
Bradford District Care NHS Trust	5,373	118,831	4.5
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	7,986	326,320	2.4
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	5,115	157,913	3.2
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	8,272	252,488	3.3
Burton Hospitals NHS Trust	3,967	114,024	3.5
Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust	2,938	83,735	3.5
Calderstones NHS Trust	1,519	43,550	3.5

Table 1: Management costs NHS trusts 2006-07

	Total senior managers and managers (Thousand)	Total income (£000)	As percentage of income
Cambridge and Peterborough MH Partnership NHS Trust	8,108	129,733	6.2
Camden and Islington Mental Health Social Care NHS Trust	6,467	133,535	4.8
Central Manchester/ Manchester Child NHS Trust	11,469	510,848	2.2
Central and North West London MH NHS Trust	8,005	183,705	4.4
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	2,328	117,351	2.0
Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Trust	4,359	108,569	4.0
Christie Hospital NHS Trust	3,193	131,499	2.4
Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology NHS Foundation Trust	539	15,822	3.4
Cornwall Partnership NHS Trust	4,865	88,082	5.5
County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	6,318	237,449	2.7
Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust	894	72,161	1.2
Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	3,228	112,391	2.9
Derbyshire Mental Health Services NHS Trust	4,852	91,407	5.3
Devon Partnership NHS Trust	5,221	105,518	4.9
Doncaster and South Humber Healthcare NHS Trust	2,836	90,560	3.1
Dorset Health Care NHS Trust	1,468	75,129	2.0
Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust	4,245	199,545	2.1
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	4,297	115,249	3.7
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	3,937	270,257	1.5
East Cheshire NHS Trust	2,190	96,776	2.3
East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust	5,871	363,619	1.6
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	5,688	289,933	2.0
East London and The City MH NHS Trust	6,449	162,487	4.0
East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	5,658	125,020	4.5
East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust	6,303	189,026	3.3
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	1,801	235,415	0.8
Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	5,440	272,854	2.0
Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust	3,660	175,023	2.1
George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust	2,120	93,496	2.3
Gloucestershire Partnership NHS Trust	3,246	74,593	4.4
Good Hope Hospital NHS Trust	3,800	133,839	2.8
Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Trust	6,127	247,048	2.5
Great Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust	3,695	61,938	6.0
Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	10,135	500,269	2.0
Hampshire Partnership NHS Trust	5,932	177,342	3.3
Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Trust	5,937	183,937	3.2
Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust	2,243	93,562	2.4
Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust	4,114	174,252	2.4
Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust	3,198	72,357	4.4
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	9,545	366,964	2.6
Humber Mental Health Teaching NHS Trust	5,206	73,096	7.1
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	5,906	182,029	3.2
James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2,010	43,183	4.7
Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership NHS Trust	5,816	183,877	3.2
Kettering General Hospital NHS Trust	6,169	129,523	4.8
King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	1,034	279,749	0.4
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	5,777	163,728	3.5
Lancashire Care NHS Trust	5,432	152,632	3.6
Leeds Mental Health Teaching NHS Trust	6,476	103,967	6.2
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	20,267	757,446	2.7
Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust	7,134	133,189	5.4
Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Trust	6,292	87,002	7.2
London Ambulance Service NHS Trust	32,474	215,941	15.0
Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	1,071	51,567	2.1
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	8,782	243,218	3.6
Manchester Health and Social Care NHS Trust	2,721	85,309	3.2
Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	5,200	166,030	3.1
Medway NHS Trust	3,002	165,019	1.8
Mersey Care NHS Trust	6,349	194,010	3.3

Table 1: Management costs NHS trusts 2006-07

	Total senior managers and managers (Thousand)	Total income (£000)	As percentage of income
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	5,577	185,931	3.0
Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals NHS Trust	4,017	125,643	3.2
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	10,192	309,100	3.3
Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Trust	3,085	119,419	2.6
North Essex Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	4,647	120,184	3.9
Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1,319	95,604	1.4
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	4,587	136,442	3.4
Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust	6,710	311,235	2.2
Norfolk and Waveney MH Partnership NHS Trust	3,548	103,662	3.4
North Bristol NHS Trust	13,134	381,729	3.4
North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust	2,356	158,464	1.5
North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	3,498	182,406	1.9
North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust	1,831	73,369	2.5
North East London Mental Health NHS Trust	6,576	104,580	6.3
North Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Trust	3,284	237,750	1.4
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	4,036	138,831	2.9
North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust	5,690	90,092	6.3
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust	3,937	191,038	2.1
North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust	15,748	196,642	8.0
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	7,634	295,886	2.6
Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust	5,366	174,041	3.1
Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Trust	4,129	98,113	4.2
Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	942	89,547	1.1
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust	8,914	279,721	3.2
Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	2,024	85,966	2.4
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	14,094	583,794	2.4
Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	10,224	258,890	3.9
North Cumbria MH and Learning Disabilities NHS Trust	2,412	49,418	4.9
Nuffield Orthopaedic NHS Trust	2,488	81,122	3.1
Oxford Learning Disability NHS Trust	918	35,743	2.6
Oxford Radcliffe Hospital NHS Trust	13,252	484,559	2.7
Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire MH Partnership NHS Trust	730	142,629	0.5
Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust	617	13,389	4.6
Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	11,514	473,696	2.4
Pennine Care NHS Trust	5,623	101,975	5.5
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	7,588	315,873	2.4
Poole Hospitals NHS Trust	3,596	148,258	2.4
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	10,945	372,407	2.9
Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	3,743	136,763	2.7
Queen Elizabeth Hospital Kings Lynn NHS Trust	2,621	113,469	2.3
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	4,362	147,525	3.0
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	2,673	100,149	2.7
Rob Jones and A Hunt Orthopaedic NHS Trust	2,128	58,702	3.6
Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	908	36,483	2.5
Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust	1,239	212,762	0.6
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	3,377	234,384	1.4
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	6,891	390,359	1.8
Royal Liverpool Broadgreen Hospitals NHS Trust	6,822	314,114	2.2
Royal Liverpool Children's NHS Trust	1,551	134,725	1.2
Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	1,135	45,129	2.5
Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Trust	6,312	151,844	4.2
Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust	4,488	177,619	2.5
Royal Wolverhampton Hospital NHS Trust	6,613	234,507	2.8
Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust	2,382	75,353	3.2
Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust	943	23,316	4.0
Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust	13,680	327,536	4.2
Sandwell MH Social Care NHS Trust	1,768	46,254	3.8
Scarborough and North East Yorks NHS Trust	2,058	94,870	2.2
Sheffield Care NHS Trust	6,660	102,875	6.5

Table 1: Management costs NHS trusts 2006-07

	Total senior managers and managers (Thousand)	Total income (£000)	As percentage of income
Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust	197	27,436	0.7
Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	3,944	149,832	2.6
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust	4,898	205,748	2.4
Somerset Partnership NHS and Soc Care NHS Trust	1,350	53,335	2.5
South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust	8,682	102,485	8.5
South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	5,809	153,267	3.8
South Downs Health NHS Trust	952	70,732	1.3
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust	5,488	127,647	4.3
South Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	373	8,001	4.7
South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust	4,608	187,717	2.5
South Staffordshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	464	7,102	6.5
South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust	7,561	364,589	2.1
South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust	2,423	103,564	2.3
South West Ambulance Service NHS Trust	2,169	104,602	2.1
South West Yorkshire Mental Health NHS Trust	1,874	99,779	1.9
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	14,181	388,522	3.6
Southend University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	838	34,396	2.4
Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust	4,737	124,537	3.8
St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	7,041	384,146	1.8
St. Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust	4,155	197,085	2.1
St. Mary's NHS Trust	7,445	291,303	2.6
Staffordshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	1,646	28,401	5.8
Suffolk MH Partnership NHS Trust	3,916	83,579	4.7
Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Trust	7,523	167,037	4.5
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	6,244	163,297	3.8
Sussex Parthership NHS Trust	7,938	201,260	3.9
South West London and St. George's Mental Health NHS Trust	7,191	168,595	4.3
Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust	3,746	160,740	2.3
Tameside and Glossop Acute Services NHS Trust	2,831	113,292	2.5
Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust	6,086	165,557	3.7
Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust	589	13,540	4.4
Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust	9,522	203,373	4.7
The Cardiothoracic Centre—Liverpool NHS Trust	2,021	82,922	2.4
The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	878	151,405	0.6
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	3,511	172,464	2.0
The Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust	4,153	123,303	3.4
The Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	2,448	75,629	3.2
The Royal West Sussex NHS Trust	5,038	113,962	4.4
Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust	2,545	84,818	3.0
United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust	14,740	372,526	4.0
United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust	8,393	294,154	2.9
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	10,632	408,461	2.6
University Hospital of North Staffordshire Hospital NHS Trust	7,280	333,855	2.2
University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust	3,448	149,384	2.3
University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust	18,716	588,666	3.2
University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust	7,230	211,221	3.4
Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust	2,897	149,144	1.9
Walton Neurology Centre NHS Trust	1,785	47,868	3.7
West Dorset General Hospitals NHS Trust	1,863	116,171	1.6
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	5,049	218,248	2.3
West London Mental Health NHS Trust	10,715	227,420	4.7
West Middlesex University NHS Trust	3,937	118,854	3.3
West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	6,168	118,362	5.2
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	476	116,264	0.4
Weston Area Health NHS Trust	1,800	70,300	2.6
Whipps Cross University Hosp NHS Trust	7,116	186,752	3.8
Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	3,727	142,389	2.6
Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	7,148	126,807	5.6
Wirral Hospital NHS Trust	1,827	231,550	0.8

Table 1: Management costs NHS trusts 2006-07

	Total senior managers and managers (Thousand)	Total income (£000)	As percentage of income
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	7,761	263,801	2.9
Worcestershire MH Partnership NHS Trust	3,034	56,750	5.3
Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust	4,779	143,397	3.3
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust	3,632	199,081	1.8
Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	431	13,592	3.2
York Hospitals NHS Trust	7,406	180,026	4.1
Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	7,130	144,639	4.9
England	1,098,955	35,832,646	3.1

Table 2: Top 10 NHS trusts with highest management costs

	Total senior managers and managers (Thousand)	Total income (£000)	As percentage of income
London Ambulance Service NHS Trust	32,474	215,941	15.0
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	20,267	757,446	2.7
Barts and The London NHS Trust	19,496	546,677	3.6
University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust	18,716	588,666	3.2
North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust	15,748	196,642	8.0
United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust	14,740	372,526	4.0
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	14,181	388,522	3.6
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	14,094	583,794	2.4
Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust	13,680	327,536	4.2
Oxford Radcliffe Hospital NHS Trust	13,252	484,559	2.7

Table 3: Top 10 NHS trusts with highest management costs as percentage of income

	Total senior managers and managers (Thousand)	Total income (£000)	As percentage of income
London Ambulance Service NHS Trust	32,474	215,941	15.0
South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust	8,682	102,485	8.5
North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust	15,748	196,642	8.0
Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Trust	6,292	87,002	7.2
Humber Mental Health Teaching NHS Trust	5,206	73,096	7.1
South Staffordshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	464	7,102	6.5
Sheffield Care NHS Trust	6,660	102,875	6.5
North Staffordshire Combined HC NHS Trust	5,690	90,092	6.3
North East London Mental Health NHS Trust	6,576	104,580	6.3
Cambridge and Peterborough MH Partnership NHS Trust	8,108	129,733	6.2

Note:
Information for NHS Foundation Trusts is not included. For those trusts which moved to foundation trust status during the year the data included in the tables relate to the part year before the move took place.
Sources:
Annual financial returns (unaudited) of NHS Trusts 2006-07—Total senior managers and managers Audited NHS Trust summarisation schedules 2006-07—Total income.

Primary Care Trusts

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to enable Surrey Primary Care Trust to meet the Government's commitment that *(a)* by the end of 2007 all diabetic patients will have been offered comprehensive retinal screening followed by a programme of treatment for diabetic retinopathy if needed and *(b)* by the end of March 2008, 80 per cent. of patients will have been screened. [176980]

Ann Keen: The Department has a range of work in hand to support the national health service in delivering this target. Strategic health authorities (SHAs) actively performance manage primary care trusts (PCTs) to ensure they have arrangements in place to ensure delivery. All PCTs are monitored on their progress towards achieving the target. The target is included within the Local Delivery Plan Agreements between SHA and PCTs (which are reviewed quarterly through a data return).

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of patients were offered

cardiac rehabilitation in (a) Surrey Primary Care Trust, (b) the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority and (c) England following (i) a heart attack, (ii) heart bypass surgery, (iii) angioplasty, (iv) angina, (v) heart failure, (vi) implantation of cardiac devices and (vii) arrhythmias in the last 12 months. [176983]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect this information centrally.

Chapter 7 of the "Coronary Heart Disease National Service Framework," published in 2000, issued appropriate guidance to the national health service about the provision of cardiac rehabilitation services. Putting this into practice is a matter for the NHS, working in partnership with stakeholders and the local community. It is the responsibility of NHS organisations to plan, monitor and develop these services based on their specific local knowledge and expertise.

A new national Cardiac Rehabilitation Audit has been introduced across England, jointly sponsored by the British Heart Foundation and the Healthcare Commission. This will provide stronger evidence on effectiveness and encourage local areas to appraise and improve their provision of cardiac rehabilitation.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his responsibilities and the responsibilities of (a) primary care trusts, (b) acute hospital trusts, (c) local authorities, (d) national expert clinical bodies, (e) local clinicians and (f) public and patient involvement panels are in the configuration of health services and hospital services; [177189]

(2) what the procedure is for the reconfiguration of local health services. [177191]

Ann Keen: Proposals for the reconfiguration of services are a matter for the national health service locally, working in conjunction with clinicians, patients and other stakeholders. The interim report on the NHS Next Stage Review recommends that change should only be initiated when there is a clear and strong clinical basis for doing so.

Reconfiguration proposals are currently subject to a three-month public consultation. The outcome is then subject to scrutiny by local authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs), comprising elected councillors.

Where OSCs are unhappy with the consultation process, or do not believe that the changes being proposed are in the interests of the local health service, they can refer the proposals to the Secretary of State for final decision.

On 4 July 2007, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson) announced that he would seek the advice of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel, established to advise on contested service change proposals, on all cases referred to him by OSCs.

Very few local reconfiguration decisions are referred to the Secretary of State but such scrutiny will ensure that proposals are made in the best interest of clinical need and patient care.

Sheep Meat: Safety

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to regularise the trade in prepared sheep meat, known as smokies; and if he will make a statement. [179690]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency is investigating whether it is possible to produce 'skin-on' sheep meat, known as smokies, in slaughterhouses using safe and hygienic processes. If sufficient supporting evidence is generated it is intended to approach the European Commission to suggest a change in the current law.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the value of the illegal trade in prepared sheep meat, known as smokies; [179691]

(2) what estimate he has made of the total value of the market in prepared sheep meat, known as smokies. [179692]

Dawn Primarolo: No estimate has been made of the value of the total illegal trade and the total value of the market in prepared sheep meat known as smokies.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Office Closures

9. **Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on the impact of post office closures on vulnerable people and rural communities. [179529]

Mr. McFadden: It is because the Government appreciates the important social and community role of post offices that we have committed a subsidy of £150 million per year between now and 2011. Where post office closures are taking place, Post Office Ltd. takes into account the location of alternative branches, as well as the access criteria which are intended to ensure reasonable access in both rural and urban areas and include special protections for deprived urban, rural and remote communities.

10. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with the Post Office on the length and timing of the consultation period for closures of sub-post offices. [179530]

Mr. McFadden: The Government's response to the national public consultation on the post office network, published in May 2007, confirmed that the period for local consultations on proposals for post office closures would be six weeks.

Before that local public consultation begins there are discussions in each area with Postwatch, with local authorities and with sub-postmasters themselves.

We have received representations to make the local consultations longer but we are keen to minimise the uncertainty over the network and for sub-postmasters and mindful that the process overall will take some 15 months from beginning to end.

13. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on the Post Office closure programme. [179535]

Mr. McFadden: The process began in October and is being carried out through a series of area plans over a 15 month period. So far, decisions on six area plans have been announced, four have been closed but final decisions have not yet been made and a further four are currently open. We are about a quarter way through the process which is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year.

Business Start-ups

11. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of small businesses closed within three years of starting up in the latest period for which figures are available. [179532]

Mr. Timms: 29 per cent. of UK businesses registering for VAT in 2002 were no longer registered three years later.

17. **Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assistance his Department provides for the start-up of small businesses. [179539]

Mr. Timms: Business support to a value of two and a half billion pounds per year, including start-up support, is delivered through regional development agencies and business link.

Unscrupulous Lending

12. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking to prevent unscrupulous lending practices. [179533]

Mr. Thomas: In 2004 we established two pilot enforcement teams in Birmingham and Glasgow to track down and prosecute illegal money lenders, who were exploiting some of the most vulnerable members of our communities.

Following the success of these pilots I announced in September a national expansion this crack down on illegal lending and there is now a team covering every region of Britain.

Nuclear Power

14. **Mr. Chaytor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his policy is on the financing of waste management from new nuclear power stations. [179536]

Malcolm Wicks: As my right hon. Friend made clear in the House on 10 January, it will be for energy companies, not the Government, to fund, develop and build new nuclear power stations. That will include meeting the full costs of decommissioning and each operator's full share of the waste management costs. The Energy Bill includes provisions to ensure that this happens.

Offshore Wind Technology

15. **Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions his Department has had with the Scottish Executive on the use of offshore wind technology. [179537]

Malcolm Wicks: BERR has a range of mechanisms in place to facilitate a dialogue with the Scottish Executive regarding offshore wind technology. For example, in recent months, through ministerial correspondence and significant day to day contact at official level. In addition, BERR and Scottish Executive Ministers and officials participate regularly in Government renewables forums, such as BERR's Research Advisory Board (RAB) and the Forum for Renewable Energy Developments in Scotland (FREDS).

23. **Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, what procedures his Department has for taking account of local opinion in its consideration of applications for wind farms. [179545]

Malcolm Wicks: Companies submitting applications for wind farms to the Secretary of State are required to publicise their proposals. The Secretary of State will take all representations received into account before reaching a decision. Where a local authority objects to an onshore wind farm application within its boundaries, the Secretary of State is obliged to call a public inquiry.

Political Funds

16. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what role his Department and the Certification Officer play in regulating trade union political funds and donations to political parties. [179538]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has no regulatory role in these areas. The Certification Officer has a number of statutory functions relating to political funds and the financial affairs of trade unions.

Fuel Poverty

18. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of recent trends in fuel poverty. [179540]

Malcolm Wicks: Since 1996, we have made good progress towards our targets on fuel poverty. Most recent figures show there are approximately 2.5 million households in fuel poverty in the UK in 2005. This is around four million fewer than in 1996, but represents an increase of 0.5 million households since 2004, reflecting the impact of rising energy prices on fuel poverty. While initiatives to tackle fuel poverty have helped millions of households, recent trends in energy prices present a significant challenge.

Exports: China

19. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to assist UK exports to China. [179541]

Mr. Thomas: The Department, together with UK Trade and Investment, assists UK exports to China in many ways, largely through its partnership with the China-Britain Business Council and by nurturing the already strong bilateral relationships during ministerial visits in order to retain the UK as China's preferred partner in Europe.

Employment Agencies

20. **Anne Moffat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to improve the regulation of temporary worker employment agencies; and if he will make a statement. [179542]

Mr. McFadden: Last December, Amendment Regulations to the Conduct of Employment Agencies and Employment Businesses Regulations 2003 were approved by both Houses. These implement additional measures to protect vulnerable agency workers and come into force on 6 April.

We are also proposing measures in the current Employment Bill to increase penalties for offences against the Employment Agencies Act 1973 and to improve investigative and enforcement powers for the Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate.

Last September we also announced our intention to double the number of Employment Agency standards inspectors: recruitment processes are already in train.

Regulation

22. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, when he next expects to meet small business groups to discuss regulatory burdens. [179544]

Mr. Timms: I shall be meeting small business representative bodies on Monday to discuss the forthcoming enterprise White Paper, and regulation may well be one of the topics raised.

Accountancy: Tax Avoidance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what powers he has to investigate the affairs of accountancy firms which have been found to be selling tax avoidance schemes which have been declared unlawful by tax tribunals. [178522]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply

The Government are committed to protecting the tax system against tax avoidance and ensuring that all taxpayers pay their fair share of tax.

The Tax Avoidance Disclosure regime means that those selling avoidance schemes have a direct obligation to provide information about ("disclose") a scheme to HMRC if it falls within certain descriptions. The Finance Act 2007 gave HMRC new powers to inquire into a promoter it reasonably suspects of failing to disclose a scheme if required

Aside from this, HMRC's powers in relation to third parties (including those who sell avoidance schemes) are generally restricted to collecting information relating to the tax payable by the individual or corporate taxpayer. Powers to inquire into the affairs of an agent are generally restricted to instances of criminal behaviour by the agent.

It is not illegal to sell tax avoidance schemes, whether or not they are successful in their aim of avoiding tax.

Nuclear Power Stations: Contracts

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, what steps he will take to ensure that UK firms can bid for contracts to undertake work on nuclear power stations developed by foreign owned companies. [179369]

Malcolm Wicks: We have invited companies to bring forward proposals to build new nuclear power stations.

It will be for the private sector to manage these projects, and we are keen that the market chooses the best options for all parts of the projects. Government should not impose conditions on any part of the process that are not designed to ensure that this objective is met.

Political Levy

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how the Certification Officer oversees political funds and finances of trades unions. [179427]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 16 January 2008]:* The certification officer determines complaints brought by members alleging breaches of political fund rules or about the conduct of political fund ballots or the application of general funds for political purposes. He also considers for approval the draft political fund rules of a trade union and the draft rules for ballots concerning political funds.

The certification officer receives, examines and makes available for inspection the annual returns of the financial affairs of trade unions, which include accounts of political funds. I refer to my answer to question 2007/968 about the certification officer's treatment of the annual returns of trade unions. He may, in specified circumstances, appoint an inspector to investigate and report upon the financial affairs of a trade union (except certain federated trade unions). He may also, if he thinks there is good reason to do so, require a trade union to produce relevant documents and explanations of the documents.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of the Certification Officer's time is spent overseeing political funds and finances of trades unions. [179428]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 16 January 2008]:* The certification officer (CO) estimates in broad terms the proportion of time spent by his staff (not including the CO's time) in certain areas of his statutory duties. His annual reports for the past five years show the following in relation to the proportion of time spent by his staff on finances of trade unions and political funds. The column headed 'Political Funds' will mainly relate to the approval of political fund ballot rules and political funds rules. However, some political fund work may also be included in the other two columns.

Percentage

1 April to 31 March	*Political funds*	*Annual returns of trade unions and employers' associations and the maintenance of the lists of TUs and EAS*	*Complaints and trade union finances*
2002-03	[1]2	57	37
2003-04	5	50	41
2004-05	7	51	35
2005-06	2.5	57	35
2006-07	2	54	41

[1] Political funds and trade union independence

Trade Unions

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Certification Officer may take to investigate the affairs of a trade union. [179430]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 16 January 2008]:* The certification officer has no statutory authority to undertake general investigations into the affairs of trade unions. He may, in specified circumstances, appoint inspectors to investigate and report upon the financial affairs of a trade union (except certain federated trade unions). He may also, if he thinks there is good reason to do so, require a trade union to produce relevant documents and explanations of the documents.

Trade Unions: Complaints

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many hearings before the Certification Officer were held to consider complaints against trades unions in each of the last five calendar years. [179429]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 16 January 2008]:* The following table shows the number of hearings before the Certification Officer that were held to consider complaints against trades unions in each of the last five calendar years:

1 January to 31 December	*Number of hearings*
2003	13
2004	12
2005	11
2006	14
2007	14

Unfair Commercial Practices Directive

Mr. Greenway: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 684W, on the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive, what steps he plans to take to strengthen consumer protection from misleading copycat packaging once the regulations come into force; and what assessment he has made of the capacity of Trading Standards to enforce the regulations. [179266]

Mr. Thomas: The Office of Fair Trading and Trading Standards Services will have a duty to enforce the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations (CPRs) implementing the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive. The Government believe that these enforcement arrangements suffice to adequately enforce the CPRs, including in relation to misleading copycat packaging design. OFT and Trading Standards Departments will have to act in a manner consistent with their duty to enforce the regulations. Indeed the Gowers Review of Intellectual Property notes that in this context the Local Authority Coordinators of Regulatory Services have said that once the UCPD is in place they will act on behalf of consumers by pursuing businesses who act improperly.

For this reason the Government do not propose to allow businesses to enforce the regulations. However, it will review the position three years after the regulations come into force.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Christmas

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Minister of State for Housing spent on (i) Christmas cards and (ii) postage of Christmas cards in 2007. [176908]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government spent £2,221.70 plus VAT on Christmas cards in 2007. The other information requested is not held separately.

Council Tax: Lone Parents

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department gives to local authorities on claims for single person discount for council tax from single parents whose children are serving with the armed forces. [179710]

John Healey: The Secretary of State for Defence announced on 25 September 2007 that service personnel on operational duty in Iraq or Afghanistan will receive a flat rate payment of £140 for a six-month tour of duty to help with the cost of their council tax and is equivalent to 25 per cent. of the average council tax bill for 2007-08.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what products featuring departmental or Government branding were procured by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [179919]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any of her Department's special advisers have outside appointments. [178498]

Mr. Dhanda: Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the Model Contract and Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's policy is on recycling. [174397]

Mr. Dhanda: The recycling policy for Communities and Local Government is:

to meet the cross-government target of increasing the recycling rate to 40 per cent. of total waste arisings by 2010, which the Department has already met, and to increase the rate to 75 per cent. by 2020.

to use resources more efficiently by following the waste management hierarchy; that is, to eliminate the requirement for resources where possible, to reduce consumption and to encourage re-use, to provide recycling and composting schemes wherever possible and to ensure any non-recyclable waste is disposed of by the most sustainable method available

to ensure that

i. all waste is dealt with according to the law and best practice guidance

ii. key staff are trained in what the law and best practice demands

iii. all staff are encouraged to adhere to the waste management hierarchy, avoiding waste production wherever possible, recycling all waste where facilities exist and only using general waste bins for non-recyclable waste

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much and what proportion of its waste her Department recycled in each of the last five years. [174434]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 542W.

First Time Buyers: Wirral

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what types of Government support are available to first-time house buyers, with particular reference to the Wirral, West constituency. [179155]

Yvette Cooper: The Government are committed to supporting first time buyers. Support is available through the provision of affordable housing and low cost home ownership schemes such as the First Time Buyers Initiative.

The First Time Buyers Initiative is part of the HomeBuy low-cost home-ownership scheme which the Government introduced in April 2006. This initiative targets key workers and other eligible groups that have sufficient income to sustain home ownership, but are currently prevented from entering the housing market.

No figures are available specifically for Wirral, West constituency, however Wirral received in excess of £7 million from the Housing Corporation Affordable Housing Programme in the period 2004-07. This has resulted in 123 homes for low cost home ownership and 213 homes for social rent being made available. In addition, Wirral metropolitan borough council has secured approximately 300 affordable houses over the last two years in negotiations with developers.

Following the recent Spending Review the increased Regional Housing Pot allocations for 2008-11 will deliver additional affordable housing across the region, for which Wirral have the opportunity to further increase the supply of affordable homes for sale.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions her *(a)* ministers and *(b)* officials had with the Plain English Campaign on home information packs; and whether the home information pack template was submitted to the Plain English Campaign for assessment. [175368]

Yvette Cooper: The Plain English Campaign was consulted by the Department on the home information pack forms (the home information pack index, sale statement, home use and home contents forms). All other documents in the home information pack are produced by bodies other than the Department.

Housing: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people she estimates will not have been able to return to their homes before Christmas Day 2007 as a result of damage from this year's floods. [174152]

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many families remain unable to return to their homes following the 2007 summer flood damage. [177711]

John Healey: I wrote to the hon. Member on 19 December 2007. Since then further data have been provided by local authorities and as of early January around 9,150 households of the households originally affected remain displaced.

I met with representatives of flood affect councils and the insurance industry on 10 December and agreed a package of concerted actions to help people still badly affected by the floods. Getting people back into their homes as quickly as possible is a Government priority

and I announced on the 20 December that £1 million of extra funding will be made available to the small number of councils with a large number of households not yet back in their own homes after the floods:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/619896.

Housing: North West Region

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how the Government Office for the North West plans to ensure that bids from areas wishing to become housing growth points will provide (*a*) enough affordable housing for purchase and (*b*) enough housing for rent to meet the needs of the area. [172599]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 10 December 2007]*: The responsibility for assessing housing growth point expressions of interest rests with Communities and Local Government, with Government Office for the North West (GONW) providing support to this process. GONW has provided advice to local authorities on the issues that their area should be addressing in their expression of interest, including the need for affordable housing. The assessment exercise will ensure that these issues are appropriately considered.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the role of Government Office for the North West is in assessing bids for housing growth areas. [172641]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 10 December 2007]*: The responsibility for assessing housing growth point expressions of interest rests with the Department of Communities and Local Government, with Government Office for the North West (GONW) providing support to this process.

Government Office North West's role has included articulating Government policy to regional stakeholders including local authorities, facilitating quality bids and assisting Communities and Local Government and other Government agencies to gain a full understanding of the local circumstances.

In response to requests, GONW has organised an informal briefing session in the House, to which all hon. Members in relevant constituencies have been invited to attend.

Housing: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what occasions representatives of the Government Office for the North West (GONW) have met representatives of Warrington Borough Council to discuss future housing plans; who was present at each of these meetings; and what attempts have been made by GONW to discuss these issues with hon. Members representing the borough. [172385]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 10 December 2007]*: Representatives from Government Office for the North West (GONW) are in regular dialogue with local authorities regarding housing issues in the region.

The GONW Housing Intervention team facilitates and attends various regional and sub-regional working groups to which local authorities are invited to field representatives. However, they have not had one to one meetings with Warrington borough council (BC) on specific housing related issues.

Jo Lappin, Deputy Regional Director, Housing, Planning and Transport, has met with representatives from Warrington BC on a number of occasions since April 2007 as detailed in the following list, during these discussions the issue of housing in the borough was raised.

Thursday 12 April meeting with Diana Terris, Chief Executive

Monday 12 November meeting with Diana Terris, Chief Executive

Friday 16 November meeting with Andy Farrall, Strategic Director for Environment and Regeneration

A meeting was also held with the North West Regional Minister on Monday 19 November to discuss economic growth in Warrington, during which housing was raised, attendees were as follows:

Rt Hon Beverley Hughes MP, North West Regional Minister

Jo Hawley, Private Secretary to Beverley Hughes MP

Jo Lappin, Deputy Regional Director, Housing, Planning and Transport, GONW

Diana Terris, Chief Executive of Warrington Borough Council (WBC)

Cllr Ian Marks, Leader of WBC (Lib Dem)

Cllr Keith Bland, Deputy Leader of WBC (Conservative)

Dr Robert Barr, Executive Member of WBC, Planning and Regeneration

Cllr Terry O'Neil, Leader of the Labour Group at WBC (Labour)

Andy Farrall, Strategic Director for Environment and Regeneration

Peter Crompton, Director, BE Group

Paul Hafren, Principal, Warrington Collegiate Institute

Mike Ralph, Planning Director, Modus Properties

Alan Charters, Construction Director, Miller Developments

In response to requests, GONW has organised an informal briefing session in the House, to which all hon. Members in relevant constituencies have been invited to attend.

Judith Armitt

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what occasions Judith Armitt, the Thames Gateway Chief Executive, has visited Thurrock in an official capacity since her appointment; and for what purposes. [165125]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 20 November 2007]*: Between November 2006 and November 2007, Judith Armitt, as Chief Executive of the Thames Gateway, visited Thurrock on the following occasions:

2006

13 November—visit with Ruth Kelly to RSPB visitors' centre

2007

15 February—Meeting with Leader of Thurrock council (n.b. although this meeting took place in Westminster, the original meeting would have been on 18 January in Thurrock, but was cancelled due to bad weather)

26 March—Tour of Thurrock with Urban Development Corporation (UDC)

29 March—Meeting at Thurrock UDC offices

10 May—Meeting at Thurrock UDC offices

23 May—Tour of Thames Gateway with Permanent Secretary

31 May—Thurrock UDC Board meeting at their offices

20 July—Meeting at Thurrock UDC offices

10 September—Meeting at Thurrock UDC offices

3 October—Tour of Thurrock with CABE

5 November—Meeting in Southend with representatives from South Esses local regeneration partnerships followed by tour of the DP World London Gateway development at Shellhaven, Thurrock, with Yvette Cooper MP.

Labour Party: Elections

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she *(a)* informed the Permanent Secretary in the relevant Department of the donations she received as part of her campaign for the Deputy Leadership of the Labour Party and *(b)* registered them with the Cabinet Office in accordance with the Ministerial Code. [179968]

Mr. Dhanda: In accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Code, a list of Ministers' relevant interests declared to their permanent secretary will be published in due course.

Licensing Act 2003

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to require CON29 local authority searches to include information on licensing decisions, reviews, applications or enforcement action under the Licensing Act 2003. [171588]

Yvette Cooper: We have no plans to do so.

Local Government: Contracts

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will bring forward proposals to amend Part II (Public Supply or Works Contracts) of Chapter 9 of the Local Government Act 1988 to take account of the Government's commitment to fairness in competitive tendering arrangements under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations. [179328]

John Healey: When contracting in circumstances where the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE) are to be applied, best value authorities are permitted to take into account relevant workforce matters.

The Local Government Best Value (Exclusion of Non-commercial Considerations) Order 2001 (SI 2001 No 909) made under Section 19 of the 'Local Government Act 1999' provides, in respect of best value authorities, for certain workforce matters set out in Part II of the Local Government Act 1988 to cease to be prohibited matters in the contractual process. This is to the extent that they are relevant to the achievement of best value and for the purposes of TUPE.

North Yorkshire Fire Service: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on her consultation for the proposed future financial provision for the North Yorkshire Fire Service. [177982]

John Healey: We received a written representation from North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority, and my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda), met a delegation of members and officers from the authority on 8 January.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the financial settlement for the North Yorkshire Fire Service for 2008-09. [179261]

John Healey: I announced the proposed local government finance settlement to the House on 6 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 981. The House will have the chance to debate the matter in due course.

Public Expenditure: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department and its predecessors have spent in Stroud district since 2002, broken down by specific initiative. [178983]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Recycling: Christmas

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the effect on the level of recycling of Christmas-related waste; and what steps she has taken to assist local authorities in dealing with such recycling. [178927]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

Based on a sample of 20 local authorities in 2005-06, the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) estimates that 190,000 tonnes of additional recycling will take place in the UK as a result of waste generated because of Christmas.

WRAP helps local authorities to promote recycling at Christmas through the Recycle Now programme, and works with the Woodland Trust to promote Christmas card recycling and the availability of dedicated collection points. The target for this year (2007-08) is to recycle 100 million Christmas cards.

Regional Development Agencies: Finance

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements her Department has placed on regional development agencies in spending monies allocated via the single pot from her Department. [179226]

John Healey: Sponsorship of the regional development agencies (RDAs) rests with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR). However, Communities and Local Government works closely with BERR to agree the RDAs' tasking framework and to ensure that their corporate plans reflect the Department's priorities.

Thames Gateway: Internet

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department's webpage relating to Judith Armitt, Chief Executive of the Thames Gateway was last updated; and what alterations have been made to this web page since March. [165128]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* When the new Communities and Local Government website was re-launched on 28 August 2007, this web page was redesigned along with the rest of the site. However, the information remained the same. Pages relating to the Chief Executive were updated every few months.

Translation Services: Expenditure

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on translation costs by each London borough in each of the last five years. [179288]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally.

Unitary Councils: Bedfordshire

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to submit the invitation to Bedfordshire County Council, Mid-Bedfordshire District Council and South Bedfordshire District Council to submit proposals for unitary government in the Mid-Bedfordshire and South Bedfordshire districts. [163959]

John Healey: On 19 November 2007, we issued a further invitation to three Bedfordshire councils to submit proposals for the area covered by Mid-Bedfordshire and South Bedfordshire district councils. In response, we received a joint proposal from Mid-Bedfordshire and South Bedfordshire district councils on 14 December.

On 19 December, we published a consultation paper, seeking views on this proposal. The consultation closes on 13 February 2008.

Unitary Councils: Exeter

Angela Browning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) when she will publish *(a)* the assessment of the financial viability on the unitary council proposal submitted by Exeter City Council and *(b)* the results of the further examination she ordered regarding the Exeter City Council bid; [171176]

(2) what advice she has received from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy and the Investment Property Forum regarding the financial viability of the proposal for unitary status submitted by Exeter City Council. [171177]

John Healey: We received advice on the financial aspects of the unitary proposals submitted by Exeter city council from independent financial advisers we engaged through the Institute of Public Finance. We received no advice from the Investors Property Forum.

This advice contributed to the decision that I announced on 5 December that we would not be proceeding with Exeter city's proposals for unitary status because, having made a reasonable estimate of the costs and savings that would be likely to occur as a result of restructuring, we believe that the pay back period would be more that the five years specified by the established affordability criterion.

I have no plans to publish the advice we received and the financial assessment of the Exeter city council's unitary proposals.

Urban Areas: Sustainable Development

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what plans she has for special planning procedures to be used in determining planning applications for eco-town developments; [171214]

(2) whether the eco-town schemes will be determined by *(a)* new towns legislation and *(b)* mini reviews of regional spatial strategies; and what mechanisms will be used to judge the relative merits of competing proposals. [171218]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 16 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1262W, and the answer given to the hon. Member for Mid-Worcestershire (Peter Luff) on 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 918W.

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether it is Government policy that any proposed eco-towns should be treated as counting towards Government house building targets. [179754]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Mid-Worcestershire (Peter Luff) on 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 882W.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what local consultation processes she plans on the location of eco-town developments; [179832]

(2) what role local authorities will have on the process to select eco-town sites. [179833]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Mid-Worcestershire (Peter Luff) on 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 919-20W.

Written Questions

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) when she will reply to Question 165128, on her Department's website tabled by the hon. Member for Thurrock on 13 November 2007; [174339]

(2) when she will reply to question 165125, on Judith Armitt, tabled by the hon. Member for Thurrock on 13 November 2007. [174341]

Yvette Cooper: I have now replied to my hon. Friend's questions.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Statement by the Prime Minister of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 304, on Afghanistan, what plans his Department has to recruit and deploy specialists who speak Afghan languages and understand tribal dynamics. [175462]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's statement referred to plans made specifically by the FCO to recruit more specialists who speak Afghan languages and understand tribal dynamics. The FCO is currently looking at various options for recruiting and deploying such specialists. It is also training its political officers in local languages and is looking at how the UK-based Afghan diaspora might help contribute to reconstruction in Afghanistan.

DFID Afghanistan does, however, recognise the importance of these skills for work in the south of Afghanistan and is talking to the FCO, MOD and Stabilisation Unit about the future staffing of Helmand, which will include provision of such specialists.

DFID is also already working with organisations which have expertise in both areas. These include the Tribal Liaison Office (an Afghan NGO) which deploys a network of Afghan tribal experts across the southern provinces and a number of long-standing Afghanistan academic experts. These experts help inform the design and implementation of elements of DFID conflict prevention and governance programmes using both their knowledge of tribal dynamics and their Dari or Pashto language skills with the local population. DFID is also funding the Centre for Conflict and Peace Studies (an Afghan NGO) to conduct tribal analysis and mapping to inform their work within each province.

Carbon Trust

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has for his Department to participate in the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management programme over the next 12 months. [178965]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development has already signed up to the Carbon Trust (CT) Energy Efficiency Programme. The CT advised DFID that this programme was more appropriate for the size of our estate. We have also achieved accreditation under the Energy Efficiency Accreditation Scheme (EEAS).

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department met its target to reverse the upward trend in its carbon emissions by April 2007. [178985]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development is strongly committed to reversing the upward trend in carbon emissions. As a Department, we have undergone significant growth in recent years, and this has resulted in increases in our carbon emissions from DFID operations. We did, however, achieve a small overall reduction in kWh usage for 2006-07, relative to 2005-06 before weather correction. Allowing for weather correction, the increase was 1 per cent. over the previous year, the smallest increase since the baseline year of 1999-2000. We are investigating further investment to reduce our carbon emissions further.

Departmental Energy Supply

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department will meet its commitment to *(a)* source at least 10 per cent. of its electricity from renewables by 31 March 2008 and *(b)* recycle figures to 40 per cent. of its waste by 2010. [178984]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development has already met the targets for renewable electricity and for recycling waste. From 2004-06, over 90 per cent. of DFID electricity was derived from renewable sources and this figure increased in January 2007 to 100 per cent. renewable for our UK offices. During 2005, DFID changed waste contractors at both UK offices. The new waste contractors guarantee they recycle over 75 per cent. of all waste and produce monthly reports with breakdowns of the various waste streams.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether any of his Department's special advisers also work for organisations outside his Department. [178477]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the 'Model Contract' and 'Code of Conduct for Special Advisers', copies of which are in the Library of the House.

Departmental Public Buildings

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department is working towards accreditation of its environmental management systems under *(a)* ISO 14001, *(b)* the EU eco management and audit scheme and *(c)* other certified schemes in respect of (i) the Department's whole estate and (ii) individual buildings within its estate. [178972]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development has already established Environment Management Systems (EMS) in both UK offices, based on the principles of the ISO 14001 standard. We are currently working towards formal accreditation at both offices.

Developing Countries: Water

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions his Department has had with other governments about placing the issues of water and sanitation on the agenda of the forthcoming G8 meeting. [178922]

Mr. Thomas: The G8 summit in Japan is an important opportunity to galvanise greater action on water and sanitation, particularly since 2008 is the UN's International Year of Sanitation. As the largest bilateral donor in the sector, Japan has already identified water and sanitation as one of the key issues under its presidency. We welcome this. The UK worked hard throughout 2007 with Japan to raise the profile of water and sanitation, and will continue to do so during 2008. In particular we are pressing for a G8 commitment to a revised and strengthened Evian Water Action Plan (agreed at the 2003 summit).

The first preparatory meeting of representatives of the Heads of State was held in Tokyo on 10 and 11 January. They discussed water and sanitation in the context of climate change and the environment, and through its links to health. The next meeting will be in March. In the interim we will continue to work closely with our Japanese colleagues to ensure water and sanitation remain high on the summit agenda.

Dyncorp International

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contracts his Department holds with Dyncorp International. [176999]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has no record of current or previous contracts with Dyncorp International.

Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what changes the Government plans to make to the DfID-Pakistan Country Programme following recent events in that country; and if he will make a statement. [177879]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: While work for some months has been under way to develop a new Country Assistance Plan, DFID is now considering the implications of recent events for its development assistance in Pakistan.

Palestinians: EU Aid

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in what languages the International Donors Conference for the Palestinian State held in Paris on 17 December 2007 has published its *(a)* working papers, *(b)* final statement and *(c)* pledges. [178366]

Mr. Malik: The International Donors Conference was hosted and organised by the French Government in Paris. The speeches and declarations that were made on the day, the final statement and the pledges are available on the website of the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The final statement and pledges are available in French and English, and the final statement is additionally available in Dutch. There were no working papers for this conference.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which multinational organisation has responsibility for co-ordinating the implementation of the pledges of the donor groups according to their nature as specified in the final statement of the International Donors Conference for the Palestinian State held in Paris on 17 December 2007. [178368]

Mr. Malik: A donor co-ordination mechanism, with a secretariat in Ramallah, was set-up following the London Ad Hoc Liaison Committee conference in 2005. This continues to provide practical coordination on the ground.

At the Paris donor conference the UK supported the establishment of a more effective monitoring mechanism. We believe this should not only cover pledges by donors, but also progress by Israelis and Palestinians in creating the conditions necessary for aid to be effective. Unfortunately, no such mechanism was agreed at the Paris conference. We continue to call on international partners to agree a monitoring mechanism.

Palestinians: Foreign Trade

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of changes made over the last 12 months to the operation of the back-to-back system introduced by Israel for transporting goods within the West Bank and between the West Bank and Israel; what assessment he has made of the impact of the system on *(a)* speed with which Palestinian goods can be transported and *(b)* costs of transportation; and what representations he is making on the subject. [179075]

Mr. Malik: There are currently six back-to-back crossings for commercial goods between the West Bank and Israel, and one internal back-to-back crossing in Nablus.

Transportation times have increased as goods must be unloaded and loaded at each crossing, and in some cases, goods must take a longer route to use a specified crossing. Restrictions are in place on the opening hours and capacity of the crossings. These factors have contributed to an increase in transportation costs.

DFID is supporting a World Bank study to quantify the additional transport costs these restrictions create. The study will also investigate alternate trade corridors to and from the West Bank.

Palestinians: Small Businesses

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the likely impact on the development of

Palestinian small and medium-sized businesses of the proposed creation of industrial zones near the Green Line between Israel and Palestine promoting economic co-operation between Israel and Palestine. [178444]

Mr. Malik: The UK Government believe that the proposed industrial zones can help economic recovery given the right conditions. However, the capacity of the six Israel-West Bank crossings will need to be sufficient for processing both the eventual industrial estate traffic and existing trade, including by small and medium businesses. The World Bank is currently assessing the capacity of those crossings and we hope this will clarify whether any of the crossings will be a bottleneck for trade.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps have been taken since November 2007 to implement the provisions of the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access in respect of the Palestinian Territories; and what assessment he has made of the impact such steps had on the ability of Palestinian businesses to trade *(a)* within the West Bank and Gaza, *(b)* between the West Bank and Gaza and *(c)* internationally. [179074]

Mr. Malik: No steps have been taken since November 2007 to implement the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access. Movement and access remains the main constraint on the ability of Palestinian businesses to trade within, between and outside the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This was the conclusion of both the UK-funded World Bank's Investment Climate Assessment in March 2007 and the UK Government's report on the "Economic Aspects of Peace in the Middle East" of September 2007.

The UK Government continue to call on Israel to fulfil their obligations on Movement and Access. The Palestinian Authority also has obligations to improve security. We hope that progress will be made as part of the peace process started at Annapolis.

Solomon Islands: Overseas Aid

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what *(a)* UK and *(b)* EU aid is planned to be provided to the Solomon Islands in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement; [178549]

(2) what aid programmes the UK sponsors in the Solomon Islands; and how much funding was provided for each programme in each year it has been running; [178550]

(3) how much aid the UK gave to the Solomon Islands in each of the last 10 years; and what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's *(a)* work and *(b)* expenditure in the Solomon Islands. [178551]

Mr. Thomas: DFID is currently developing detailed plans for allocating its budget over the three-year period 2008-09 to 2010-11 following the outcome of the comprehensive spending review announced in October. Individual country and regional allocations will not be finalised until March 2008.

Under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF10) the EU have committed to spend €13.2 million on development activities in the Solomon Islands. Indicative annual totals are €0.8 million in 2008, €11.2 million in 2009 and €1.2 million in 2010. In addition, the Solomon Islands may receive small amounts of funding from thematic lines within the Development Cooperation Instrument of the EU Budget; commitments against these lines are made by theme and not for specific countries.

The UK does not currently have any bilateral aid programmes in the Solomon Islands but does provide a small amount of support in the form of pensions for ex-colonial employees. The UK does provide bilateral aid to the Pacific region and multilateral assistance to a range of organisations, some of which may be used for development activities in the Solomon Islands.

Details of the UK's bilateral assistance and imputed multilateral assistance to Solomon Islands over the last 10 years are laid out in the following tables.

Table 1: UK total bilateral gross public expenditure on development 1997-98 to 2006-07

	Solomon Islands (£000)
1997-98	14,934
1998-99	813
1999-2000	719
2000-01	437
2001-02	458
2002-03	567
2003-04	462
2004-05	376
2005-06	273
2006-07	91

Table 2: Imputed UK share of multilateral official development assistance (ODA) 1996-2005

	Solomon Islands (£000)
1996	618
1997	335
1998	1,150
1999	556
2000	3,785
2001	2,962
2002	386
2003	288
2004	268
2005	1,676

As part of the DFID performance management system for its bilateral portfolio, DFID evaluates its projects' effectiveness on an annual basis, and once projects are complete. DFID contacts all its overseas pension recipients on an annual basis to ensure they still qualify for their pensions.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Adding It Up

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the total cost of the Adding It Up implementation group was in each of the last five years; and how many *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* other staff worked in the group in each of those years. [178947]

Andy Burnham: I have been asked to reply.

The 'Adding It Up' implementation group held its final meeting in July 2002. The group has therefore resulted in no direct costs over the past five years. The Government continue to improve the use of evidence and quality of analysis underpinning policy making with the 'Adding It Up' agenda mainstreamed within Departments.

National Youth Volunteering Programme

Tom Brake: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the total budget of the National Youth Volunteering Programme is for 2007-08; how much is allocated to London; and if he will make a statement. [175367]

Phil Hope: In November 2007 the independent charity v announced that over this comprehensive spending review period, they are investing £75 million in the National Youth Volunteering Programme. The allocation for London is approximately £8.5 million. A further £6 million will cover national and multi-regional projects that could include London.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 21 January 2008

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parliamentary Recording Unit

Jo Swinson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what guidance it issues on posting material provided by the Parliamentary Recording Unit on external websites. [180452]

Nick Harvey: Members may obtain parliamentary material for use on their own parliamentary websites subject to the following conditions.

1. The permission is restricted to use of recordings of proceedings on a Member's own parliamentary website (and not on any searchable third party hosting website).

2. A Member may only use material which features the Member, any reply from a Minister to a question asked by the Member, and any other contributions to the debate on an issue raised by the Member.

3. The recording will be supplied by the Parliamentary Recording Unit watermarked with a portcullis logo to show its origin and discourage its unauthorised use by others. The Member will be asked to acknowledge Parliamentary Copyright on his/her site and ensure the material is not downloadable.

The original webcasting licence from the Speaker and PARBUL was renewed in June 2006, and this permitted the use of the clean feed of proceedings to be used in a live webcast maintained or operated by the House of Commons. It specifically stated that the clean feed shall not be passed to any other person.

Following representations from Members, the licence was varied so the above guidelines could be adopted. This variance was noted by the Administration Committee on 12 December 2006.

Portcullis House: Escalators

Tom Brake: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many times the escalators in Portcullis House have been *(a)* replaced and *(b)* repaired since the building opened. [179727]

Nick Harvey: The escalators in Portcullis House were installed in 1999 and *(a)* were replaced during the summer recess of 2007 and *(b)* repairs and component replacements have been carried out from time to time notably on the handrails, the drive mechanisms and lighting.

WALES

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what products featuring departmental or Government branding were procured by his Department in each of the last five years. [179783]

Mr. Hain: In 2006 my Department procured pens bearing the Wales Office logo. However, as my Department records expenditure on total office supplies and not individual items, the cost can be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many posters or displays there are in the offices of his Department displaying the names and photographs of Ministers; and what the cost has been of producing such posters or displays in the last five years. [179851]

Mr. Hain: My Department does not currently have any posters or displays of Ministers.

In March 2007 posters were produced for a reception. However, as my Department records expenditure on total office supplies and not individual items, the cost can be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what meetings he has had with trade unions officials since 1 July 2007; on what dates; and with which trade unions. [179863]

Mr. Hain: Ministers meet many people as part of the process of policy development. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Birds of Prey

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many birds of prey there were in the UK in each year since 2001. [177727]

Joan Ruddock: Bird of prey populations are not assessed annually in the UK so it is not possible to provide figures for each year since 2001. The population of most species is assessed periodically by species-specific surveys of breeding numbers. The latest available results from these, together with the year/s of survey, are provided in the following table. The table also gives the estimated population trend since 2001.

A tentative estimate for the current total population of all birds of prey in the UK, based on the information in the table, is around 145,000 breeding pairs.

Species	*Population estimate (breeding pairs)*	*Year of estimate*	*Population trend since 2001 (see footnotes)*
Honey Buzzard[1]	33-69	2000	Increase
Marsh Harrier[1]	360	2005	Increase

Species	Population estimate (breeding pairs)	Year of estimate	Population trend since 2001 (see footnotes)
Hen Harrier[1]	806	2004	Increase
Montagu's Harrier[1]	10-12	2004	Stable/fluctuating
Goshawk[1]	410	1994-2000	Stable
Golden Eagle[1]	442	2003	Stable
Osprey[1]	148	1998-2002	Increase
Merlin[1]	1,330	1990-94	Increase
Peregrine[1]	1,492	2002	Increase
Hobby[1]	2,200	2000	Increase
Sparrowhawk[2]	40,000	2000	Stable
Buzzard[2]	44-61,000	2001	Increase
Kestrel[2]	35,400	2000	Stable
Red Kite[3]	1,355	2007	Increase
White-tailed Eagle[3]	33	2006	Increase

[1] For these species, population trend information is derived from survey work carried out since 2001 that provides data on population trends but not an assessment of the total population, based on data collated annually by the UK Rare Breeding Birds Panel and reported in the journal "British Birds", together with additional information collected by local raptor groups.
[2] For these species, population trend information is derived from survey work carried out since 2001 that provides data on population trends but not an assessment of the total population. This information is derived from the British Trust for Ornithology's annual Breeding Bird Survey.
[3] For these species a full survey has been carried out in recent years. Population trend information is derived from a comparison between the results of the most recent survey and earlier full surveys carried out since 2001.

Climate Change Committee: Public Appointments

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to appoint the Chairman of the Climate Change Committee; and if he will make a statement. [180686]

Mr. Woolas: The process for appointment of the Chair designate of the Shadow Committee on Climate Change is under way and we aim to appoint as soon as it has been completed.

European Fisheries Fund

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1269W, on the European Fisheries Fund (EFF), whether he has made a formal request to the Commission to allow the UK to carry over the 2007 EFF budget allocated to the UK; and if he will make a statement. [177687]

Jonathan Shaw: I have not made a formal request to the European Commission to allow the UK to carry over the 2007 portion of its European Fisheries Fund budget allocation, since it is not yet clear that any reduction in the overall budget will be imposed.

Fisheries: National Income

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of the gross value added of *(a)* England, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* Copeland was derived from commercial fishing over the last 20 years. [175938]

Jonathan Shaw: Estimates of gross value added are available only at UK level. The information we hold is presented in the following table.

Details of current prices gross value added at basic prices for the UK fishing industry (including landings abroad)

	Gross value added (£ million)
1987	473
1988	449
1989	423
1990	472
1991	496
1992	486
1993	527
1994	396
1995	415
1996	415
1997	412
1998	399
1999	406
2000	398
2001	377
2002	374
2003	376
2004	389
2005	399
2006	468

Source:
Office for National Statistics, Series QTUF.

Fisheries: Penalties

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the European Commission on the possible penalties the UK could face for not submitting its European Fisheries Fund Operational Programme to the European Commission by 31 December 2007; and if he will make a statement. [177686]

Jonathan Shaw: There is no provision for penalties in relation to submission of Operational Programmes after 31 December 2007. I have therefore had no discussions with the European Commission on this matter. However, it is open to the Commission to take

action as noted in my answers of 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 863-864W and 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1268-69W to the hon. Member.

Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which five regions are most at risk of flooding. [179260]

Mr. Woolas: Rainfall does not, over the years, recognise Government administrative boundaries. At-risk areas cross regional boundaries.

Local Government Finance: Rural Areas

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has for the funding for rural community councils expressed in real terms in each financial year to 2012-13. [179581]

Jonathan Shaw: On 14 December, I announced a flat £3.45 million for the network of rural community councils in England for each of the next three financial years.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had on the method of allocating funding to rural community councils in England; and if he will make a statement. [179585]

Jonathan Shaw: On 14 December, I was pleased to announce that £3.45 million would be made available to support the network of rural community councils (RCCs) in England for each of the next three years. This funding will be channelled through Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE), the lead body for the RCC network, who will be responsible for making allocations to individual RCCs. ACRE is currently developing its plans for allocating the funding, in consultation with DEFRA, and will make this information available to the RCCs as soon as possible.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire dated 19 December 2007, on flooding funding in the form of subsidies and grants for private individuals. [180320]

Mr. Woolas: The hon. Member's letter of 19 December 2007 was transferred to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for reply.

National Parks

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the proportion of members of National Park boards who live within five miles of the relevant national park. [180112]

Jonathan Shaw: No estimation has been made of the proportion of members of national park boards who live within five miles of the relevant national park.

New Forest

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the timetable is for reviewing and renewing the Minister's Mandate for the New Forest; and if he will make a statement. [177515]

Joan Ruddock: The Minister's Mandate for the New Forest is due for review and renewal in 2008. Since the current mandate was presented to the Forestry Commission in 1999, the New Forest has seen considerable change, not least the establishment of the New Forest national park. Any future mandate would need to take account of those changes and the new legislation and governance arrangements for the area.

Preparation of the management plan for the national park is due for completion in March 2009. The management plan will establish the framework for future actions to secure and enhance the area's special qualities and the Forestry Commission, who are responsible for the management of 47 per cent. of the park area, will play a full part in its delivery.

Given the time scale for the preparation of the management plan, I have asked the Forestry Commission to seek views locally about whether it is better for the mandate to be reviewed in 2008 as originally intended or after the National Park Management Plan is completed. Should the review be deferred then, I would extend the existing mandate over the intervening period. Once I have received the Forestry Commission's advice, I will write to the hon. Member.

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and *(b)* the Post Office on the likely effect on rural and semi-rural areas of the proposed post office closures. [177876]

Jonathan Shaw: The forum for discussions and decisions on the likely effect of the proposed post office restructure in all areas, both rural and urban, is the cross-Government Ministerial Committee on the post office network (MISC33). The role of this Committee has been to allow collective consideration of, and decisions on, issues relating to the future of the post office network. DEFRA Ministers have played a full part in the work of the Committee.

Renewable Energy: Public Buildings

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of the electricity requirements of the central Government estate were procured from renewable energy providers in the last period for which figures are available. [179813]

Mr. Woolas: In its 2006 annual report "Sustainable Development in Government", the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) reported that the Government estate was sourcing 23 per cent. of its electricity from renewable sources in the reporting period 2005-06. The information was compiled from information returned by Departments. The SDC's report is available on its website at: http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/sdig2006.

Rights of Way

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many local authorities had adopted rights of way improvement plans at (*a*) 21 November 2007 and (*b*) the latest date for which information is available; and which local authorities have not yet adopted a plan. [179582]

Jonathan Shaw: By 21 November 2007, 34 out of 126 individual and joint local highway authorities had adopted rights of way improvement plans, and as at 31 December 2007 this number had not changed.

The local authorities which have not yet adopted a plan are:

North East region

Northumberland county council
Northumberland national park
Durham county council
Darlington borough council
Stockton borough council
Middlesbrough borough council
Redcar/Cleveland
Tyne and Wear Joint (Gateshead; North Tyneside; South Tyneside; Newcastle; Sunderland)

North West region

Blackburn
Oldham metropolitan borough council
Rochdale metropolitan borough council
Bolton metropolitan borough council
Bury metropolitan borough council
Tameside
Merseyside (Wirral; Liverpool; Sefton; St. Helens; Knowsley)
Manchester city
Salford city council
Trafford metropolitan borough council
Warrington
Halton borough council
Wigan metropolitan borough council

Yorkshire and Humberside

East Riding
Hull city council
North East
Lincolnshire
North Lincolnshire
North Yorkshire county council
City of York
Barnsley metropolitan borough council
Doncaster metropolitan borough council
Sheffield
Bradford
Calderdale metropolitan borough council
Kirklees
Leeds city council
Wakefield metropolitan borough council

West Midlands

Shropshire
Herefordshire
Staffordshire
Walsall
Solihull
Telford and Wrekin
Coventry city council
Sandwell metropolitan borough council
Dudley metropolitan borough council
Wolverhampton metropolitan borough council
Stoke on Trent

Eastern region

Luton
Essex county council
Norfolk Broads authority
Norfolk county council
Southend borough council

South West region

Cornwall county council
Dorset county council
Wiltshire county council
Bristol; South Gloucestershire; Bath and North East Somerset
Torbay
Plymouth
Poole and Bournemouth
N Somerset
Swindon

South East region

Buckinghamshire
East Sussex
Kent
Medway
Milton Keynes
Portsmouth
Reading
Slough borough council
Southampton
Surrey
West Berkshire
West Sussex
Wokingham district council

Outer London boroughs

Barnet
Barking and Dagenham
Bexley
Brent
Croydon
Ealing
Enfield
Haringey
Harrow
Havering
Hillingdon
Hounslow

Kingston
Merton
Newham
Redbridge
Richmond
Sutton
Waltham Forest

Waste Disposal: Domestic Wastes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made, and what research was undertaken, by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* his consultants Eunomia and *(c)* the Waste Resources Action Programme into the change in the burning of household rubbish following the imposition of new bin taxes. [176548]

Joan Ruddock: Powers provided in the Climate Change Bill will allow up to five local authorities to come forward to pilot non-revenue raising incentive schemes, which are designed to encourage householders to reduce the waste they throw away and increase recycling.

My Department has not made an estimate or undertaken research into the increase in the burning of household rubbish following the introduction of pilot waste incentive schemes, nor has Eunomia undertaken work in this area for Government. As for the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), they are not responsible for research or policy on backyard burning.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what penalties councils will be able to levy for non-payment of the proposed new charges for domestic rubbish collection. [176536]

Joan Ruddock: Powers provided in the Climate Change Bill will allow up to five local authorities to pilot non-revenue raising incentives schemes, which are designed to encourage household waste minimisation and recycling.

It is envisaged that local authorities running pilot schemes would be able to recover any money owed by residents through the courts as a civil debt.

Waste Disposal: Fly Tipping

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what his Department's latest projection is of the likely change in fly-tipping in *(a)* percentage and *(b)* volume terms, broken down by local authority, under the plans for proposed new charges for domestic rubbish collection; [176537]

(2) what assessment has been made of the effect of higher charges for the collection and disposal of waste on levels of waste-related offences. [176565]

Joan Ruddock: My Department has made no projections for increases in fly-tipping under waste incentive schemes.

For modelling purposes, the impact assessment for this policy assesses the possible effect of waste incentive schemes on levels of waste-related offences, and the potential costs to local authorities. The impact assessment can be found on the Department's website.

We also think that it is sensible for pilot authorities to review their policies for tackling fly-tipping, and to have a fly-tipping prevention strategy in place. Having a strategy in place to deal with fly-tipping is good common sense for all authorities.

Evidence from other countries where similar schemes operate suggests that an increase in fly-tipping is not an automatic consequence of introducing them. Where increases in fly-tipping have been seen overseas, this quickly tails off where schemes are well designed and effective enforcement action is taken. Having a good strategy is in the first instance an important part of effective enforcement.

Further details will also be covered in guidance, which is currently being developed and will be publicly consulted on.

Waste Information Services Ltd.: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what payments *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste Resources Action Programme has made to (i) Waste Information Services Ltd. and (ii) the Sauce Consultancy in the last 36 months. [176577]

Joan Ruddock: No such payments have been made by my Department to either company.

In the last 36 months, the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has made payments to Waste Information Services Ltd. totalling £3,509.60. No payments have been made by WRAP to Sauce Consultancy over this period.

Water Supply

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made by the tri-sector partnership for water and sanitation on achieving the millennium development goals. [179490]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

DFID supports tri-sector partnerships that aim to help achieve the water and sanitation Millennium Development Goal targets. In particular DFID is funding:

The Partnership for Water and Sanitation (PAWS) which matches skills and expertise of UK groups with partner countries in Africa to build capacity for the delivery of water and sanitation. PAWS support is assisting three countries as follows:

Ethiopia

United Utilities works with the Government of Ethiopia to address water loss and strengthen capacity in 24 towns and to train Ministry staff.

Nigeria

Atkins, South West Water and Cranfield University work with WaterAid Nigeria and the Government of Benue State to establish Water Consumer Associations in three small towns, and enhance customer engagement in water service provision to over 40,000 people.

South Africa

A twinning arrangement between Yorkshire Water and Zululand District Municipality is exchanging knowledge in customer care, water quality and asset management which is providing improved services to over 150,000 people.

The Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP) programme is a partnership between the private, public and civil society sectors to provide more effective delivery of water supply and basic sanitation services to approximately 3.5 million low-income urban and peri-urban communities by 2015. WSUP is piloting projects in Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique and India. This project has made good progress, with current projects expected to reach 35,000 people with better water and sanitation services by March 2008.

Whales: Conservation

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the threat to endangered whale species posed by the Japanese whaling fleet in waters off Antarctica. [179596]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer given 17 January 2008]:* Japan plans to kill 935 minke and 50 fin whales in the Antarctic this season under its "scientific" research programme (known as JARPA II). Agreed estimates from the International Whaling Commission's Scientific Committee for both species are too old and uncertain to be relied upon. While it seems unlikely that Japan's activities will put the survival of either species at serious risk, we note that fin whales are listed as "Endangered" on the World Conservation Union Red List of threatened species. Hunting this species may therefore put at risk the survival of small localised populations frequenting the Antarctic and South Pacific.

When I called in the Japanese Deputy Ambassador on 8 January 2008, I stressed that we found the hunting of "Endangered" fin whales particularly unacceptable; the same point was firmly made in the Demarche presented to the Japanese Government on 21 December 2007.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what plans she has to provide extra discretionary funding to travel concession authorities in the event that the cost of providing the national bus concessionary fares scheme substantially exceeds the amount of special grant funding provided to them; [179085]

(2) what rural proofing was undertaken by her Department in respect of the national bus concessionary fares scheme; [179088]

(3) what allowance was made for the disparity between transport inflation and specific grant inflation allowance in the special grant funding provided to travel concession authorities. [179089]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government are making £212 million available to travel concession authorities in England for 2008-09 to cover the cost of the new statutory minimum bus concession which commences on 1 April 2008. This is based on very generous assumptions about fares, the take-up of passes, and the number of extra journeys. It also includes a significant contingency to allow for the difficulty of distributing grant by formula and uncertainty around likely travel patterns. No specific allowance has been made for transport inflation but the total allocation will increase to £217 million in 2009-10 and £223 million in 2010-11. We are confident that this will be sufficient to cover the on-going cost of the concession although we will be monitoring its impact closely. Authorities offering concessions that are more generous than the statutory minimum must do so at their own cost. We have no plans to provide additional funding to individual authorities.

In terms of considering the needs of rural authorities, we are proposing a distribution of this grant that takes into account visitor numbers, levels of bus use, retail floor space, and eligible population – all variables likely to be linked to the eventual pattern of cost. Our proposed distribution also reflects the clear preference of those who responded to our recent consultation on the issue.

Bus Services: Fares

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average rise in bus fares was in each English local authority in each of the last 10 years. [180107]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not available. However, estimates for London, the metropolitan areas and the rest of England were published for 1996-97 to 2006-07 in Table G of the Public Transport Statistics Bulletin GB in September 2007. They are shown in the following table.

Local bus fare indices, 1996-97 to 2006-07

1995 = 100

	London	*English PTE areas*	*English non-PTE areas*	*England*
1996-97	105.5	106.4	106.2	106.0
1997-98	109.4	112.8	112.0	111.5
1998-99	113.8	117.9	117.3	116.4
1999-2000	117.2	123.5	122.6	121.4
2000-01	117.3	128.6	129.2	125.8
2001-02	115.5	135.5	136.1	130.3
2002-03	114.8	140.7	142.4	134.3
2003-04	116.9	146.7	149.0	139.4
2004-05	126.8	153.3	155.9	147.2
2005-06	139.7	166.0	166.2	159.4
2006-07	151.5	168.3	159.5	160.1

Bus Services: Passengers

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if she will list the 10 town or council areas, with *(a)* the largest percentage increases in bus usage and *(b)* the largest percentage decreases in bus usage for the latest year for which figures are available; [180274]

(2) if she will list the 10 town or council areas with the *(a)* largest and *(b)* smallest number of bus journeys made for the latest year for which figures are available. [180275]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not available from the DFT annual survey of bus operators. Local authority estimates of bus passenger journeys are published on the Audit Commission's best value data web page at:

www.audit-commission.gov.uk/performance/dataprovision.asp

Cars

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average mileage of a car in England was in each year since 1994. [178135]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following table shows the estimated average annual mileage of four-wheeled cars in England for 1995-97 (combined years) to 2006. The figures are based on data from the National Travel Survey.

Annual mileage of four-wheeled cars, England, 1995-97 to 2006

	Average mileage
1995-97	9,600
1996-98	9,570
1997-99	9,440
1998-2000	9,540
1999-2001	9,340
2002	9,160
2003	9,200
2004	9,100
2005	8,950
2006	8,740

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what products featuring departmental or Government branding were procured by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [179787]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Full details of individual products featuring departmental or Government branding procured in each of the last five years could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Branded items that we have procured, however, include typical promotional goods such as carrier bags for use in exhibitions; road safety stickers to support our campaigns, pens, desk pads and mugs. Less typical promotional items, but relevant to the promotion of road safety, include triangular reflectors and ice scrapers.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many posters or displays there are in the offices of her Department and its agencies displaying the names and photographs of Ministers; and what the cost has been of producing such posters or displays in the last five years. [179847]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A number of display panels around our two headquarters buildings in London inform staff and visitors about our objectives, our structure and governance and our work. Five panels include the names and photographs of Ministers. The costs are usually included in contracts covering other internal publicity activity and separating out this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any of her Department's special advisers also work for organisations outside her Department. [178475]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the "Model Contract and Code of Conduct for Special Advisers", copies of which are in the Library of the House.

Driving Tests: Elderly

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations she has received on a proposed compulsory driving test for elderly drivers. [179359]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 15 January 2008]:* Over the last 12 months the Department has received numerous representations from Members of Parliament, stakeholders and interested parties on this issue.

Driving Under Influence: Death

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many young people who died as a result of road traffic accidents were *(a)* under the influence of alcohol and *(b)* under the influence of drugs in each of the past 10 years. [180131]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The percentage of drivers and riders killed over the legal blood alcohol limit by age group for Great Britain from 1997 to 2006 is shown in the table.

	Motorcycle riders					*Cars and other motor vehicles*					
	Age					*Age*					
	16-19	*20-29*	*30-39*	*40+*	*All Ages*	*16-19*	*20-29*	*30-39*	*40+*	*All Ages*	*All*
1997	10	14	16	7	13	25	23	26	12	19	17
1998	15	7	18	6	11	17	25	24	9	17	15

	Motorcycle riders					Cars and other motor vehicles					
	Age					Age					
	16-19	20-29	30-39	40+	All Ages	16-19	20-29	30-39	40+	All Ages	All
1999	23	8	12	2	9	22	31	31	7	20	17
2000	17	10	13	5	10	20	32	34	12	22	18
2001	11	14	12	1	10	18	35	25	14	22	18
2002	27	15	10	2	11	18	31	37	14	19	19
2003	10	20	12	8	13	18	33	28	12	19	19
2004	19	19	13	10	14	26	31	32	16	25	21
2005	26	11	13	11	13	25	33	33	13	24	20
2006[1]	14[2]		10[3]		11	25	33	24	19	25	20

[1] Provisional data. The sample size for 2006 is not yet sufficient to give a full age breakdown.
[2] Age groups 16-29
[3] Age groups 30+

This table can also be found on the Department's website at the following address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/172974/173025/221412/221549/227755/285672/Article3DrinkDrivetab1.xls

Information on whether or not drivers involved in accidents failed a drugs test is not collected by the Department.

Driving: EC Action

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the written ministerial statement of 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 38WS, on drivers' hours (derogation for reservists), whether the Minister has received a response from the European Commission to the request for a derogation from regulation (EC) 561/2006; and if she will make a statement. [180872]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There has been ongoing dialogue with the European Commission officials dealing with our request. A response is expected shortly. I will inform the House of the Commission's decision at that time.

Enterprise and Economic Development

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her Department's planned expenditure on business support, promotion of enterprise and economic development is from 2007-08 to 2010-11; and which elements of this expenditure are planned to be funded through the regional development agencies' single pot. [179276]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has, as one of its four departmental strategic objectives for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11, the goal

"to sustain economic growth and improved productivity through reliable and efficient transport networks",

and much of its total spending will contribute towards the achievement of that objective. However, it does not plan any expenditure that is directly for business support, promotion of enterprise or economic development. The DFT does not contribute any funding to the regional development agencies' single pot.

Eurostar: Ebbsfleet International

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passengers have travelled from Ebbsfleet via Eurostar since the inauguration of that service. [179779]

Mr. Tom Harris: This is an operational matter for Eurostar. The hon. Gentleman should contact the company for an answer to his question at the following address:

Simon Montague
Director of Communications
Eurostar
Eurostar House
Waterloo
SE1 8SE.

Eurostar: Fares

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what surcharge was applied to passengers taking weekend breaks in Paris and travelling by Eurostar from (*a*) Ebbsfleet and (*b*) Paddington. [179780]

Mr. Tom Harris: This is a matter for Eurostar who advise that it imposes no surcharges for travellers taking weekend breaks from any of its UK stations including Ashford International, Ebbsfleet International and St. Pancras International. Eurostar does not serve London Paddington.

Inland Waterways

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of waterways and canals have been lost for transportation purposes in each year since 1997. [178146]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

None. On the contrary, the network of canals and waterways managed by our sponsored navigation bodies (British Waterways, the Environment Agency and the Broads Authority) has expanded by 150 miles since 1997. This is largely due to British Waterways' involvement in a number of restoration schemes. It is also currently involved in the restoration of a further 50 miles of canals.

We have no information on waterways managed by other navigation bodies.

London and South Eastern Railway: Fares

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Strategic Rail Authority's Integrated Franchise Agreement Briefing Document, what the agreed ceiling for fare increases was for South Eastern Railway. [179759]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Stakeholder Briefing Document for the Integrated Kent Franchise, published by the Strategic Rail Authority in January 2005, stated that bidders had been asked to prepare proposals which anticipated either a continuation of the present fare structure (annual increases of 1 per cent. above the retail price index) or a fares regime that allowed tickets to be priced at 3 per cent. above the retail price index for the first five years of the franchise. Government would then decide which to proceed with once bids had been returned and a measure of the cost and affordability of each proposition was known.

Southeastern regulated fares have an overall cap of an annual average increase of 3 per cent. above the retail price index, or 6.8 per cent. for 2008.

Individual regulated fares can increase by more than the average and for Southeastern fares, the maximum is 8 per cent. above inflation. Therefore, individual regulated fares on South Eastern were permitted to rise by up to 11.8 per cent. for 2008, provided average increases were limited to RPI+3 per cent.

London and South Eastern Railway: Finance

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much subsidy South Eastern Railways received from her Department as a percentage of the income from the franchise in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [179781]

Mr. Tom Harris: It is not possible to provide figures regarding the percentage of subsidy to income. Franchise income is commercially sensitive information.

The amount of subsidy paid to London and South Eastern Railways can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/passenger/franchises/franchisepaymentprofiles.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to reduce the number of vehicles being driven on UK roads without a valid MOT certificate. [180722]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The 'new style' MOT certificates issued by testing stations come with a sticker setting out the expiry date of the MOT to help motorists comply with the requirement to have a valid MOT certificate. We are also exploring the potential for issuing reminder notices about MOT expiry dates as a further measure to support compliance.

We provide the police with access to the computerised record of MOT test results so that police officers can—for example during roadside enforcement operations—identify vehicles without a valid MOT using ANPR cameras and then take action.

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of vehicles on the road with no valid MOT certificate. [180723]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The most recent on the road survey was undertaken in March 2006 this showed that around 4.2 per cent. of vehicles in use on the road did not have a valid MOT. When applied to the whole vehicle fleet this would relate to around 1.2 million vehicles. The exercise is expected to be repeated this year.

Network Rail: Repairs and Maintenance

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what input she intends to have in the inquiry now being carried out by the Office of Rail Regulation into the January 2008 overruns of engineering works on the west coast route modernisation. [180491]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) has launched an urgent investigation into Network Rail's management of engineering projects, including the overrun of works on the west coast main line over the new year. It has sought representations from a number of interested parties, including the Department for Transport. The Department is happy to answer any questions of the ORR where this can be helpful to its investigation.

Road Length

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of *(a)* roads and *(b)* cycle lanes were constructed in England in each year since 1997, broken down by local authority area. [178136]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Data on lengths of roads constructed are not collected centrally.

The Department does make annual estimates of total road lengths by local authority and by road class. These are for total lengths only, so any change between years can be due to reclassification and closure of roads as well as new construction. It is not possible to identify how much of the change is due to construction only. The latest figures are published online at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/roadstraffic/roadlengths/regionclass/.

Information on the length of new cycle lanes constructed in England, outside London, for the financial years from 2001-02 to 2006-07 is set out in the tables, which have been placed in the Libraries of the House. These data have been collected only since 2001-02 and are provided in kilometres.

The information is provided by local authorities on an annual basis as part of their annual performance report on their local transport plans. It is not verified by the Department. Responsibility for the accuracy of the data rests with individual authorities. The data are incomplete and include some estimates.

Figures are not available for London boroughs but Transport for London report that around 550 km of the London Cycle Network+ were completed by April 2007 with a target of 900km due for completion by end 2010.

Roads: Lighting

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government has taken to encourage local councils to fund improved street lighting. [178468]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Over the 10 year period covered by the first and second Local Transport Plan rounds, the Department for Transport is providing more than £6.5 billion for highways maintenance to English highway authorities outside London, to cover a range of investment in the network including street lighting. In addition, we have allocated £1.4 billion in credits for street lighting PFI schemes, including £64.3 million recently announced for the Coventry Street Lighting PFI project. Revenue support grant can also be used to operate street lighting.

In a range of guidance and advice, the Government have encouraged local councils to consider how good street lighting adds to the character of an area, and can make an important contribution to, for example, reductions in accidents, crime or the fear of crime, or increased night-time mobility.

In addition, the Department is represented on the UK Lighting Board, which brings together national and local government, and which contributes to the dissemination of best practice in street lighting. The Department also endorses and promotes the board's code of practice on highway lighting management, "Well-lit Highways" (TSO, 2004).

Ministers and officials take many opportunities to engage with local authorities in this area. Most recently, I spoke to the 11th annual Institution of Lighting Engineers/Surveyor street lighting conference in December 2007.

Roads: Taxation

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many motor vehicles have been crushed for non-payment of road tax since the relevant provisions came into force. [179580]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of vehicles scrapped in the UK since 1997 is as follows:

	Number
1997 to 2001	39,304
2002	19,450
2003	34,024
2004	32,889
2005	39,181
2006	34,369
2007	46,126
Total vehicles scrapped	245,343

Safety Belts: Death

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many drivers aged 17 or under who died as a result of road traffic accidents were *(a)* wearing a seatbelt and *(b)* not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the accident in each of the past 10 years. [180130]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not available.

Research reported in the published "Second Review of the Government's Road Safety Strategy" and "Road Safety Research Report No. 76: Trends in Fatal Car-occupant Accidents" both published on 26 February 2007, estimates that about a third of fatally injured car occupants were not wearing their seatbelts. For 2005 figures, it represents about 565 people, and it is estimated that about 370 people might have survived if they had been properly restrained. This research also reported that higher proportions of fatally injured car occupants were not wearing seatbelts in cars driven by young drivers. These reports are available at the following links and have also been deposited in the Libraries of the House:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/strategytargetsperformance/2ndreview/

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research/rsrr/theme5/76?version=2

A research report giving further details on seat belt wearing has also been published by TRL limited:

http://www.trl.co.uk/store/report_detail.asp?srid=6160&pid=220

Speed Limits: Driving Offences

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people in Lancashire were referred for speed awareness courses in the most recent period for which figures are available; and how many people in Lancashire are due to take speed awareness courses. [180508]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This information is not held by the Department. The decision to offer a speed awareness course as an alternative to prosecution, is entirely a matter for the local police. The number of people referred for speed awareness courses or due to take them in Lancashire will therefore be a matter for the Lancashire police.

Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings she had with trade unions officials since 1 July 2007; on what dates; and with which trade unions. [179867]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Ministers meet many people as part of the process of policy development. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

Transport: Coventry

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what grants her Department has provided for transport infrastructure in Coventry in the last 12 months; and what future such grants are planned to be made. [180277]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has provided local transport capital allocations for Coventry city council and the West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority for 2007-08 and has announced funding for 2008-09 to 2010-11, as shown in the following table.

The seven West Midlands metropolitan district councils and the PTA are free to redistribute most of their funding allocations among themselves if they so decide.

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	£ million 2010-11
Coventry CC—Highways Capital Maintenance	2.101	2.804	2.430	2.255
Coventry CC—Major Projects (Primelines)	8.961	1.933	0	0
Coventry CC—Integrated Transport	3.321	3.408	3.522	3.657
WMPTA—Integrated Transport	21.280	21.514	21.831	22.218

A grant of £2.043 million has been allocated for 2008-09 to capital maintenance on the detrunked sections of the A45 in Coventry. About 18 per cent. of the specific road safety grant which totals between £4.4 million and £4.7 million per year between 2007-08 and 2010-11 across the West Midlands metropolitan area is for capital projects, that is for transport infrastructure.

Additionally, the West Midlands urban traffic control system major scheme bid is currently being considered by the Department. The bid is still subject to final confirmation and approval, but should it be successful, a total of £26.6 million would be awarded covering the West Midlands Authorities.

£64.3 million of private finance initiative credits for the 25 year Coventry street lighting project have been announced.

In addition Coventry is benefiting from investment in strategic transport infrastructure including the west coast main line.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether personal data for which the Government Equality Office are responsible are *(a)* stored and *(b)* processed overseas; and if she will make a statement. [176009]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office does not store or process any personal data overseas.

Discrimination

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what responsibility *(a)* she and *(b)* Ministers in other Departments have for policy on (i) racial, (ii) religious, (iii) disability and (iv) age discrimination. [174782]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 17 December 2007]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement made by my hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 18 October 2007:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm071018/wmstext/71018m0001.htm#07101814000009.

Government Equalities Office

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much has been spent by the Government Equalities Office *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity since it was established; and how many people are employed by the Office for this purpose. [173819]

Barbara Follett: The formation of the Government Equalities Office was announced on 26 July this year. In the 2007-08 financial year it, and its predecessor organisation, have spent £51.54 million in total to date.

Of this amount, £48.63 million was used to fund the Equality and Human Rights Commission, the Women's National Commission and the former Commissions for Racial Equality and Equal Opportunity.

As all of the work that the GEO does is concerned with promoting equality and diversity, all 61 of its permanent staff and six temporary staff are employed for this purpose.

In the 2007-08 financial year the GEO staff costs amounted to £1.94 million from 1 April to 30 November. This figure excludes staff costs paid by the commissions aforementioned.

The GEO currently has 61 permanent staff and six temporary staff in post. This excludes Private Office and the costs of legal staff working alongside the Office.

Figures are rounded to the nearest £10,000. Full-year figures are included as normal accounting conventions require them to be accounted for on a full-year basis.

Polygamy

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what estimate she has made of the number of recognised legal polygamous marriages in the United Kingdom. [174511]

Barbara Follett: A formal estimate has not been made although it is generally thought there are fewer than 1,000 legally recognised polygamous marriages within the UK.

Single Equalities Bill

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when she expects to publish a draft of the Single Equalities Bill; and if she will make a statement. [179349]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 15 January 2008]:* The Government have given a manifesto commitment to introduce a new Equality Act during the lifetime of this Parliament.

PRIME MINISTER

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Soames: To ask the Prime Minister when he expects to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Mid Sussex on 26 September 2007 and on 13 November 2007 about Lord Kinnock; and what the reason is for the time taken in replying. [180620]

The Prime Minister: My right hon. and noble Friend Lord Kinnock continues to be an excellent chairman of the British Council. Speeches made at the Labour Party conference are not a matter for the Government.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Databases

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what audits his Department and its agencies have carried out in relation to personal data and IT equipment in each of the last 10 years. [176489]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office has not performed any auditing of personal data in the last 10 years. In each of the last 10 years, my Department has maintained an asset register of IT equipment.

Internal Audit has not carried out specific audits of IT equipment. It has carried out the following audits of asset management which includes IT equipment within the scope.

NI Prison Service asset management audits in 2002-03 and in 2006-07

NIO core Department, an asset management audit was carried out in 2000-01

Audit logs of the following actions are maintained on our accredited systems.

System File access

Printing

Internet Access

Email

User Accounts

These audit logs are monitored on a weekly basis. However, this is one of the areas that will be investigated during the 2nd phase of the data handling procedures in Government review.

Departmental Pay

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 288W, on departmental pay, how many of those earning over £100,000 were employed *(a)* as special advisers and *(b)* in a political role in each year since 1997. [177182]

Mr. Woodward: Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the number of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information, I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 147-51WS.

Information on the number and cost of special advisers prior to 2003 was provided at regular intervals and this information will be available in the Library of the House.

Missing Persons

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many persons are registered as missing in Northern Ireland, broken down by *(a)* age, *(b)* sex and *(c)* religion. [168540]

Paul Goggins: 68 persons were registered as missing in Northern Ireland as of early November 2007. Only a very small number of persons reported missing are not subsequently located.

Missing persons are dealt with at district level and the breakdown by age, sex and religion requested could not be provided without conducting a full examination of the records of each district, which could be carried out only at disproportionate cost.

Rape

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many recorded rapes there were in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years, and what percentage of those recorded rapes led to a conviction in each of those years, broken down by Police Service of Northern Ireland District Command Units. [174857]

Paul Goggins: The Government is committed to improving the rates of successful prosecution in rape cases. Specialist police units, staffed by highly skilled and trained personnel, are dedicated to enhancing the service to victims of rape and sexual assault and both PSNI and the Public Prosecution Service are seeking to develop models of best investigative practice so that more offences can achieve the threshold for prosecution.

The Northern Ireland Office and the Department of Health and Social and Personal Services have also jointly developed, and consulted on, a draft regional strategy for addressing sexual violence in Northern Ireland which will address these issues through a robust action plan delivering on strategic objectives in three key areas—crime prevention, better victim support and improved protection and justice measures. The strategy is to be published this spring.

Table 1 shows the number of rapes (including attempts) recorded by PSNI from 2001-02 to 2006-07 by DCU. As the DCU structure was only introduced in 2001-02, it is not possible to provide a breakdown by DCU prior to this year.

Table 2 shows the number of prosecutions, convictions and percentage conviction rate for rape by District Command Unit from 2000 to 2005 (the years for which figures are available).

Data are collated on the basis of the principal offence; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

It is not possible routinely to reconcile recorded crime data from PSNI with prosecution and conviction data. Data from PSNI relate to the number of offences, whereas data on prosecutions and convictions relate to the number of offenders brought before the courts. In addition, PSNI data denote each offence as it has been initially recorded, and this may differ from the offence for which a suspect or suspects are subsequently proceeded against in the courts. I therefore regret that a direct comparison between recorded rape and convictions for rape cannot easily be made.

Table 1: Number of rapes (including attempts) recorded by PSNI from 2001-02 to 2006-07 by District Command Unit

District Command Unit	Recorded 2001-02	Recorded 2002-03	Recorded 2003-04	Recorded 2004-05	Recorded 2005-06	Recorded 2006-07
Antrim	8	8	10	7	17	16
Ards	6	15	14	18	15	20
East Belfast	14	12	12	17	15	21
North Belfast	19	22	34	29	28	25
South Belfast	28	25	32	22	31	39
West Belfast	11	14	24	15	11	25
Carrickfergus	1	3	6	6	4	8
Castlereagh	13	9	7	3	7	8
Down	8	17	11	9	18	15
Lisburn	15	20	26	22	24	29
Newtownabbey	8	11	10	19	20	20
North Down	13	8	22	12	16	18
Urban region	144	164	208	179	206	244
Armagh	9	3	2	10	10	9
Ballymena	8	19	20	18	17	13
Ballymoney	0	5	5	4	3	1
Banbridge	8	10	10	11	4	9
Coleraine	9	18	16	10	15	18
Cookstown	6	6	3	3	3	6
Craigavon	20	18	19	18	20	17
Dungannon and South Tyrone	8	7	6	8	6	12
Fermanagh	4	7	9	8	10	15
Foyle	32	44	35	44	36	40
Larne	7	10	9	11	6	3
Limavady	8	7	10	11	6	9
Magherafelt	6	8	5	5	7	13
Moyle	3	5	5	3	3	0
Newry and Mourne	9	7	17	14	18	21
Omagh	5	12	5	11	17	16
Strabane	6	7	11	12	4	11
Rural region	148	193	187	201	185	213
Total	292	357	395	380	391	457

Table 2: Prosecutions, convictions and percentage conviction rate for rape by District Command Unit in the calendar years 2000-05[1]

District Command Unit	2000			2001		
	Prosecutions	Convictions	Percentage convictions	Prosecutions	Convictions	Percentage convictions
Antrim	0	0	—	1	1	100
Ards	0	0	—	1	0	0
Armagh	0	0	—	0	0	—
Banbridge	0	0	—	1	1	100
Belfast East	1	0	0	2	1	50
Belfast North	2	1	50	3	2	67
Belfast South	1	1	100	1	1	100
Belfast West	1	0	0	0	0	—
Ballymena	0	0	—	1	0	0
Ballymoney	0	0	—	0	0	—
Carrickfergus	0	0	—	0	0	—
Coleraine	1	0	0	1	1	100
Cookstown	1	0	0	1	1	100
Craigavon	1	0	0	1	0	0
Castlereagh	1	1	100	0	0	—
Dungannon and South Tyrone	0	0	—	2	0	0
Down	1	1	100	0	0	—
Fermanagh	0	0	—	0	0	—
Foyle	0	0	—	3	0	0
Larne	3	1	33	0	0	—
Limavady	1	0	0	0	0	—

Table 2: Prosecutions, convictions and percentage conviction rate for rape by District Command Unit in the calendar years 2000-05[1]

District Command Unit	2000			2001		
	Prosecutions	Convictions	Percentage convictions	Prosecutions	Convictions	Percentage convictions
Lisburn	1	1	100	1	0	0
Magherafelt	1	0	0	0	0	—
Moyle	0	0	—	0	0	—
Newtownabbey	1	1	100	2	0	0
North Down	0	0	—	1	0	0
Newry and Mourne	3	0	0	2	1	50
Omagh	0	0	—	0	0	—
Strabane	0	0	—	4	3	75
Missing	0	0	—	0	0	—
Total	20	7	35	28	12	43

District Command Unit	2002			2003		
	Prosecutions	Convictions	Percentage convictions	Prosecutions	Convictions	Percentage convictions
Antrim	1	0	0	0	0	—
Ards	1	0	0	2	1	50
Armagh	1	0	0	0	0	—
Banbridge	0	0	—	0	0	—
Belfast East	3	1	33	0	0	—
Belfast North	4	3	75	1	0	0
Belfast South	3	2	67	4	1	25
Belfast West	0	0	—	1	1	100
Ballymena	0	0	—	1	0	0
Ballymoney	0	0	—	0	0	—
Carrickfergus	0	0	—	0	0	—
Coleraine	0	0	—	2	1	50
Cookstown	0	0	—	2	0	0
Craigavon	0	0	—	0	0	—
Castlereagh	0	0	—	1	0	0
Dungannon and South Tyrone	0	0	—	1	0	0
Down	1	1	100	1	0	0
Fermanagh	0	0	—	2	0	0
Foyle	2	1	50	1	1	100
Larne	0	0	—	1	0	0
Limavady	0	0	—	0	0	—
Lisburn	0	0	—	2	1	50
Magherafelt	0	0	—	0	0	—
Moyle	2	0	0	0	0	—
Newtownabbey	0	0	—	1	1	100
North Down	1	0	0	1	0	0
Newry and Mourne	3	0	0	0	0	—
Omagh	0	0	—	1	0	0
Strabane	1	0	0	1	1	100
Missing	2	0	0	0	0	—
Total	25	8	32	26	8	31

District Command Unit	2004			2005		
	Prosecutions	Convictions	Percentage Convictions	Prosecutions	Convictions	Percentage convictions
Antrim	2	2	100	1	0	0
Ards	2	1	50	0	0	—
Armagh	0	0	—	2	0	0
Banbridge	1	0	0	0	0	—
Belfast East	0	0	—	0	0	—
Belfast North	3	0	0	0	0	—
Belfast South	4	3	75	1	1	100
Belfast West	1	0	0	1	0	0
Ballymena	2	1	50	2	1	50
Ballymoney	0	0	—	0	0	—
Carrickfergus	0	0	—	1	0	0
Coleraine	2	2	100	0	0	—

District Command Unit	2004			2005		
	Prosecutions	Convictions	Percentage Convictions	Prosecutions	Convictions	Percentage convictions
Cookstown	0	0	—	0	0	—
Craigavon	1	1	100	2	0	0
Castlereagh	0	0	—	1	0	0
Dungannon and South Tyrone	0	0	—	0	0	—
Down	0	0	—	0	0	—
Fermanagh	0	0	—	0	0	—
Foyle	4	4	100	1	0	0
Larne	0	0	—	1	0	0
Limavady	0	0	—	0	0	—
Lisburn	1	0	0	2	0	0
Magherafelt	1	0	0	0	0	—
Moyle	0	0	—	0	0	—
Newtownabbey	1	1	100	3	1	33
North Down	0	0	—	1	0	0
Newry and Mourne	0	0	—	1	0	0
Omagh	1	0	0	0	0	—
Strabane	1	0	0	1	1	100
Missing	2	0	0	0	0	—
Total	29	15	52	21	4	19

[1] Missing data relate to those offenders for whom DCU information is not available.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Archaeology: Finance

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the likely impact of Comprehensive Spending Review settlement on the portable antiquities scheme. [176799]

James Purnell *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* The portable antiquities scheme (PAS) is funded by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) and so any decisions on its future funding are a matter for the MLA. The MLA has already committed to maintain current levels of support for the scheme for 2008-09. Since the 2004 Spending Review, the Department's funding allocation to the MLA has not included ring-fencing for the PAS.

Arts Council of England: Grants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the timetable is for finalising Arts Council England funding proposals to arts organisations, with particular reference to regional theatres. [179446]

James Purnell *[holding answer 16 January 2008]:* The Arts Council operates at arm's length from the Government and decisions about which arts organisations to fund are entirely for them.

Arts Council England gave arts organisations (including regional theatres) who have been notified of a proposal not to renew or to reduce their funding, until 15 January to respond. Regional councils will meet on the following dates to finalise proposals ahead of ratification by Arts Council England National Council on 29 January:

Date	Region
15 January	Yorkshire
21 January	North East
25 January	North West
23 January	East
24 January	East Midlands
23 January	West Midlands
24 January	London
24 January	South East
21 January	South West

Arts: Cumbria

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effects on the cultural and creative sectors in Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency of the decision of the Northern Rock Foundation to cease co-funding of arts and heritage projects in partnership with Government agencies from 2008-09. [180202]

Margaret Hodge: The closure of any charitable grant programme is clearly regrettable. Funding for individual arts organisations is a matter for Arts Council England. They are aware of the potential impact and are in discussion with partners and arts organisations in the area.

Big Lottery Fund: Grants

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what projects were awarded money by the Big Lottery Fund in Wirral South in each of the last five years. [179645]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The list of projects awarded money by the Big Lottery Fund in Wirral South in each of the last five years is as follows:

2003-04

Metropolitan Borough of Wirral
Irby Golf Club Junior Section
Cheshire Wildlife Trust—Wirral Wildlife
Belvidere Centre/Wallasey Spastics and Physical Handicapped Association
Metropolitan Borough of Wirral
Barnstondale Centre
25th Birkenhead Scout Group
Bebington Citizens Advice Bureau Limited
The Lyndale School
Caldy Mini Rugby Club
Bebington Centre for Voluntary Service
Heygarth Primary School
Birkenhead Phab Club

2004-05

Heroes Return (19 awards)
The Merchant Navy—Wirral Branch
Stick n Step
Bebington 2nd Scouts
Dusted
Thornton Hough Women's Institute
Merseyside Squash Rackets Association
Bebington High Sports College (Wirral LEA)
Claire House Children's Hospice
Stanton Estate Residents Association
Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities
Team Wirral Tracs
Upton By Chester and District Parish Council
The Cheshire Regiment Association Birkenhead and District Branch

2005-06

Heroes Return (five awards)
Foxfield School Parent Teachers Association
Stick n Step
Royal British Legion Port Sunlight Branch
Wirral Urban Farm Association
Liverpool Victoria Rowing Club
Thornton Hough Women's Institute
Royal British Legion West Cheshire and District
Bromborough U3A
Higher Bebington Royal British Legion Social Club Limited
Bebington Road Allotment Society
Royal British Legion (Willaston-in-Wirral Branch)
The Pensby and Kylemore Community Centres Association
Thornton Hough Village Hall
Bebington Citizens Advice Bureau Limited
Royal Engineers Association Birkenhead Branch
West Kirby Lions Club
Merseyside Asylum Seekers and Refuges Pre and Post Natal Support Group
The Bidston Preservation Trust
Crossroads in Wirral, Caring for Carers Ltd
Eastham Blades Junior Football Club
Nothing Rhymes with Poets
Caldy Mini Rugby Club
Bebington University of the Third Age
Royal Engineers Association Chester Branch
Wirral Pathfinders

2006-07

The Heswall Society
The Friends of Flaybrick Society
Meadowside School
Eastham Women's Institute
Bebington Day Centre Club
Royal Army Ordnance Corps Association (Merseyside Branch)
Wirral Sapphires Majorette Troupe
South Wirral High School
Clare Mount School
Bebington High Sports College SSCO

2007-08

Wirral Urban Farm Association
10th Birkenhead Scout Group
Mersey Basin Business Foundation
Friends of Dibbinsdale Local Nature Reserve
Weatherhead High School Media Arts College
Bebington Road Allotment Society
Millfields Primary School
Kings Regiment Association Liverpool
Stanton Road Primary School
Ellesmere Port Panthers Basketball Club
Port Sunlight Rugby Football Club Limited

Big Lottery Fund: Public Participation

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people voted for each project competing in the Big Lottery Fund People's £50 million Lottery contest. [179749]

Mr. Sutcliffe: A break down of votes registered for each project competing in the Big Lottery Fund People's £50 million Lottery contest is listed in the following table:

Project	*Number of votes*	*Percentage of total vote*
Eden Project: The Edge	34,559	12.07
Sustrans' Connect2	119,348	41.69
Sherwood: The Living Legend	48,822	17.05
Black Country Urban Park	83,556	29.19

Corporate hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on how many occasions he has accepted corporate hospitality in the last 12 months. [171317]

Margaret Hodge: Chapter 7 of the Ministerial Code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what weight of paper his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [179460]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department does not hold records for the last five years.

The Department introduced a new waste management system at its Cockspur street offices in January 2007.

The weight of recycled paper in 2007 was 52.24 tonnes.

National Lottery

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will assess the appropriateness of deciding the allocation of lottery funding according to the results of telephone and e-mail votes. [178519]

Mr. Sutcliffe: People who play the lottery deserve to have a greater say in how lottery money is used. Telephone and e-mail voting is only one of the many ways that people are able to become involved in deciding where local lottery money is spent.

Not all lottery grants will be decided in this way, but is important that people have a genuine opportunity to influence where local lottery funding goes.

Lottery distributors are working together to identify best practice and to develop options for increasing public involvement in decisions about lottery funding themes and local lottery spending.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what he expects as the sporting legacy of the 2012 Olympics to be for Northern Ireland. [174910]

James Purnell: Sports policy in Northern Ireland, including the sporting legacy of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games, is a devolved matter, and is the responsibility of the Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure. His officials participate fully in the London Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic games (LOCOG) Nations and Regions Group and all other associated steering groups.

Sports: Databases

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the total cost to public funds was of the Active Places database in each year for which figures are available. [178943]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The initial costs for Active Places for the first three years between 2004 and 2007 was £5.2 million. The budget for the current financial year 2007-08 is £1.1 million which is spent on data maintenance, data acquisition, systems development and hosting.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the percentage of all UK sports facilities that are currently on the Active Places database; and if he will make a statement. [178944]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Unfortunately it is not possible to estimate the percentage of UK sports facilities on Active Places, as it is only applicable to England. The database currently holds information on 11 sport facility types. Sport England estimates that over 80 per cent. of formal sport in England takes places on these types of facilities and that Active Places database includes over 90 per cent. of these facilities. The Sports Council for Northern Ireland has developed its own version of Active Places and the Sports Council for Wales is currently developing a version as well.

Tourism: Cleethorpes

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* UK and *(b)* overseas tourists visiting Cleethorpes in each of the last five years. [179714]

Margaret Hodge: The tables show *(a)* the number of domestic overnight trips to the Yorkshire region and *(b)* the number of overseas visits to the Northern Lincolnshire region for the latest years for which data is available.

Information on visits at constituency or ward level by domestic and foreign tourists is not available.

Domestic overnight trips by UK residents[1]

	Yorkshire[2] *(million)*
2002	12.2
2003	13.1
2004	10.0
2005	11.9
2006	10.1

[1] The methodology for the UKTS changed in 2005 meaning that comparisons with previous years should be treated with caution. This change occurred as a result of concerns with the quality of 2004 data, which is thought to be an under-representation of the true position.

[2] North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, West East Riding of Yorkshire, Kingston-upon Hull, North Lincolnshire and North-East Lincolnshire.

Source:
UK Tourism Survey (National Tourist Boards)

Overseas visits

	Northern Lincolnshire (thousand)
2002	40
2003	30
2004	30
2005	30
2006	50

Source:
International Passenger Survey (ONS)

It is not possible to provide a time series for the number of day visits by UK residents there were to Cleethorpes (or the surrounding region) as the survey is run intermittently.

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the average expenditure per head of tourists visiting Cleethorpes in each of the last five years. [179716]

Margaret Hodge: The tables show *(a)* the average expenditure per visit for overnight trips by UK residents to the Yorkshire region and *(b)* the average

expenditure per visit for visits by non UK residents to the Northern Lincolnshire region for the latest years for which data is available.

Information on visits at constituency or ward level by domestic and foreign tourists is not available.

Average expenditure per visit[1] of domestic overnight tourists[2]

	£
	Yorkshire[3]
2002	131
2003	147
2004	158
2005	142
2006	139

[1] Expenditure includes items such as package holidays, accommodation, travel to and from the destination and during the trip, services and advice, buying clothes, eating and drinking out, shopping, entertainment and other items relating to the trip.
[2] The methodology for the UKTS changed in 2005 meaning that comparisons with previous years should be treated with caution. This change occurred as a result of concerns with the quality of 2004 data, which is thought to be an under-representation of the true position.
[3] North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, West East Riding of Yorkshire, Kingston-upon Hull, North Lincolnshire and North-East Lincolnshire.
Source:
UK Tourism Survey (National Tourist Boards)

Average expenditure[1] per visit by overseas residents

	£
	Northern Lincolnshire[2]
2002	250
2003	333
2004	267
2005	333
2006	240

[1] Expenditure excludes fares for travel to and from the UK.
[2] Figures are based on small sample sizes and as such should be treated with extreme caution, and used solely as an indicative estimate.
Source:
International Passenger Survey (ONS)

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allotments

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government is taking to increase the availability of allotments. [179163]

Mr. Iain Wright: The provision of allotments is the responsibility of local authorities. The Smallholdings and Allotments Act 1908 places a duty on local authorities to provide allotments where they perceive demand for them in their area.

Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation) requires local authorities to assess the needs of their communities for a range of open spaces, and to address any identified deficiencies. It also suggests that authorities should allocate sites within their plans for the provision of new open spaces.

To further support local authorities, we are currently revising the good practice guide for the management of allotments in conjunction with the Local Government Association.

Arm's Length Management Organisations

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether under Clause 225, sub section (2) of the Housing and Regeneration Bill a specified person to whom management functions of a registered provider may be transferred could be an arm's length management organisation. [179370]

Mr. Iain Wright: I can confirm that the new management transfer power proposed for the social housing regulator OFTENANT at clause 225 of the Housing and Regeneration Bill permits the regulator to transfer management functions of social housing owned by a registered provider to any other specified person (that is, any organisation). This includes arm's length management organisations.

Clause 225 is a new power recommended by the Cave Review of social housing regulation. It gives OFTENANT the power to address systematically poor management without transferring ownership of the assets. The power could be used in respect of all a provider's homes or a proportion of them, so it could be used to address issues on a specific estate. The owner of the homes would be subject to the regulatory regime and would ensure the managing agent met any relevant standards. This power could only be exercised following an inquiry under clauses 183 to 186 and is subject to appeal to the High Court.

Similarly, if OFTENANT directed the registered provider to put social housing management functions out to competitive tender, under clause 223, an arm's length management organisation could tender for the work and be selected as manager.

Cheshire County Council: Reorganisation

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate of the cost of the re-organisation of Cheshire County Council has been made by her Department; and if she will publish the information on which this estimate is based. [180205]

John Healey: The Secretary of State has assessed the financial estimates made by Cheshire county council and certain Cheshire district councils in connection with their proposals for the creation of unitary authorities in Cheshire. Those estimates were made public by the councils on their websites.

Community Centres: Closures

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* village halls and *(b)* community centres closed permanently in each of the last 10 years. [180387]

John Healey: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Community Relations: Emergency Services

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether consideration has been given to establishing wardens to co-ordinate between local communities and the emergency services in the event of a civil disaster. [172058]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

The Civil Contingencies Act (2004) requires frontline responders (eg the emergency services, Environment Agency and local authorities) to ensure effective arrangements are in place to protect their communities in an emergency, which includes how best to involve their communities to meet the needs of the local area.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many posters or displays there are in the offices of her Department and its agencies displaying the names and photographs of Ministers; and what the cost has been of producing such posters or displays in the last five years. [179839]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Communities and Local Government has spent £5,402 plus VAT on display boards which show the names and photographs of Ministers in the foyers of the Department's two main central London buildings.

Information for our agencies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* the authorised or *(b)* required elements of a home information pack will inform buyers of the potential impact of underground works, such as the new Crossrail development. [173289]

Yvette Cooper: Information on proposed railway or road schemes, which may involve underground works, forms part of the property search dealing with inquiries made of local authorities. This search is a required element of the home information pack.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the effect on the housing market of the introduction of home information packs. [174317]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the home information packs update written ministerial statement made on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 140-42WS.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the potential use of home information packs to be made by lawyers in the conveyancing process. [175355]

Yvette Cooper: The home information pack (HIP) includes evidence of title and standard local searches. Providing it in a HIP will mean this information will be available for lawyers at the start of the conveyancing process. Many solicitors have also become pack providers.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* the authorised and *(b)* required elements of a home information pack will inform buyers of the potential impact of underground works. [176604]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today (PQ 173289).

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which three mortgage lenders from the top 30 do not accept personal searches in a home information pack. [176612]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is contained in the Council of Mortgage Lenders Handbook which sets out individual lenders' policies on acceptance of personal searches.

Home Information Packs: Pilot Schemes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether the full conclusions of each geographic dry run for home information packs will be published *(a)* by the end of 2007 and *(b)* before home information packs are extended to one or two bedroomed homes; [173221]

(2) whether IPSO-MORI have concluded their work on the home information pack dry-run and pilot research. [173286]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the home information packs update written ministerial statement made on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 140-42WS.

IPSOS-MORI is still in the process of finalising its conclusions and a copy of the research report will be placed in the House Library once the project has been finalised.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in what locations home information pack pilots and dry-runs took place; and over which periods of time in each case. [176178]

Yvette Cooper: The Department's area trials began in Bath, Newcastle, Southampton, Northampton, Huddersfield and Cambridge from 6 November 2006 with trials in the London borough of Southwark and North West Wales commencing on 12 February 2007. The final phase, including processing the information and drawing conclusions is still being finalised by IPSOS-MORI.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether the full conclusions of each geographic dry run for home information packs will be published *(a)* by the end of

2007 and *(b)* before home information packs are extended to one or two bedroom homes; [176590]

(2) whether IPSO-MORI have concluded their work on the Home Information Pack dry-run and pilot research; [176600]

(3) what the timetable is for the publication of the results of the pilot studies from the Home Information Pack dry run. [176177]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the home information packs update written ministerial statement made on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 140-42WS.

IPSOS-MORI is still in the process of finalising its conclusions and a copy of the research report will be placed in the Library of the House once the project has been finalised.

Homes and Communities Agency

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers the Homes and Communities Agency will have in relation to the provisions of *(a)* regional spatial strategies, *(b)* local authority local development frameworks and *(c)* the Mayor of London's spatial plan for the purposes of development under its oversight. [171646]

Yvette Cooper: The Housing and Regeneration Bill makes provision for the Homes and Communities Agency to have a role in relation to regional spatial strategies and local development frameworks in specified circumstances.

Clause 18 of the Bill adds the Homes and Communities Agency to section 4 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 so that if the Homes and Communities Agency has been made the local planning authority for any area that falls within the responsibility of the Regional Planning Board (for example as English Partnership has in Milton Keynes), the Regional Planning Board must seek the agency's advice when revising the regional spatial strategy, or when reviewing and monitoring its implementation.

Clause 13 of the Bill gives the Secretary of State the power to designate an area and in doing so may confer specified planning functions upon the Homes and Communities Agency. The functions which may be conferred upon the Agency are set out in clause 14 and include powers in relation to the production and maintenance of local development documents. The Agency will not have any powers in relation to local development frameworks at the outset and are only likely to be conferred in exceptional circumstances.

The Agency has been given no specific powers in relation to the Mayor of London's spatial plan, nor does the Bill make provision to confer planning functions on the Agency in relation to that plan where an area within Greater London is designated under clause 13.

Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many domestic dwellings are on the valuation list in England. [180161]

John Healey: The number is 22,418,512 as at 5 November 2007.

Housing Data Domain Group

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 16 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1035W, on the Housing Data Domain Group, if she will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Neighbourhood Statistics: Housing Data Domain Group of 2 October 2006. [176455]

Mr. Iain Wright: The minutes of the Neighbourhood Statistics Housing Data Domain Group meeting of the 2 October 2006 have been placed in the Library of the House.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she plans to take to minimise the increased greenhouse emissions that will arise from the implementation of the new housing programme proposed to be taken forward under provisions within the Housing and Regeneration Bill. [172805]

Yvette Cooper: We have committed to an ambitious timetable for improvements to the carbon standard of new homes so that from 2016 all new homes will be zero carbon. In 2010 and 2013 we will improve the carbon standard as set out in building regulations by 25 per cent. and 44 per cent. respectively, compared to current building regulations.

We have also made the commitment that all new homes developed by English Partnerships or with direct funding from the Government's housing growth programmes are now being built to level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes. Additionally, Housing Corporation funded homes built by registered social landlords will, from the start of the next national Affordable Housing programme (beginning April 2008) comply with level 3 of the Code. As well as producing 25 per cent. less carbon than homes built to current building regulations, these homes will also be designed to minimise their environmental impact outside of carbon emissions in areas such as the water they use, the waste they generate and the materials that they are built from.

Furthermore, the industry, together with local authorities and other stakeholders have been invited to come forward with proposals for eco-towns. Eco-towns will be entirely new settlements which are exemplar "green developments" of 5,000 to 20,000 homes and designed to meet the highest standards of sustainability. The development as a whole (including all homes) should reach zero carbon and should use the standards set out in the Code for Sustainable Homes as a guide.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what records her Department keeps of the number and location of zero carbon homes. [176194]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 24 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1904W.

Housing: Elderly

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will bring forward proposals to amend Article Six of Annex A to Planning Policy Statement 7 to enable the provision of retirement dwellings for farmers in rural areas. [179342]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 15 January 2008]:* The Government have no plans to amend paragraph 6 of annex A of Planning Policy Statement 7, which deals with the circumstances in which agricultural needs may justify the provision of new dwellings in isolated locations.

Planning Policy Statement 3 (PPS3) highlights the need for local authorities to plan for the provision of market and affordable housing in rural areas that contributes to the creation and maintenance of sustainable rural communities in market towns and villages. PPS3 also sets out how local authorities in rural areas could use the rural exception site policy to deliver solely affordable housing on sites which would not normally be used for housing, and for that housing to be kept as affordable in perpetuity.

Housing: Energy

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many energy performance certificates have been logged on the Energy Performance Certificate database. [176230]

Yvette Cooper: The number of energy performance certificates which have been logged on the database up to 2 January 2008 is 257,820.

Housing: Floods

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on which of the flood plain areas identified by the Environment Agency in the South East she expects housing to be built in the next 10 years. [165863]

Yvette Cooper: The Government's policy set out in Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25) is to strengthen protection against flooding.

It will be for local planning authorities to determine applications for housing development in their areas. Decisions should be made in light of the policies in their local development frameworks, supported by strategic flood risk assessments prepared in consultation with the Environment Agency, and in accord with the principles of PPS25.

Housing: Inspections

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* home inspectors and *(b)* domestic energy assessors required under the roll-out of home information packs; and how this estimate was calculated. [176087]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the home information packs update written ministerial statement made on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 140-42WS.

Housing: Low Incomes

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the availability of housing provided through Government funded schemes for *(a)* nurses, *(b)* teachers, *(c)* police officers, *(d)* firefighters and *(e)* paramedics in (i) East Worthing and Shoreham and (ii) West Sussex. [161914]

Yvette Cooper: Key workers have priority access to all of the Government's low cost home ownership products.

In June 2007, we published the Housing Green Paper: "Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable" in which I announced £8 billion for affordable housing during the comprehensive spending review period. This represents a 58 per cent. increase on current spending. The funding will enable us to deliver 70,000 more affordable homes by 2010. We are also committed to providing 45,000 new affordable homes for rent by 2010-11 (a 50 per cent. increase) and 25,000 shared ownership and shared equity homes a year funded by the Housing Corporation. In addition, we will look to support additional shared ownership homes through public sector land and local housing companies.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on the advertising, promotion and marketing of the Key Worker Living Scheme in *(a)* East Worthing and Shoreham and *(b)* West Sussex in each year since its inception. [161922]

Yvette Cooper: We do not centrally hold on this data on how much was spent on the advertising, promotion and marketing of the Key Worker Living programme. HomeBuy Agents are responsible for the marketing of low cost home ownership schemes, including the Key Worker Living programme.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the likely effect on provision of low-cost residential housing in each London constituency of home information packs for one and two bedroomed homes; and if she will make a statement. [173487]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement 'Home Information Packs' made on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 140-42WS.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* housing associations and *(b)* councils offer the Social Homebuy Scheme to their social tenants. [176182]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 665W.

Housing: Torbay

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the reasons were for the 100 per cent. increase in housing development expected in Torbay proposed by her appointed panel in the South West Regional Spatial Strategy; and if she will make a statement. [179704]

John Healey: The Panel's reasons for their recommended increase are set on page 118-119 of the report. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is currently considering all the recommendations made by the Panel and she is planning to publish her proposed changes to the draft regional spatial strategy in the spring. No conclusions have yet been reached on any of the Panel's recommendations.

Land: Contamination

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what involvement *(a)* she, *(b)* other Ministers in her Department and *(c)* officials of her Department have with the Urban Regeneration and the Environment programme run by the Natural Environment Research Council; and what account has been taken of that programme in the programme of clean-up of contaminated sites being remediated for development. [167817]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Chief Scientific Adviser of the Department worked with the co-ordinator of the NERC Urgent programme and the head of research and analysis of the Local Government Association to produce a four-page glossy digest of key findings of Urgent—distilled from 31 scientific papers—prepared explicitly for the heads of environment, parks and engineering at every local authority. The publication can be found on the NERC website at:

http://www.nerc.ac.uk/publications/other/documents/urgent.pdf.

The chief scientific adviser of the Department and the head of analysis at the Local Government Association hope to be able to repeat this exercise for the current Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council programme on the sustainable urban environment.

The Local Authority Research Council Initiative has been relaunched with CLG as a member, and a project of work, led by the chief scientific adviser of CLG, is being developed that will enable members of local authorities to become more sophisticated in articulating the research agenda they would like to see undertaken in universities rather than just receiving what comes out from work that the universities decide to undertake.

The Department sets out national planning policy for England for development on land affected by contamination in Planning Policy Statement 23: Planning and Pollution Control and its Annex 2: Development on Land Affected by Contamination. They can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning/planningpolicyguidance/planningpolicystatements/planningpolicystatements/pps23/.

Local Authorities: Rodents

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities and registered social landlords on dealing with mice and rat infestations in residential properties. [178040]

Mr. Iain Wright: Infestations from mice, rats and other vermin are hazards covered by the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) which came into force in April 2006. This replaced the fitness standard as the regime governing the statutory minimum standards for housing.

In February 2006 the Department published the documents "Housing Health and Safety Rating System: Operating Guidance, Housing Health and Safety Rating System: Enforcement Guidance" and "Housing Health and Safety Rating System: Guidance for landlords and property related professionals".

Local Government Finance: Leisure

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities applied for funding from her Department to help fund local leisure facilities in each of the last five years. [179767]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria govern the re-organisation of local government; when they were established; and what changes there have been to them since December 2007. [180204]

John Healey: The criteria against which the Secretary of State considered proposals for unitary status, were published in the "Invitation to councils in England: to make proposals for future unitary structures", published in October 2006. These criteria have not changed since then.

Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment *(a)* she and *(b)* her agencies have made of the effect of requiring planning permission for second homes on house prices. [176208]

Mr. Iain Wright: None.

Planning Permission: Biofuels

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what planning applications for biodiesel production plants have been referred to planning inspectors in each of the last five years. [179245]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the number of planning appeals decided by planning inspectors during the last five financial years which involve biodiesel or biomass plants.

	Appeals decided	*Number allowed*	*Percentage allowed*
2003-04	3	3	100
2004-05	0	0	—
2005-06	2	1	50
2006-07	0	0	—
2007-08 (to date)	3	2	67

Recycling: Christmas

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of local authorities providing recycling services for *(a)* Christmas trees and *(b)* Christmas cards. [178928]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

Christmas trees are recycled through a number of routes. Both local authorities and businesses offer facilities where individuals can deposit their Christmas trees. Many local authorities offer either specific collection points or operate a green waste collection following Christmas and collect trees through this route, but my Department does not hold details of the exact number doing so.

205 local authorities in England collect cards at the kerbside as part of their dry recycling collection scheme. The Woodland Trust also promotes a dedicated Christmas cards collection scheme in association with WHSmith, Tesco, TK Maxx and Marks and Spencer. Last year, 93 million cards were collected through the Woodland Trust scheme, saving 2,400 tonnes of CO_2. This is equivalent to taking over 700 cars off the road for a year.

Regional Government: Ministers

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the constituencies visited by the Minister for *(a)* the North East, *(b)* the North West, *(c)* Yorkshire and the Humber, *(d)* London, *(e)* the South East, *(f)* the South West, *(g)* the East Midlands, *(h)* the West Midlands and *(i)* the East of England in their capacity as regional Ministers.[1] [177442]

Hazel Blears: In their capacity as regional Minister, the Minister for the region has visited or attended meetings in the following constituencies. Due to the role of regional Minister, which involves regional or sub-regional meetings, the Minister may not have visited a constituency per se, but attended a meeting held in that area.

(a) North East

Blaydon
Blyth Valley
City of Durham
Easington
Hexham
Houghton and Washington East
Jarrow
Middlesbrough
Newcastle Central
Newcastle East and Wallsend
Newcastle upon Tyne North
North Durham
North Tyneside
Redcar
Stockton North
Stockton South
Sunderland North
Sunderland South
Tyne Bridge
Wansbeck

(b) North West

Blackburn
Bolton South East
Bootle
Burnley
Ellesmere Port and Neston
Knowsley South
Liverpool Riverside
Liverpool Walton
Liverpool West Derby
Manchester Central
Penrith & The Border
Preston
Salford
St Helens North
Warrington South
Westmorland and Lonsdale

(c) Yorkshire and the Humber

Barnsley Central
Bradford West
Don Valley
Doncaster Central
Doncaster North
Hull North
Hull West and Hessle
Leeds Central
Ryedale
Scarborough and Whitby
Wakefield

(d) London

Cities of London and Westminster
Hammersmith and Fulham
North Southwark and Bermondsey
West Ham

(e) South East

Aylesbury
Buckingham
Guildford
Dover
Folkstone & Hythe
Hastings & Rye
Lewes
Maidstone & the Weald
Mole Valley

1. *[Official Report, 31 March 2008; Vol. 474, c. 5MC]*

New Forest West
Portsmouth South
Reading East
Reading West
Thanet South
Tonbridge & Malling
Winchester.

(f) South West

Bournemouth East
Bournemouth West
Bristol East
Bristol NW
Bristol West
Cheltenham
Exeter
Gloucester
Kingswood
Mid Dorset & North Poole
Plymouth Devonport
Poole
Swindon North
Swindon South
Taunton
Tewkesbury
Truro & St Austell
Wells.

(g) East Midlands

Boston and Skegness
Corby
Derby South
Grantham & Stamford
Kettering
Leicester East
Leicester South
Leicester West
Lincoln
Louth and Horncastle
Newark
North West Leicestershire
Northampton South
Nottingham East
Nottingham South
Rushcliffe
Sherwood.

(h) West Midlands

Birmingham Ladywood
Birmingham Northfield
Bromyard
Coventry North East
Coventry South
Ludlow
Newcastle-Under-Lyme
North Warwickshire.
Stoke-on-Trent Central
Stratford-on-Avon
Telford
West Bromwich East
West Worcestershire
Wolverhampton South West.

(i) East of England

Bury St Edmunds
Cambridge
Great Yarmouth
Ipswich
Norwich South
Peterborough
Poplar & Canning Town
South Cambridgeshire
Stevenage
Waveney
West Suffolk.

Regional Planning and Development

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated date is by which every local planning authority in England will have completed its local development framework. [176184]

Mr. Iain Wright: The work programmes for local planning authorities (called local development schemes) are drawn up by the authorities themselves and cleared by regional government offices. Each is different: each is intended to be tailored to the individual needs of the area. Every LDF includes a core strategy as the key overarching document but other plans vary according to circumstances. Projections are not easy to make with total accuracy but I currently expect over 90 per cent. of core strategies to be adopted by March 2011, 99 per cent. by March 2012 and 100 per cent. by March 2013.

Sustainable Development: Northstowe

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons Northstowe was not adopted as an eco-town. [171718]

Yvette Cooper: The proposal for a new settlement at Northstowe was put forward by local authorities in Cambridgeshire (Cambridgeshire county council, South Cambridgeshire district council and Cambridge city council) and adopted in the Cambridgeshire structure plan in 2003, and taken forward in 2006 through the South Cambridgeshire Core Strategy and an area action plan all of which predate the eco-towns programme. I understand that a planning application, being taken forward by English Partnerships and Gallaghers, who jointly own most of the area for development is expected shortly. The ambition is for Northstowe to be an early prototype for eco-towns including being an exemplar of sustainability in the use of renewable energy resources and reducing carbon emissions.

Urban Areas: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has for eco-pubs and eco-clubs to operate in eco-towns. [166739]

Yvette Cooper: The Eco-towns Prospectus published in July 2007 sets out the vision for these new settlements, which must include a good range of facilities and services for their communities. The specific facilities such as pubs and clubs will be a matter for the promoters of schemes to determine but it is a key objective of the scheme that the development as a whole should achieve zero carbon. The Government expect eco-towns to lead the way in design and sustainability of the town and its buildings, leisure and commercial as well, as housing, and have announced a competition to encourage the best design for all aspects of the new eco-towns.

Urban Areas: Sustainable Development

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the implications for infrastructure provision of each eco-town proposal. [174466]

Yvette Cooper: We are currently undertaking a cross-Government review of the eco-towns expressions of interest and expect publish proposals in the spring. As part of the review, we are assessing proposals against the criteria set out in the Eco-town prospectus, and this includes transport, land use and the infrastructure needed to make the development deliverable and sustainable.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been proposed in each eco-town proposal. [174536]

Yvette Cooper: We have received over 50 expressions of interest for eco-towns. The housing provision in each proposal is indicative at this stage, but ranges between 5-20,000 in most proposals, which is in line with the eco-town criteria.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the balance between the use of greenfield and brownfield land in each eco-town proposal. [174537]

Yvette Cooper: We are currently undertaking a cross-government review of the eco-towns expressions of interest and expect to publish proposals in the spring. There have been over 50 expressions of interest including both green and brown field land, including using surplus public land like disused barracks.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ACP Countries: EU External Trade

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make representations to the EU for alternatives to be offered to African, Caribbean and Pacific countries unable to conclude European partnership agreements by 31 December 2007. [179735]

Mr. Thomas: 35 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries signed an Economic Partnership Agreement before the end of 2007 deadline. A further 32 least developed countries (LDCs) have chosen to trade under the Everything But Arms initiative, benefiting from duty free quota free access into European Union markets. The remaining 10 non-LDC ACP countries may still sign an EPA during 2008-09 and the UK continues to urge the Commission to be flexible in these negotiations. On 10 December, the UK, along with the Netherlands, Denmark and Ireland, made a declaration setting out our continued concern for non-LDCs who had not then initialled an agreement and urged the Commission to show flexibility.

For the 10 non-LDCs that have not signed an EPA we expect minimal, if any, trade disruption due to their current trade patterns with the EU. However, if these countries do request an alternative, it remains the UK position, as set out in 2005, that the European Commission should be ready to provide a WTO-compatible alternative to an EPA.

Africa: International Assistance

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the political unrest in Kenya has had any impact upon his Department's funded projects in *(a)* the Democratic Republic of Congo, *(b)* Burundi, *(c)* Uganda and (d) Sudan. [179488]

Mr. Thomas: The political unrest in Kenya has currently had no direct impact on DFID funded programmes in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Uganda or the Sudan. However, we continue to monitor the situation closely given the potential impact—in particular on fuel supplies and prices.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether personal data for which his Department is responsible is *(a)* stored and *(b)* processed overseas; and if he will make a statement. [176017]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has a number of small databases which are maintained for internal operational purposes in its overseas offices, including some which contain personal data relating to DFID staff. No personal data for which DFID is responsible is either stored or processed overseas outside DFID offices.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what obligations his Department and its agencies place on contractors in relation to the audit of personal data and IT equipment. [176466]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Contracts awarded by DFID include standard terms and conditions which place obligations on contractors in relation to confidentiality of information, security of equipment and auditing requirements. These clauses specify contractors must have prior written consent from

DFID to disclose any confidential information obtained during or arising from the contract, that DFID and the National Audit Office have unrestricted access to their accounts, files and records and that the Official Secrets Acts apply to them. For higher value IT contracts, DFID has built in additional data protection clauses, which require the contractor to comply with the Data Protection Acts.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what audits his Department has carried out in relation to personal data and IT equipment in each of the last 10 years. [176474]

Mr. Thomas: Within the last 10 years, DFID has carried out the following specific audits relating to personal data and IT equipment:

	Audit
1998	Information management
	Information systems configuration management
1999	Asset control
2006	Asset management, disposal and accounting
2007	Data security assurance

In addition, DFID's Internal Audit Department reviews the local operation of controls over IT assets and data management as part of a rolling programme of administrative audits across DFID's overseas offices.

The National Audit Office also reviews controls over information assets to the extent necessary for its audit of DFID's financial statements.

EU External Trade

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to ensure that the European Commission observes World Trade Organisation rules on *(a)* most favoured nation and *(b)* Singapore terms clauses within European partnership agreement negotiations. [R] [179731]

Mr. Thomas: The recently agreed Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) between the EU and African, Caribbean and Pacific countries are compatible with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules on Free Trade Areas in Article XXIV of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. There are no WTO rules on Investment, Competition, Transparency in Government Procurement and Trade Facilitation (otherwise known as the Singapore Issues) or on most favoured nation clauses in free trade agreements.

Palestinians: EU Aid

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library the final statement of the International Donors Conference for the Palestinian State held in Paris on 17 December 2007. [178367]

Mr. Malik: A copy of the statement will be placed in the Library. It is also available at:

www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files_156/israel-palestinian-territories_290/peace-process_2155/conference-of-donors-for-the-palestinian-territories-17.12.07_10439.html

Tanzania: Overseas Aid

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much the UK Government paid in aid to Tanzania in each of the last five years; what proportion of that aid was paid directly to the government of Tanzania; what proportion of the aid was project-specific; what projects were funded by UK aid; and if he will make a statement. [178321]

Mr. Douglas Alexander *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* Details of the UK's bilateral assistance and imputed multilateral assistance to Tanzania over the last five years are laid out in the following tables.

The majority of the UK's bilateral assistance to Tanzania is provided direct to the Government of Tanzania in the form of Poverty Reduction Budget Support (PRBS). We provide significant levels of PRBS as Tanzania meets the requirements of the UK's Conditionally Policy, namely, a commitment to poverty reduction, a respect for human rights and a credible reform programme in place, including of public financial management. The UK regularly monitors Tanzania's continued adherence to this policy, including throughout the year with the 13 other budget support donors and also using a range of diagnostic tools (for example, the World Bank's Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability indicators) and independent surveys of corruption. We also use international and local data on poverty reduction to assess the progress the Government of Tanzania are making in improving the lives of their people.

In addition to PRBS, the UK provides significant support to the Government of Tanzania's efforts to reform, improve public financial management and tackle corruption. For example, the UK has just agreed to provide £20 million over the next four years to support the Government's public service reforms and build their capacity to deliver basic services to the poor.

In addition to our support direct to Government, the UK provides significant project and programme support to strengthening accountability and deepening democracy in Tanzania, including through support for

civil society, the media and Parliament. Levels of scrutiny within Tanzania have significantly increased in the last two years. Alongside this, the UK supports the private sector to deliver the continued economic growth Tanzania needs to lift itself out of poverty in the long-term.

Table 1: UK total bilateral gross public expenditure (GPEX) on development 2002-03 to 2006-07

	Total UK bilateral GPEX to Tanzania (£000)	*Proportion going directly to Government of Tanzania (percentage)*	*Proportion delivered as DFID poverty reduction budget support (percentage)*	*Other DFID programme and project specific (percentage)*	*Aid from other UK official sources (percentage)*
2002-03	102,614	74	44	49	7
2003-04	162,372	41	37	13	51
2004-05	130,009	66	50	24	26
2005-06	114,134	92	74	24	1
2006-07	115,023	90	78	19	2

Note
Rows may not sum due to rounding.

I have placed a table in the Library detailing the UK's bilateral projects in Tanzania over the last five years.

Table 2: Imputed UK share of multilateral official development assistance (ODA) 2001-05

	Tanzania (£000)
2001	23,114
2002	10,738
2003	76,356
2004	28,066
2005	36,645

Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what meetings he has had with trade unions officials since 1 July 2007; on what dates; and with which trade unions. [179860]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Ministers meet many people as part of the process of policy development. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

Zimbabwe: Migration

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1234W, on Zimbabwe: asylum, what assistance is being provided to *(a)* Zambia, *(b)* Mozambique and *(c)* Botswana to assist in dealing with immigrants from Zimbabwe. [179076]

Mr. Thomas: The information is as follows.

Zambia

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has recently undertaken a rapid assessment of the patterns and impact of Zimbabwean migrants at the Chirundu border post. Depending on the results of the survey, DFID Zambia will consider funding an IOM support centre at the border post to provide humanitarian assistance to irregular migrants and other vulnerable groups in the area.

Mozambique

I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1063W. As yet there has been no authoritative assessment on the numbers of Zimbabwean immigrants in Mozambique. Cross border movements continue and IOM, Save the Children and UNICEF are monitoring the situation. UNHCR stands ready to help anyone that registers as a refugee, but as yet no one has. DFID Mozambique also stands ready to assist and is currently assessing the needs of those worst affected by the floods in the areas bordering Zimbabwe.

Botswana

IOM is constructing a reception centre on the border to provide humanitarian assistance to Zimbabweans deported from Botswana. In line with the centre at Beitbridge in South Africa, referred to in my answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1234W, the centre will provide a meal, medical check up, transport home and information on safe migration.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisors

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether any of his Department's special advisers also work for organisations outside his Department. [178472]

David Cairns: Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the "Model Contract" and "Code of Conduct for Special Advisers", copies of which are in the Library of the House.

Devolution

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has any plans *(a)* to review the Scotland Act 1998 and *(b)* for further devolution of powers to the Scottish Parliament. [179953]

David Cairns: The Scotland Act 1998 is working well to secure the benefits of devolution within the United Kingdom for Scotland. Flexibility has always been contained in the Scotland Act and the Government will continue to be willing to adjust the settlement, using the powers contained within the Scotland Act, in whatever way is appropriate in the interests of good government. We will only make changes that strengthen the stability of the Union.

Fuels: Prices

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with HM Treasury colleagues on fuel costs in rural Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [179951]

David Cairns: My right hon. Friend and I have regular discussions with our Treasury colleagues on a range of issues.

Railways

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on the development of high speed rail to Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [179952]

David Cairns: The Secretary of State has had no recent discussions with the Scottish Executive on the development of high speed rail to Scotland.

The Department for Transport White Paper "Delivering a Sustainable Railway" published on 24 July 2007 set out that the Government's strategy to improve the quality of inter-urban rail services is to make the best use of existing networks by lengthening existing trains, increasing service frequencies and tackling key congestion pinch points. Consequently, the Government see no case for supporting a high-speed rail line at this stage.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Email

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will take steps to reduce the number of hard copies of e-mails printed by officials in his Department. [179470]

Phil Hope: Cabinet Office is continuing to undertake a number of measures to mitigate the unnecessary printing of e-mails.

The Department has adopted an electronic records management system. This system will eliminate the need to print documents for filing, significantly reducing the number of e-mails which are printed. The roll-out of the system is estimated to be complete by March 2008. Staff are encouraged to include a message on all electronic correspondence discouraging the recipient from printing the e-mail unless absolutely necessary.

Departmental Flexible Working

Andrew Selous: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff *(a)* have applied to work flexible hours and *(b)* work flexible hours in the Cabinet Office. [164334]

Gillian Merron: Flexible working incorporates a wide variety of working patterns including part-time, job share, compressed and staggered hours or term-time working.

The Cabinet Office currently has 198 members of staff that work either part-time or non-standard full-time hours. Information on applications for flexible working is not held centrally.

Departmental Official Residences

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what the *(a)* capital and *(b)* notional open market rental value is of each official residence available to Ministers in his Department; [176348]

(2) how much was charged by the Cabinet Office to other Departments for each of the three official ministerial residences in Admiralty House in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; [176509]

(3) what payment the *(a)* Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and *(b)* Deputy Prime Minister's Office made to the Cabinet Office for the use of Admiralty House as an official ministerial residence for the year 2006-07. [176510]

Phil Hope: No Cabinet Office Ministers are accommodated in official residences. Information on capital values of freehold properties is included in the National Asset Register. Information on notional open market rental values is not held. Information on rental income from freehold properties is included in the Cabinet Office's annual resource accounts, copies of which are available in the Library.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what weight of paper his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [179463]

Phil Hope: The Cabinet Office began recording comprehensive waste data in 2002-03. The weight of paper and cardboard recycled by the Cabinet Office, including the Prime Minister's Office, over the last five years is shown in the following table.

	Recycled paper and cardboard (tonnes)
2002-03	111.8
2003-04	177.8
2004-05	328.32
2005-06	338.3
2006-07	324.98

Sustainable Development

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on what dates the ministerial Sub-Committee on sustainable development in Government has met since May 2005; how long each meeting lasted; and whether there are plans to place sustainable development in Government under the responsibility of a Cabinet Sub-Committee. [177516]

Phil Hope: On 23 July 2007, the Prime Minister introduced a reduced number of more focused and cross-cutting Cabinet Committees. As part of this, the Sub-Committee on sustainable development was dissolved,

and responsibility for sustainable development transferred to the Economic Development (Environment and Energy) Sub-Committee. This will allow work on sustainable development to be driven in the context of our broader efforts on climate change and sustainability. Details of the Committee's membership and terms of reference can be viewed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/secretariats/committees/edee.aspx

or in the Library of the House.

Information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet Committees, including when, how often and for how long they meet, is generally not disclosed; as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

Telephone Services: Fees and Charges

Mr. Steen: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will make it his policy to enable clients contacting Government agencies to do so by telephone without charge. [179598]

Phil Hope: Decisions on telephone tariffs are a matter for Departments and agencies although the Central Office of Information recommends that affordability, based on the needs of the people for whom services are intended, should be considered.

Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what meetings he has had with trade unions officials since 1 July 2007; on what dates; and with which trade unions. [179859]

Edward Miliband: Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

Voluntary Sector: Funding

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 561W, on voluntary sector funding, what his estimate is of the amount of work carried out by the voluntary sector in delivering public services for which no payment was made in the last year; and if he will make a statement. [175783]

Phil Hope: It is legitimate for third sector organisations to recover the appropriate level of overhead costs associated with the provision of a particular service. Third sector organisations are not expected to deliver a public service contract for which they are not reimbursed on a sustainable basis. We recognise the added contribution that some third sector organisations bring over and above the core requirements of public service contracts, for example, through the use of volunteers.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Business

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's planned expenditure on business support, promotion of enterprise and economic development is for each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; and which elements of this expenditure are planned to be funded through regional development agencies' single pot. [179230]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 15 January 2008]:* The primary focus of DWP's policies is to help individuals move into and progress in work, especially people claiming out-of-work benefits and others who face particular disadvantages in the labour market.

Though not directly intended as business support or the promotion of enterprise, both employers and the economy will benefit from policies that promote higher levels of employment by improving the functioning of the labour market and ensuring there is a wider pool of potential recruits for the vacancies that employers need to fill.

In addition, some of our labour market help to individuals has a more direct effect on employers. Through the new deal self-employment option, support is offered to individuals who want to set up their own business. Other measures, such as local employment partnerships, aim to help more of our priority customers into work through working with employers to develop ways of increasing the efficiency of job matching or improving work-related skills.

Child Support Agency: Manpower

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are employed by the Child Support Agency to process special payments. [175241]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 21 January 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people are employed by the Child Support Agency to process special payments. [175241]

The Agency has two methods of processing special payments. If a payment is made as part of a response to a complaint or as an action on a case which the Agency is administering clerically, the payment is made by the caseworkers in these areas along with their other duties.

Special payments which do not arise from a complaint are currently dealt with by a central team of around 24 full time equivalent employees.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in which areas his Department has made savings towards its March 2008 target of a £960 million saving. [177961]

Mrs. McGuire: Progress on delivery of the efficiency targets is reported six monthly in the departmental report and the autumn performance report. The autumn performance report for 2007 (ISBN 978-184763-201-2) published in December, is the latest publication. This can be found on our website at:

http://www.dwp.gov/ukpublications/dwp/2007/autumnreport/

and progress against our target is on page 73. The following table replicates the information in the autumn performance report:

Annual financial efficiency savings to September 2007

	£ million
Jobcentre Plus	£417
The Pension Service	£109
Child Support Agency	
Disability and Carers Service	£7
The Rent Service	
Corporate Centre and Enabling Functions[1]	£739
Total	£1,272

[1] Corporate Centre and Enabling Functions include initiatives that cut across DWP for example the savings from paying our customers directly into their bank accounts.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent by his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by his Department for this purpose. [173844]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department has a central team that takes forward an extensive programme of work on equality and diversity and ensures that the Department complies with all equality legislation.

Information on the number of staff in the central team and how much has been spent in total and on staff costs by the central team in each of the last three years is shown in the following table. Information on the number of other staff in the Department working on equality and diversity cannot be disaggregated from their wider duties and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Information on the costs of promoting equality and diversity outside the central team is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Figures for the central team

	Headcount	Staff costs (£)	Total (£)
2007-08	[1]24.44	1,145,386	1,741,766
2006-07	[2]20.80	1,118,750	1,707,090
2005-06	[3]26.11	1,195,576	1,608,313

[1] April 2007.
[2] April 2006.
[3] April 2005.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department and its agencies spent on end-of-year bonus payments in each of the last five years. [171540]

Mrs. McGuire: Performance bonus payments are awarded to employees on the basis of their individual performance. The expenditure incurred during the last five years is in the following table.

Financial year	Total paid (£ million)
2003-04	25.29
2004-05	38.61
2005-06	42.82
2006-07	40.68

The actual spend on bonus payments for 2007-08 is not yet available.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 188W, on departmental pay, how many of those earning over £100,000 were employed *(a)* as special advisers and *(b)* in a political role in each year since 2002. [177175]

Mrs. McGuire: Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the number of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on Thursday 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, 147-51WS.

Information on the numbers and costs of special advisers prior to 2003 was provided at regular intervals and this information will be available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recycling scheme is in operation in each building operated by his Department. [176244]

Mrs. McGuire: DWP has in excess of 1,000 sites so it is not possible to provide details of all the recycling schemes that are available on a site-by-site basis. The Department is committed however to meeting the waste and recycling targets for sustainable operations on the Government estate. During 2006-07 DWP recycled 67 per cent. of its measurable office waste, of which 90 per cent. was paper and cardboard. Overall, during the same period the Department produced 26 per cent. less waste than in the 2004-05 baseline year.

In collaboration with its estate partner Land Securities Trillium, the Department operates a range of recycling schemes across the estate. In addition to the recycling of all confidential waste paper (covering the whole of the estate), a total paper recycling scheme has been introduced in over 300 buildings and continues to be rolled out wherever practical. All fluorescent lighting tubes are recycled, as is waste cooking oil. Arrangements are in place also to recycle redundant furniture, IT equipment, printer toner cartridges and mobile phones no longer required by the Department.

Departmental Sustainable Development

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department is on course to meet the commitment in the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate targets *(a)* to source at least 10 per cent. of its electricity from renewables by 31 March 2008 and *(b)* to increase recycling figures to 40 per cent. of waste by 2010. [172979]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 10 December 2007]:* The Department has already met both targets. In 2006-07, 54 per cent. of our electricity was supplied from renewable sources, with a further 9 per cent. from CHP sources. Waste figures for 2006-07 indicate that the Department recycled 67 per cent. of the waste that it produced.

The Department has plans in place to maintain this level of performance and to enhance it wherever possible—for example, we are working to extend the range of recycling schemes available across the estate.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department met the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate target to reverse the then upward trend in carbon dioxide emissions by April 2007. [172980]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 10 December 2007]:* The Department did not meet the target to reverse the upward trend in carbon emissions by April 2007. However, early indications for 2007-08 indicate that the upward trend has been reversed significantly, as the many projects and campaigns in place to reduce energy use begin to show positive results. It is important to note that the range of services offered to the public and the way in which they are delivered has changed dramatically since the baselines were set. Enhanced customer service, such as extended opening and contact times, means the Department has maximised its contribution to the social element of sustainable development; the trade-off for this being an increase in energy use, albeit one that we are successfully addressing.

English Language

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on English language classes for staff in the last year for which figures are available. [177427]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions did not spend any resources on specific English language classes for its staff.

Health and Safety

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance and training his Department provides to employers on health and well-being in the workplace. [177049]

Mrs. McGuire: Employers are central to our aspirations of improving the health of the working age population and helping more people with health conditions and disabilities to find and keep work. As such, a key focus of the cross-government Health, Work and Well-being Strategy is engaging and supporting business. Practical support provided has included supporting Institute of Directors' guidance on managing workplace well-being; the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) Workplace Health Connect pilot, which has been testing the provision of free occupational health and return to work advice to smaller and medium-sized employers; and Shift's "Action on Stigma" campaign, which has developed resources to help line managers deal with employees with mental health conditions. We have also announced our intention to pilot a new advice and support service for employers, specifically focused on managing staff suffering from mental ill-health.

This programme builds on the core activity of the HSE which works with employers and trade unions to make workplaces healthier and reduce the likelihood of injury and ill-health being caused by work. HSE provides a wide range of free and priced written guidance on the management of health and safety, as well as an extensive website. In addition, HSE's public enquiry telephone contact centre, Infoline, provides access to workplace health and safety information, guidance and expert advice.

DWP has also set up a Vocational Rehabilitation Task Group to look at the best ways of encouraging and supporting employers to provide good quality rehabilitative services to their staff. The task group has commissioned an evidence review to assess the impact and cost-effectiveness of such interventions, which will help to guide employers.

Health and Safety Executive: Accidents

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many accidents took place at Health and Safety Executive facilities over the last 12 months for which figures are available, broken down by category. [178217]

Mrs. McGuire: Accidents[1] on HSE facilities for the last 12 months are set out in the following table, broken down by category. The last 12 months cut across two work years.

	April 2006 to March 2007	*April 2007 to December 2007*
Total RIDDOR accidents	11	4
of which:		
Fatal injuries	0	0
Major injuries	1	1
Dangerous occurrences	1	0
Over three day injuries:	9	3

The numbers of RIDDOR reportable accidents on HSE premises remains well below the average for the standard industrial classification that HSE belongs to.

[1] This includes all accidents HSE is required to report under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR).

Health and Safety Executive: Hertfordshire Oil Storage Terminal

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions who is meeting the cost of the Health and Safety Executive's inquiry into the Buncefield disaster. [177365]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 10 January 2008]:* The investigation into the Buncefield incident is being carried out by staff from the Health and Safety Executive and the Environment Agency overseen by an independent Major Incident Investigation Board chaired by Lord Newton. HSE and EA meet their own costs in the first instance. However, both organisations recover these costs from the site operators managing the sites involved in the incident through a statutory charging regime.

The costs of the Major Incident Investigation Board itself are not recovered.

Income Support: Lone Parents

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents claimed income support in each region of the UK, broken down by *(a)* ethnicity and *(b)* family size in each quarter since 1997. [176944]

Caroline Flint: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Industrial Accidents: Death

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many work-related deaths in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* the UK were not investigated by the Health and Safety Executive in the last five years. [178252]

Mrs. McGuire: All work-related deaths in Scotland, in the last five years, have been investigated by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

All work-related deaths in the rest of the Great Britain (i.e. England and Wales), in the last five years, have been investigated by the HSE. HSE cannot provide statistics for Northern Ireland as it is not responsible for workplace Health and Safety in this country.

The above work-related deaths are those which are reportable to the HSE under The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR).

Industrial Health and Safety: Animal Housing

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment of health and safety standards in private kennels will be undertaken prior to the provisions of section 68 of Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 commencing on 6 April 2008; and if he will initiate an inquiry into the health and safety standards at the kennels at which a dog attacked a lady handler in December 2007. [177384]

Mrs. McGuire: I am not aware of any plans to undertake health and safety assessments or inspections of kennels in preparation for the implementation of this section of the Act, though kennel operators are free to review their risk assessments and precautions at any time they see fit.

Local authorities enforce health and safety legislation at kennels, and may undertake inspections as part of their routine activities.

Salisbury district council has already initiated an investigation into the incident at West Grimstead on 14 December 2007.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Health and Safety Executive recommends to protect kennels staff against attacks by animals. [177385]

Mrs. McGuire: HSE does not have plans to make any recommendations for protecting staff working at kennels. General HSE guidance on assessing risks to health and safety is available. HSE would look to the industry to develop and make specific recommendations, as they have the experience and knowledge to ensure any guidelines are practical and sensible.

International Labour Organisation: Anniversaries

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to mark the 90th anniversary of the founding of the International Labour Organisation in 2009. [179476]

Mr. Plaskitt: The United Kingdom has played a significant role in the work of the International Labour Organisation since it was created in 1919; and the Government will, over the course of 2008, consider proposals to mark the 90th anniversary of its founding, including the possibility of national events.

Lighting

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research the Health and Safety Laboratory has conducted into outdoor lighting. [176259]

Mrs. McGuire: The Health and Safety Laboratory has not undertaken any major pieces of research work on outdoor lighting. It has undertaken a variety of lower level projects on behalf of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) linked to particular investigations/activities.

Local Housing Allowance

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to assist local authorities in the introduction of local housing allowance on 7 April 2008; and if he will make a statement. [180683]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department of Work and Pensions has an extensive programme of support and advice to help local authorities introduce the local housing allowance.

The Department has provided local authorities with £59 million to support the implementation of the local housing allowance.

The Department delivered 20 regional seminars for local authorities throughout summer 2007. A range of implementation and guidance products have already been made available to assist local authorities with specific activities, based largely on examples of good practice provided by LHA pathfinder authorities.

The Department has developed a range of products to support local authorities in communicating with their stakeholders, particularly welfare rights organisations and landlords. A key aim of the LHA is to promote financial inclusion by encouraging tenants to have their benefit paid directly into their own bank accounts, and we have provided advice and information to local authorities to enable them to support their customers in opening bank accounts.

The Department will continue to provide communications, advice and support to local authorities in the run-up to the roll out of the local housing allowance in April 2008.

Means Tested Benefits: Personal Savings

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of means-tested benefits in retirement on incentives to save. [177883]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As part of its research and analysis programme over the last few years, the Department has published several analyses on incentives to save in a pension, and the role of income related benefits. This includes Projections of Pension Credit Entitlement, Financial Incentives to Save for Retirement, the Pensions Bill–Impact Assessment, and the Gender Impact Assessment of Pension Reform. These analyses show that, under reasonable assumptions about factors such as investment growth, the large majority of individuals likely to be affected by private pension reform—including many of those who may end up on income related benefits in retirement—can expect to benefit from saving.

The Department also commissioned work on savings incentives from NIESR (The Effects of Means-testing Pensions on Savings and Retirement) and IFS (The Importance of Incentives in Influencing Private Retirement Savings: Known Knowns and Known Unknowns). These found, respectively, that the introduction of pension credit in 2003 strengthened incentives for lower-income households to save for retirement, and that many individuals face positive incentives to save in a private pension.

National Insurance: Migration

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers have been issued to migrants from the EU accession countries in eastern Europe in *(a)* England, *(b)* Northamptonshire and *(c)* Kettering in the last year. [166486]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* The available information is in the following table. The figures relate to the countries mentioned in note 5. as figures excluding Cyprus and Malta are not available for the geographical areas requested.

National insurance number registrations to citizens of EU accession countries in 2006-07 in England, Northamptonshire and Kettering

Area	*Number of registrations*
England	264,970
Northamptonshire	5,780
Kettering	590

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Some additional disclosure control has been applied.
2. Local authority is assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.
3. Local authority counts are based on the most recently recorded address of the NINO recipient.
4. Years referred to are financial years.
5. Accession countries are classed as Malta, Rep of Estonia, Rep of Latvia, Rep of Lithuania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Cyprus, Rep of Slovenia, Czech Rep and Slovak Rep.

Source:
100 per cent extract from National Insurance Recording System at 14 May 2007

The county of Northamptonshire consists of Corby, Daventry, East Northamptonshire, Kettering, Northampton, South Northamptonshire and Wellingborough local authorities.

Natural Gas: Safety Measures

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps his Department is taking to discourage members of the public from attempting to fix faulty gas appliances themselves; and if he will make a statement; [172139]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of illegal gas installers; and if he will make a statement; [172140]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of illegal gas installers working in the UK; [172142]

(4) what estimate he has made of the number of carbon monoxide poisoning incidents caused by illegal gas installers in the last period for which figures are available. [172143]

Mrs. McGuire: The law requires people who work on gas appliances to be competent and, if that gas work is done as business, that business must be CORGI-registered. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) publicises this key message, and the danger and likely illegality of DIY work, through a range of free guidance literature and via its website www.hse.gov.uk/gas/domestic/index.htm. CORGI, approved by HSE to run the gas installer registration scheme, reinforces these messages through regular publicity campaigns, co-ordinated with the gas industry. A reform of the gas installer registration scheme will establish this as a major responsibility of the appointed provider of the new scheme.

HSE follows up complaints and information received about illegal gas installers. It takes targeted enforcement action in line with the Health and Safety Commission's Enforcement Policy Statement. In 2006-07 approximately 9 per cent. of all offences prosecuted by HSE related to gas safety matters; of

these 19 per cent. related specifically to unregistered installers. HSE has undertaken targeted enforcement initiatives against illegal installers, leading to innovative penalties such as community orders with an unpaid work requirement and to cases being well publicised. HSE also works with CORGI in tackling the issue of unregistered gas installers, through both investigative and awareness raising activities. The reform of the registration scheme envisages a possible new function for the new provider to take enforcement action against illegal gas workers.

Statistics on the number of illegal gas installers working in the UK are not available.

There are no official figures on the number of carbon monoxide poisoning incidents caused by illegal gas work. There was one fatal incident in 2006-07 involving such work, in which three people were killed. The installer was prosecuted and received a custodial sentence.

Pensions: Females

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the percentage of women who will qualify for the basic state pension in their own right by 2020. [177607]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 10 January 2008]:* Under the pension reforms introduced by the Pensions Act 2007, anyone reaching state pension age in 2020 who has paid or has been credited with national insurance contributions for at least one year will be entitled to some basic state pension in their own right. The provisions of the Act ensure that more women will become entitled to a basic state pension and we estimate that over 90 per cent. of women reaching state pension age in 2025 will be entitled to a full basic state pension.

Pensions: Married People

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of beneficiaries of pension sharing orders under the age of 65 years whose former spouse already receive a pension. [177952]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not available.

Pensions: Teesside

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people *(a)* in Teesside and *(b)* in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland are expected to benefit from the restoration of private pensions for those in company schemes which collapsed. [179724]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In most cases the sponsoring employer of failed pension schemes no longer exists, therefore, the address provided to Financial Assistance Scheme Operational Unit (FASOU) is that of the administrator or receiver, which often bears no geographical relevance to where the company was located as a going concern. Providing an accurate picture of those who have lost their pensions by constituency or region is therefore not possible.

The FASOU only has addresses for members about whom schemes have submitted data. We are not, therefore, able to give a meaningful breakdown by location for all affected members at this time.

Personal Accounts: Consultants

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been paid by his Department to consultants for advice on the implementation of the personal accounts system. [165389]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The implementation of the personal accounts system has not yet started. Expenditure has been incurred by DWP on operational implications of the policy and legislation for the Government's proposed reform of non-state pensions, including the framework for the personal accounts scheme. Expenditure on consultancy advice has amounted to £6,604,522 up to the end of October 2007.

Social Security Benefits

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are employed in the official error taskforce; how much is paid in salaries annually to staff in the taskforce; how many cases in relation to each type of benefit the official error taskforce has corrected in each week since its creation; and what the cost was of official error in relation to each type of benefit corrected by the taskforce in each week since its creation. [177959]

Mr. Plaskitt: The official error taskforce has developed and oversees a programme of error reduction and correction initiatives. There are currently 10 members of staff on the taskforce, participating on a part-time basis alongside their normal duties. The proportion of time spent on the taskforce varies between members with annual salary costs attributable to taskforce duties amounting to £47,000.

By September 2007, the taskforce programme has resulted in over 100,000 income support and jobseeker's allowance, and over 74,000 pension credit cases being reviewed with cumulative weekly errors totalling over £1.2 million having been corrected in income support and jobseeker's allowance cases and over £1.1 million in pension credit cases.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* percentage and *(b)* cash value of each type of benefit is paid (i) into bank accounts, (ii) into building societies, (iii) into Post Office card accounts and (iv) by giro. [177960]

Mr. Plaskitt: The answer is not available in the format requested. The following table is a snap shot for October 2007 and shows the approximate *(a)* percentage and *(b)* cash value of each of the main benefits administered by DWP, paid (i) into bank/building society accounts (ii) into Post Office card accounts (POca), and (iii) by DWP cheque.

	Bank/building society		POca		Cheque	
	Percentage of payments	Cash values (£ million)	Percentage of payments	Cash values (£ million)	Percentage of payments	Cash values (£ million)
State pension	81	3,375	18	875	1	[1]60
Incapacity benefit	80	486	18	124	2	[1]—
Income support	70	1,127	26	725	4	94
Jobseeker's allowance	77	137	15	26	8	20
Industrial injuries disablement benefits	76	60	23	19	1	0.6
Attendance allowance	79	77	17	21	4	4
Disability living allowance	81	575	17	121	2	15
Carers allowance	80	74	19	22	1	0.8

[1] State pension cheque values include payments of incapacity benefit and widows benefit.

Notes:
1. Figures relate to GB only.
2. Income support value figures include payments of pension credit.
3. State pension value figures for bank/building society and POca figures include payments of widows benefit.
4. Cash values have been rounded to the nearest £ million.

Source:
DWP Method of Payment Statistics for the month of October 2007.

Social Security Benefits: Administration

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by his Department administering each type of benefit in each year since 1997. [166816]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available in the format requested.

Social Security Benefits: Prisoners

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to tackle fraud and errors in payment in benefits paid to prisoners. [175329]

Mr. Plaskitt: It is the responsibility of benefit recipients to advise the Department if they are committed to prison. However, we recognise that not all prisoners do notify us of this, so we have processes in place for HM Prison Service and the Scottish Prison Service, to send us data on admissions so we can identify prisoners who are receiving benefits to which they are no longer entitled. From December 2006, the frequency of these data were increased from monthly to weekly. In 2006-07, nearly 8,000 cases were corrected as a result of this type of data matching. This led to us identifying over £2.2 million in recoverable overpayments.

Jobcentre Plus has also introduced employment benefit surgeries across the prison estate, to assist prisoners in closing down benefit claims efficiently on entry into custody.

Stockline/ICL Explosion

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what costs the Health and Safety Executive has incurred to date from the investigation of the Stockline/ICL explosion at Hopehill road, Glasgow on 11 May 2004. [178251]

Mrs. McGuire: The Health and Safety Executive's costs were calculated, to include the completion of the criminal prosecution, at approximately £2 million. This included costs of £1.2 million from the Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL), which carried out the forensic and scientific work, which identified that the only credible cause of the explosion was a leak of LPG from a corroded underground metallic pipe.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the planned timetable is of the public inquiry instructed to investigate the circumstances of the Stockline/ICL Plastics explosion in Hopehill road, Glasgow on 11 May 2004. [178256]

Mrs. McGuire: Lord Gill, Lord Justice Clerk has agreed to chair the inquiry. The timetable for the inquiry is a matter for the chairman. An announcement of the setting up and running of the inquiry will be made shortly.

Telephone Services: Social Fund and Jobcentre Plus

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of telephone scripts used by call centre staff in *(a)* the Social Fund and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus; [172628]

(2) what the proportion of calls received by *(a)* the Social Fund and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus were from a mobile telephone in the latest period for which figures are available. [172631]

Caroline Flint: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. She will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 21 January 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking, if he will place in the Library a copy of telephone scripts used by call centre staff in (a) the Social Fund and (b) Jobcentre plus; and what the proportion of calls received by (a) the Social Fund and (b) Jobcentre Plus were from a mobile telephone in the latest period for which figures are available. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

A copy of the current scripts used when a customer wishes to make a claim to working age benefits or apply for a Crisis Loan from the Social Fund, by Contact Centre staff will be placed in the Library. The Scripts are frequently updated to reflect our commitment to continuous service improvement. If you wish to

see how this process works in practice Val Gibson, my Director of the Contact Centre Directorate, will gladly arrange for you to visit a Contact Centre. She will contact you about arranging this.

Jobcentre Plus is unable to establish the origin of each call received through any of our telephones. Our telephony systems do not record if a customer's call is made from a land line or mobile phone.

Unum Provident

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what contacts there have been between Unum Provident and his Department in the last five years. [177053]

Mrs. McGuire: The Government consulted widely with stakeholders in public and private sector organisations such as Unum Provident about its welfare reform plans. Unum Provident was one of over 600 organisations who responded to the Government's Green Paper on welfare reform when comments were invited. The Department has commissioned work from a variety of research establishments over this period, including the University of Wales Medical School, now incorporating the Cardiff University Centre for Psychosocial and Disability Research, which is sponsored by Unum Provident, but the Department has no direct relationship, commercial or otherwise, with Unum Provident.

Along with other experts, two Unum Provident employees have contributed to the work of the Technical Working Group that carried out the review of the personal capability assessment, but their contribution was as individual experts in benefit assessment and in supporting return to work for people with disabilities, rather than acting on behalf of Unum Provident.

Ministers have also taken part in symposia arranged by "Beginnings", a Unum-sponsored consortium of a wide range of public, private and voluntary sector organisations brought together to develop an integrated approach to disability issues.

Welfare Tax Credits: Employment

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many parents are in receipt of in-work credits; and what percentage of them have stayed in employment for *(a)* up to three months, *(b)* three to six months, *(c)* six to nine months, *(d)* nine to 12 months, *(e)* 12 to 18 months, *(f)* 18 to 24 months and *(g)* over two years. [177972]

Mr. Plaskitt: An in-work credit can be claimed for the first 52 weeks of employment. Recipients of in-work credits are not tracked beyond their claim so data are only available for up to 12 months of employment.

There were 35,280 completed in-work credit claims that started during the period April 2004 to October 2006 and will therefore have been completed by October 2007. The durations of these claims are: 14 per cent. less than three months; 6 per cent. between three and six months; 9 per cent. between six and nine months; 11 per cent. between nine and 12 months, and; 60 per cent. for 12 months.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Educational Institutions: Crime

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many crimes were reported to have taken place in teaching establishments for which his Department is responsible in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [178241]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

The Home Office has responsibility for crimes recorded by the police. However, from the statistics which are collected centrally it is not possible to identify offences committed in teaching establishments.

TREASURY

Absent Parents

Andrew Selous: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Office for National Statistics' most recent estimate is of the number and proportion of children who live apart from their *(a)* father and *(b)* parents. [180109]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 21 January 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your request for the most recent estimate of the number and proportion of children who live apart from their *(a)* father and *(b)* parents. (180109)

The Office for National Statistics does not make such estimates.

Children living with their mother but not their natural father include those in lone mother households, those in households with a mother and step-father and any living with their mother (but not their father) in communal establishments. Estimates for the first of these categories are readily available from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) for the second quarter of 2007 (April to June). Of the estimated 12.9 million dependent children living in families in households in the United Kingdom, 2.8 million dependent children were in lone mother families. Comparable figures for the other two categories are not readily available. For step families, available estimates based on the 2001 Census relate to number of families and do not separately identify the number of children living with a step-father.

There is no single estimate of children living apart from both parents. This group includes children living in households with other relatives (e.g. grandparents) or in foster or adoptive families; and children living in communal establishments without their parents e.g. those 'looked after children' in residential homes.

Alcoholic Drinks: Death

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 27 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1287-89W, on Alcoholic Drinks: Death, when the figures for the number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause in 2006 and 2007 will be available; and if he will make a statement. [179660]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 21 January 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking, with reference to the Answer of 27th February 2007, Official Report, columns 1287-9W, on alcoholic drinks: death, when figures for the number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause in 2006 and 2007 will be available. I am replying in her absence. (179660)

Figures on alcohol-related deaths registered in 2006 are now available, and the tables attached provide the number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause in each (a) London borough and (b) Government Office Region and Wales, in 2006. The corresponding figures for deaths registered in 2007 are expected to be available in June 2008.

Table 1. Number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause of death,[1] London boroughs, 2006[2]

	Deaths (persons)
Inner London	325
Camden	36
City of London	0
Hackney	22
Hammersmith and Fulham	22
Haringey	25
Islington	27
Kensington and Chelsea	18
Lambeth	37
Lewisham	17
Newham	28
Southwark	32
Tower Hamlets	16
Wandsworth	22
Westminster	23
Outer London	499
Barking and Dagenham	15
Barnet	29
Bexley	22
Brent	46
Bromley	25
Croydon	42
Ealing	31
Enfield	38
Greenwich	42
Harrow	12
Havering	19
Hillingdon	45
Hounslow	27
Kingston upon Thames	17
Merton	11
Redbridge	25
Richmond upon Thames	19
Sutton	12
Waltham Forest	22

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-10 codes, are shown in the box below.
[2] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 2. Number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause of death,[1] Government Office Regions and Wales, 2006[2]

	Deaths (persons)
North East	435
North West	1,209
Yorkshire and The Humber	679
East Midlands	505
West Midlands	801
East of England	556
London	824
South East	921
South West	587
Wales	430

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-10 codes, are shown in the box below.
[2] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1. Alcohol-related causes of death—International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	ICD-10 code(s)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	F10
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	G31.2
Alcoholic polyneuropathy	G62.1
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	I42.6
Alcoholic gastritis	K29.2
Alcoholic liver disease	K70
Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified	K73
Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excl. Biliary cirrhosis)	K74 (excl. K74.3-K74.5)
Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis	K86.0
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X45
Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X65
Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent	Y15

Bank Services

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people in each *(a)* age cohort and *(b)* region without a bank account. [180382]

Angela Eagle: The most recent data available that allow assessment to be made of the number of households with no access to a bank account are the Family Resources Survey from 2005-06. The following tables show the proportion of households without a bank account of any kind by age of the household reference person (the owner of the household, or the person with the highest income), and by region.

(a) Proportion of unbanked households by age of household reference person

Age of household reference person	Percentage of households with no account
24 and under	7
25-29	4
30-34	4
35-39	4

(a) Proportion of unbanked households by age of household reference person

Age of household reference person	Percentage of households with no account
40-44	4
45-49	5
50-54	4
55-59	4
60-64	5
65-69	6
70-74	7
75-79	6
80 and over	9
Total	5

(b) Proportion of unbanked households by Government office region

Government office region	Percentage of households with no account
North East	6
North West	5
Yorks and Humberside	6
East Midlands	14
West Midlands	5
Eastern	3
London	5
South East	2
South West	2
Wales	6
Scotland	5
Northern Ireland	11
Total	5

Child Benefit: Personal Records

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the statement of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1110-18, on HM Revenue and Customs, whether the package contained material other than the two missing computer discs. [179642]

Jane Kennedy: Given that the facts of the case remain the subject of investigations by the police and the IPCC, and are also being looked into by Kieran Poynter's review of HMRC data handling procedures, it would be inappropriate to comment at this stage.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cell field structure was of the data on the two child benefit data missing discs. [179656]

Jane Kennedy: For security purposes, it would not be appropriate to provide the information requested.

Death: Lincolnshire

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in *(a)* the North East Lincolnshire and *(b)* North Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust areas died from (i) stroke-related illnesses, (ii) lung disease and (iii) heart disease in each of the last five years. [179713]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 21 January 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people in (a) the North East Lincolnshire and (b) North Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust areas have died from (i) stroke-related illnesses, (ii) lung disease and (iii) heart disease in each of the last five years. I am replying in her absence. (179713)

The table attached provides the number of deaths where (i) stroke, (ii) chronic lung disease and (iii) coronary heart disease was the underlying cause of death in (a) North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus, and (b) North Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust, for 2002 to 2006 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths with an underlying cause of stroke, chronic lung disease or coronary heart disease[1], North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus and North Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust (PCT)[2], 2002 to 2006[3]

						Deaths (persons)
Cause	Area	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Stroke	North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	193	168	195	176	170
	North Lincolnshire PCT	188	185	148	150	127
	Total	381	353	343	326	297
Chronic Lung Disease	North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	111	94	125	90	93
	North Lincolnshire PCT	77	105	97	87	92
	Total	188	199	222	177	185
Coronary Heart Disease	North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	347	348	302	303	310
	North Lincolnshire PCT	341	305	251	304	272
	Total	688	653	553	607	582

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes I60-I69 for stroke, J40-J47 for chronic lung disease and I20-I25 for coronary heart disease.
[2] Based on boundaries as of November 2007.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of Freedom of Information requests received by his Department have given rise to responses that have been published by his Department. [180223]

Angela Eagle: The number of requests to HM Treasury, along with those of other central Government bodies, is published by the Ministry of Justice in quarterly and annual reports. Information has so far been published up to September 2007 and shows that HM Treasury had received 3,260 requests.

HM Treasury website includes a disclosure log which publishes those disclosures judged to be of wider public interest. For the aforementioned period, the Treasury has published 78 disclosures on their website—2.4 per cent. of all requests received.

EC Trade: Job Creation

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many jobs have been created as a result of trade with the EU in the last two years; and how many are expected to be created in the next two years. [180267]

Angela Eagle: The Government estimate around 500,000 jobs in the UK are linked, directly or indirectly, to the growth in the export of goods and services to the European Union since 2004. The Government have no estimate on future job creation from trade with the EU.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of UK jobs which are contingent upon UK exports to the EU. [180268]

Angela Eagle: The Government estimate around 3.5 million jobs in the UK are linked, directly and indirectly, to the export of goods and services to the European Union.

Employment: Wirral

Ben Chapman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the employment rate in Wirral is; and if he will make a statement. [179628]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 21 January 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about employment in the Wirral. I am replying in her absence. (179628).

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

There were an estimated 134,000 people, aged 16 and over, in employment, resident in the Wirral unitary authority, for the 12 months ending March 2007, from the latest available data from the APS. The corresponding headline employment rate, for persons of working age (males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59) was 70.2 per cent for the 12 months ending March.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

Income Tax

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people paid income tax on an earned income of £50,000 or more for each of the last 15 years in *(a)* the private sector and *(b)* the public sector. [179371]

Jane Kennedy: Information in the form requested is not available. Information on the distribution of earnings by total income is shown in table 3.6 for the years 1999-2000 to 2004-05 on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm#36.

A split between public and private sector employments is not available.

Loans

Mr. Paice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research his Department has undertaken on the conversion by the courts of unsecured to secured loans against borrowers' wishes; and what plans he has to bring forward proposals to amend the regulatory regime affecting such cases. [180476]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The courts do not convert unsecured to secured loans, therefore the Government have not undertaken any research on the conversion by the courts of unsecured to secured loans against borrowers' wishes.

Courts do use charging orders. These are not the same as converting an unsecured loan into a secured loan. The purpose of charging orders is set out in section 1 (1) of the Charging Orders Act 1979 which provides that where a creditor is owed money under a judgment or order of the High Court or county court, a charging order may be made "for the purposes of enforcing that judgment or order" in order to secure payment of "any money due or to become due under the judgment or order". There are no plans to amend section 1 (1) of the Charging Orders Act 1979.

Lone Parents

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation on lone parents and mini-jobs; and if he will make a statement. [180102]

Jane Kennedy: Representations are regularly made to Treasury Ministers and officials on a wide range of issues.

Low Incomes: Social Security Benefits

Ben Chapman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Government are taking to support people who are on low incomes and working full-time. [179629]

Jane Kennedy: The Government support people who are on low incomes and working full-time primarily through the working tax credit (WTC). Together with the national minimum wage, tax credits have enabled the Government to guarantee minimum levels of income and tax credits entitlement for full-time workers.

This means, for instance, that from April 2008, a single person, aged 25 or over, who is in full-time work will have a combined weekly income and tax credit entitlement of at least £187. A household with one adult in full-time work, with one child, will have a combined weekly income and tax credit entitlement of no less than £290, while for a couple with no children and one adult in full-time work the equivalent minimum will be £221.

The Government also offer support for low-income workers through the child care element of WTC. This ensures that workers can keep more of their earnings by paying for up to 80 per cent. of child care costs up to a maximum of £175 per week for one child and £300 for two or more children.

National Debt

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost of servicing the national debt was in the latest period for which figures are available; and what it was in 1997. [180437]

Angela Eagle: Figures for central Government debt interest payments in current prices are published monthly by the Office for National Statistics and can be found in Table 1.1C: Central Government (series NMFX), available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/tsdtables1.asp?vlnk=fsf

Central Government debt interest payments form approximately 97 per cent. of the total public sector debt interest payments.

As a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP), total public sector debt interest payments have fallen from 3.6 per cent. in 1997-98 to 2.2 per cent. in 2006-07.

Pay

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the annual percentage increase was in *(a)* public sector salaries and *(b)* private sector salaries in each of the last 15 years. [179372]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 21 January 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the annual percentage increase was in (a) public sector salaries and (b) private sector salaries in each of the last 15 years. I am replying in her absence. (179372)

ONS estimates growth in public and private sector earnings using the Average Earnings Index, which is the ONS's measure of short term changes in earnings. I attach a table that provides these figures.

However, ONS's source of information on annual salary rates is the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE). Annual levels of earnings have been estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) since 1999, and are provided for employees on adult rates of pay, who have been in the same job for more than a year. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom.

ASHE results can be obtained on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/ashe

Average Earnings Index: All employee jobs, main industrial sectors, seasonally adjusted—Great Britain

	Public sector (including bonuses, excluding arrears)		*Private sector (including bonuses, excluding arrears)*	
2000=100	*Index LNNJ*	*Annual growth (percentage)*	*Index LNKY*	*Annual growth (percentage)*
1991	73.7	—	67.7	—
1992	79.6	7.9	71.4	5.5
1993	81.7	2.7	73.7	3.3
1994	83.5	2.2	76.7	4.0
1995	85.0	1.9	79.3	3.5
1996	87.6	3.0	82.3	3.7
1997	89.6	2.3	86.2	4.8
1998	92.5	3.3	91.0	5.6
1999	96.4	4.2	95.5	5.0
2000	100.0	3.8	100.0	4.7
2001	105.0	5.0	104.3	4.3
2002	109.3	4.1	107.9	3.5
2003	114.8	5.0	111.2	3.0
2004	119.8	4.4	116.1	4.4
2005	125.3	4.6	120.6	3.9
2006	130.0	3.7	125.7	4.2

Note:
All figures based upon the calendar year.
Source:
Annual Earnings Index, Office for National Statistics

Pay: Public Sector

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the evidential basis is for a restriction of public sector pay increases to 2 per cent. or less to contribute to an inflation rate below 2 per cent. [177206]

Andy Burnham: The Government are committed to continuing to support public sector workers in their efforts to deliver the best possible public services. Over the last 10 years, the Government have therefore sought to increase the number of frontline workers as well as their pay. In particular, the period January 2000 to January 2006 saw an increase of 29.4 per cent. in public sector average earnings, which compares to 23.8 per cent. in the private sector over the same period.

The Government's objectives for public sector pay settlements are that they should be consistent with maintaining the necessary levels of recruitment, retention and staff engagement needed to support service delivery; ensuring that total pay bills represent value for money and are affordable within Departments' overall expenditure plans; and consistent with the Government's achievement of the inflation target of 2 per cent.

Wage pressures are one of the factors considered by the monetary policy committee of the Bank of England when setting interest rates to meet the inflation target.

Pensioners: Inflation

Kate Hoey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 605W, on Pensioners: Inflation, what the components are of the retail price index basket of goods and services; and how they are weighted. [180287]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 21 January 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your parliamentary question asking (i) what the components of the retail price index basket of goods and services are; and (ii) how they are weighted. I am replying in her absence. (180287)

The CPI and the RPI measure changes from month to month in the cost of a representative 'basket' of goods and services bought by consumers. Each year the ONS reviews the RPI and CPI basket of goods and services and updates the weights used to aggregate price changes, to ensure the selection of products in the basket and their weights remain representative of the overall pattern of expenditure of the average household covered by the published indices.

There are some goods and services where household expenditure is sufficiently large that they merit inclusion in the basket in their own right: examples include petrol and telephone charges. More commonly, it is necessary to select a sample of specific goods and services that can give a reliable measure of price movements for a broader range of similar items. For example, price changes for garden spades might be considered representative of price changes for other garden tools.

The components of the 2007 RPI and CPI basket of goods and services are shown in this article, available on the National Statistics website. Please see Annex B of:

Damon Wingfield (2007) "CPI and RPI: The 2007 Basket of Goods and Services"

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/CCI/article.asp?ID=1746

Each item in the index is weighted to reflect the proportion of household expenditure spent on them. Changes in the weights of components over time reflect changes in the expenditure pattern of households. The underlying data source for the weights for both the RPI and CPI is ONS's Expenditure and Food Survey (EPS). The EPS is a continuous household survey which monitors the spending patterns of around 6,000 households across the country each year.

For further information on how the items are weighted you may wish to reference the publication by David Baran "Consumer Prices Index and Retail Prices Index: Updating Weights for 2007".

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/nojournal/CPI&RPI_2007_weights_article.pdf

Personal Income: Greater London

Tom Brake: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average household income was in each London borough in each year since 1997. [179726]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 21 January 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the average household income was in each London Borough in each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (179726).

Estimates of household income (which include income from all sources such as earnings, benefits, pensions, and investment income), are generally based on household surveys. The largest of these is the Family Resources Survey which has an annual sample in the UK of around 28,000 households. This is sufficient to produce estimates of household income at national and regional level, but not for smaller areas. Statistics on earnings by employees are available for local authorities from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) which is an employer-based survey.

The ONS has published estimates of household income for what are known as the medium layer super output areas, for 2004/05 only. These estimates are based on a statistical model and are classed as experimental statistics—this means they have been developed in accordance with the principles set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice but have yet to be fully accredited as National Statistics. They are available through the Neighbourhood Statistics section of the ONS website. Super Output Areas (SOA's) are a new geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics. Unlike electoral wards, these SOA's are of consistent size across the country and are not subject to regular boundary change.

The table provided shows household income for each London borough for 2004/05, before and after housing costs. These estimates have been calculated using the estimates of income and also estimates of population for each SOA to calculate a weighted average income for each London Borough. The population estimates themselves are also experimental statistics. Figures on the number of households in each SOA are not available.

The average household income figures for the UK are taken from the 'Households Below Average Income' series produced using the Family Resources Survey. These are National Statistics. The 'Household Below Average Income' series usually presents results based on median incomes, however mean incomes are presented here to be more comparable with the small area statistics.

Average weekly household income[1,2] — London boroughs, 2004-05

£ (per week)

	Net weekly equivalised[3] household income	
	Before housing costs[4]	After housing costs[4]
Barking and Dagenham	430	340
Barnet	600	530
Bexley	510	450
Brent	490	410
Bromley	600	540
Camden	630	530
City of London	880	830
Croydon	540	470
Ealing	560	480
Enfield	520	460
Greenwich	500	410
Hackney	450	360
Hammersmith and Fulham	660	560
Haringey	530	430
Harrow	560	490
Havering	510	460
Hillingdon	540	480
Hounslow	550	460
Islington	550	450

Average weekly household income[1,2] — London boroughs, 2004-05

£ (per week)

	Net weekly equivalised[3] household income	
	Before housing costs[4]	*After housing costs[4]*
Kensington and Chelsea	780	670
Kingston upon Thames	640	580
Lambeth	550	440
Lewisham	510	420
Merton	630	550
Newham	390	300
Redbridge	520	460
Richmond upon Thames	760	690
Southwark	510	410
Sutton	570	510
Tower Hamlets	440	350
Waltham Forest	490	400
Wandsworth	680	580
Westminster	700	590
UK	430	370

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
[2] Based on a population weighted average of medium layer super output areas.
[3] Equivalised incomes are adjusted for different household sizes and compositions. An equivalised income indicates a standard of living that could be achieved by a two adult household with no children, with that actual income.
[4] Housing costs include rent (gross of housing benefit), water charges, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance and ground rent and service charges.

Source:
ONS, Department for Work and Pensions

Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what changes to its administrative procedures on transfer of confidential data HM Revenue and Customs has instituted since the beginning of November 2007. [179639]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to Kieran Poynter's interim report which was published on 17 December 2007 and is available in the Library of the House.

Kieran Poynter will consider the need for any further procedural changes in his final report which is expected in the first half of 2008.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what requirements a home must have to be eligible for zero stamp duty land tax. [180155]

Angela Eagle: The requirements for a home to qualify for the stamp duty land tax zero-carbon homes relief are set out in The Stamp Duty Land Tax (Zero-Carbon Homes Relief) Regulations 2007. These regulations were made on 6 December 2007 and came into force on 7 December 2007 but the tax relief applies to acquisitions of qualifying properties on or after 1 October 2007. The following is a link to the regulations:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2007/uksi_20073437_en_1

Taxation: Car Allowances

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to increase the 40p per mile tax free allowance which employees using their own cars may claim if undertaking legitimate business activities. [180504]

Angela Eagle: The Government stated in the pre-Budget report that an announcement on the taxation of cars used for business travel—including mileage payments—would be made at Budget 2008.

Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings he has had with trade unions officials since 1 July 2007; on what dates; and with which trade unions. [179869]

Angela Eagle: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, Treasury Ministers' diaries are available on the Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about/information/foi_disclosures/foi_disclosures_index.cfm

Work for Change Programme

Robert Key: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of HM Revenue and Customs initial impact assessment of socio-economic factors in its Workforce Change programme. [179552]

Jane Kennedy: There is no initial impact assessment for the Workforce Change programme as a whole.

Socio-economic issues are among the factors reflected in the impact assessments for specific buildings published 12 to 18 months before a building is due to be fully vacated. These impact assessments are already available, both internally to staff and externally on the HMRC website:

www.hmrc.gov.uk

Working Families Tax Credit

Willie Rennie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to amend the legislative provision for childcare support received through working families tax credit to allow those in training or further education to have time spent in study taken into account. [180206]

Jane Kennedy: The child care element of working tax credits (WTC) is designed to help remove the child care barrier that often prevents people taking up or returning to work. Eligibility to this system is therefore dependent on claimants being in formal employment for a minimum of 16 hours per week. Parents undertaking training courses or further education with

a view to moving into work may qualify for access to free child care resource (through New Deal and education providers direct) and so there are currently no plans to extend the child care element of WTC to this group.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review the number of hours parents are required to work before they are eligible to receive child care support through working families tax credit. [180207]

Jane Kennedy: The working tax credits (WTC) system is dependent on claimants being in formal employment for a minimum of 16 hours per week. Since the child care element is an integral part of the overall system, it would not be practical to have a shorter hours rule for certain claimants claiming certain elements.

DEFENCE

Military Covenant

14. **Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of his Department's effectiveness in upholding the military covenant. [180016]

Derek Twigg: The Government provide a wide range of support to our armed forces and veterans and their families. We have made a number of improvements recently including enhancements to operational equipment, accommodation, compensation and medical support. The Command Paper, due in the spring, will outline steps taken so far and future initiatives to enhance the Government's support.

19. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent steps he has taken to improve his Department's meeting of its obligations in respect of the military covenant; and if he will make a statement. [180021]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Uxbridge (Mr. Randall).

23. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of his Department's effectiveness in upholding the military covenant. [180025]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Uxbridge (Mr. Randall).

Afghanistan

16. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the personnel and material provided to UK armed forces in Afghanistan by other members of NATO. [180018]

Des Browne: UK armed forces in Afghanistan are ably supported by other members of NATO, both in terms of personnel and material.

Military Vehicles

17. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to improve the safety of military vehicles in theatre. [180019]

Des Browne: All equipment, including military vehicles, must comply with legislation and other statutory provisions covering safety. It is incumbent on the MOD to ensure that the equipment it provides and systems it operates are safe, that hazards have been eliminated or residual risks reduced to an acceptable level.

Military operations are inherently risky. We keep the threats our troops are facing in theatre under regular review and, where appropriate, seek to amend our tactics or introduce new protection solutions such as improved counter measures and uparmouring. When judged necessary, we have introduced whole new vehicle types, such as the Mastiff heavy protected patrol vehicle.

Selly Oak Hospital

18. **Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in developing the military-managed wing at Selly Oak hospital. [180020]

Derek Twigg: Excellent progress has been made since we announced, over a year ago, that we were establishing a military-managed ward at Selly Oak hospital for military trauma orthopaedic patients whom it is clinically appropriate to accommodate together. The ward achieved the desired operational capability last July. We shall build on these arrangements when we move into the new Birmingham hospital in 2010. I pay tribute to the military medical and NHS civilian ward staff who are providing first-class treatment and care for severely wounded military personnel.

Aircraft Carriers

20. **Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the target in-service dates are for HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales aircraft carriers. [180022]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The in-service dates for the future aircraft carriers are 2014 and 2016.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on the future aircraft carrier programme; and when the new carriers are planned to come into service. [180023]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Work to move to manufacture continues with the industrial alliance delivering the project. Legal formalities to allow the joint venture between BAE Systems and VT Group to receive a manufacture contract are being progressively addressed. There has been no change to the planned in service dates of 2014 and 2016.

Key Worker Status

22. **Ms Butler:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to ensure that serving personnel are made aware of their key worker status when buying homes. [180024]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Every suitable opportunity will be taken to get across the important message that all qualifying Service personnel across England and Wales now have key worker status. This will be achieved in a variety of ways, through internal communications systems, Service publications, and briefings by the Joint Service Housing Advice Office, as well as through regional and local media, external websites and magazines.

Postal Services

24. **Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the extension of free postal services to service personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan. [180026]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence and Royal Mail jointly announced on 12 November that the freepost scheme for the Iraq and Afghanistan theatres will continue as long as we have personnel deployed in those areas. The Department keeps the details of the scheme under continuous review but no further changes are currently planned.

Ex-service Personnel: Housing

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on developing arrangements by which former services personnel can claim a local connection when applying for social housing. [180007]

Derek Twigg: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave earlier today to my hon. Friend the Member for Crawley (Laura Moffat).

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress is being made on enabling former service personnel to claim a local connection when applying for social housing. [180017]

Derek Twigg: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave earlier today to my hon. Friend the Member for Crawley (Laura Moffatt).

Defence Diversification

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's defence diversification policies since 2001. [180012]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence most recently considered its approach to defence diversification in 2004 and 2006. We concluded that our diversification agenda was firmly embedded within the Department's core activities.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to the statement by the Prime Minister of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 305, on Afghanistan, whether the 5,000 former fighters were part of the Program-Tachim-e Sol' scheme; [175457]

(2) pursuant to the statement by the Prime Minister on 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 305W, on Afghanistan, whether the 5,000 former fighters who have laid down their arms were part of the Program-Tachim-e Sol' scheme. [177734]

Des Browne: The Program-Tachim-e Sol' is owned by the Government of Afghanistan, who advise that the majority of the 5,000 former fighters referred to by the Prime Minister were part of this scheme.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the statement by the Prime Minister of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 304, on Afghanistan, how many civilian helicopters his Department estimates NATO will lease for use in Afghanistan; whether the leased helicopters will operate in Regional Command South; what defensive aides suites the leased helicopters will have; when he expects the first leased helicopter to enter Afghanistan; for how long each contract will last; how much each contract will cost; and if he will make a statement. [175459]

Des Browne: NATO will lease a mix of aircraft suitable to carry the contracted 13,000kg of freight per day. They will be used throughout Afghanistan, including in Regional Command South. The first aircraft is expected to enter Afghanistan in early 2008, on a one year contract with the option to extend for a second. I am withholding details of the defensive aids for these helicopters as it would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of NATO forces. I am also withholding information on the cost of the contract as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK helicopters with hoists for medical support there are in theatre in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq. [179579]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* In both Iraq and Afghanistan, all UK helicopters deployed as part of the immediate response teams, which provide the medical evacuation capability, are equipped with hoists.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who will take over from the 52 Brigade in Afghanistan; and what changeover date *(a)* was originally planned and *(b)* is noe expected. [179958]

Des Browne: I shall inform the House of the units to be deployed in due course.

Armed Forces: Driving

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether British military personnel are required to hold the relevant British driving licence for the relevant category while driving different vehicles in theatre. [180096]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Not all military vehicles are included in British driver licensing regulations. Personnel are required to hold the appropriate licence for the weight of the vehicles they will be driving while in theatre. Additionally, all drivers are required to undertake specific training on those vehicles which they will be required to drive.

Armed Forces: Foreigners

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of non-UK citizens serving in each branch of the armed forces went absent without leave in each of the last 10 years. [180050]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of void and unused accommodation to his Department in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement; [170996]

(2) pursuant to his answer of 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1349W, on armed forces housing, what the cost of rent, council tax, maintenance and administration in relation to void properties in the married quarters estate has been in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales in the last 12 months. [171517]

Derek Twigg: The average costs of void properties are no different to those for occupied properties. In England and Wales the majority of service family accommodation is owned by Annington Homes Ltd. (AHL). As part of the agreed contract with AHL, the MOD pays 42 per cent. of the market rent of each property to AHL (an average of some £3,500 per property per year). In Scotland properties are owned by MOD and no rental charges are incurred.

All properties in England, Scotland and Wales incur standing costs of council tax and maintenance. Contribution in lieu of council tax is averaged out at approximately £1,200 per property per annum. Maintenance is an average of approximately £2,500 per property per annum. Information on administrative costs is not held in the format requested.

It is worth noting that the vast majority of void properties are held to facilitate the need to queue houses for families to satisfy entitlement and also to effectively manage future unit moves.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much of the announced £5 billion expenditure on his Department's accommodation over the next 10 years has already been allocated to existing or approved projects over that period. [170997]

Derek Twigg: We recently announced that we have reassessed our likely spend on accommodation for the next 10 years to take account of those elements previously excluded. The total amount will in fact be £8.4 billion. Of that, £3.1 billion will be spent on new-build and upgraded accommodation projects, with approximately two thirds allocated to current approved projects and the balance against a programme for the improvement of both single living and family accommodation.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the planned £5 billion to be spent on his Department's accommodation includes expenditure on *(a)* barrack rebuilds, *(b)* refurbishments and *(c)* military base upgrades. [170998]

Derek Twigg: We recently announced that we have reassessed our likely spend on accommodation for the next 10 years to take account of those elements previously excluded. The total amount will in fact be £8.4 billion. Of that, £3.1 billion will be spent on new-build and upgraded accommodation, £2.3 billion on refurbishment and maintenance and £3 billion on routine costs, including rent, other leasing costs and the equivalent of council tax.

That expenditure does not, therefore, include expenditure on the rebuild or refurbishment of non living accommodation at either military barracks or military bases.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on *(a)* refurbishment and *(b)* emergency repairs and upkeep of his Department's accommodation in 2006-07. [171000]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence spent some £12.5 million on upgrading service families accommodation (SFA) in Great Britain to the top standard for condition in 2006-07. In the same period, some £122.5 million was spent on repairs and general upkeep of properties.

Details of SFA expenditure in Northern Ireland and overseas is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Expenditure on single living accommodation (SLA) is spread throughout the Department. The required details of total spend on SLA are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, Defence Estates spent some £120 million on providing new SLA in 2006-07.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* recent discussions he has had on and *(b)* steps he is taking to make his Department's (i) housing procurement strategy, (ii) refurbishment programme and (iii) emergency repairs functions more efficient. [171001]

Derek Twigg: Defence Ministers are taking an active lead in the work being done on accommodation—this involves frequent meetings, briefings and site visits with stakeholders, service personnel and other interested parties. We want to ensure a step-change and to drive forward further work on upgrading and improving accommodation, including repair and maintenance.

In recent years a single Housing Prime Contract (HPC) has been set up covering the maintenance of some 45,000 service families accommodation (SFA) in England and Wales, which replaced hundreds of previous contracts. The HPC helpline ensures that emergency calls are responded to quickly with nearly all emergency repairs now being effected within the

required timescales. Since 2003 SFA in Scotland has been maintained as part of the Regional Prime Contract.

In a similar timeframe, Project Single Living Accommodation Modernisation (SLAM) was launched to deliver new en-suite SLA across the UK together with several parallel PFI projects. These initiatives have resulted in 12,000 SFA and 20,000 SLA being upgraded since 2002 and have increased the efficiency of delivery.

We are also developing an Estate Development Plan which will help us ensure we have an estate of the right size and quality.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his definition is of his Department's accommodation on which £5 billion over 10 years is to be spent. [171004]

Derek Twigg: We recently announced that we have reassessed our likely spend on accommodation for the next 10 years to take account of those elements previously excluded. The total amount will in fact be £8.4 billion. Of that, £3.1 billion will be spent on new-build and upgraded accommodation, £2.3 billion on refurbishment and maintenance and £3 billion on routine costs, including rent, other leasing costs and the equivalent of council tax.

Accordingly, the £8.4 billion entirely relates to living accommodation.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of his Department's housing budget is taken up by administrative costs in 2007-08; and how much of the announced £5 billion expenditure on his Department's accommodation over the next 10 years will be spent on administrative and overhead costs. [171106]

Derek Twigg: The management of housing in Great Britain is carried out by a directorate within Defence Estates, the organisation responsible for the defence estate. The budget of the housing directorate includes £26 million for administrative and other overheads.

As the Secretary of State for Defence recently announced, we have reassessed our likely spend on accommodation for the next 10 years to take account of those elements previously excluded. The total amount will in fact be £8.4 billion. The £8.4 billion does not include any administrative or other overheads of the Department.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's expenditure on married quarters is in 2007-08; and how much of the announced £5 billion expenditure on his Department's accommodation over the next 10 years is planned to be spent on married quarters. [171107]

Derek Twigg: Current forecasts for 2007-08 include some £400 million of expenditure on married quarters in the United Kingdom. This includes the maintenance of the housing stock of some 50,000 houses and upgrading of at least 600 houses to the highest standard. Because of the way in which the management of housing is carried out overseas, it is not possible to provide an accurate forecast for overseas housing without disproportionate effort and cost.

We recently announced that we have reassessed our likely spend on accommodation for the next 10 years to take account of those elements previously excluded. The total amount will in fact be £8.4 billion. Around £4.5 billion of this amount is planned to be spent on married quarters in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what areas of expenditure will be included within the proposed £5 billion to be spent on his Department's accommodation over the next 10 years. [171108]

Derek Twigg: We recently announced that we have reassessed our likely spend on accommodation for the next 10 years to take account of those elements previously excluded. The total amount will in fact be £8.4 billion. Of that £3.1 billion will be spent on new-build and upgraded accommodation, £2.3 billion on refurbishment and maintenance and £3 billion on routine costs, including rent, other leasing costs and the equivalent of council tax.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Government expect all service accommodation to be at an acceptable standard at the planned rate of improvement. [180111]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is committed to providing decent accommodation for service personnel and their families. Addressing accommodation issues globally is one of our top priorities, but will take time as there is no quick fix to dealing with a legacy of decades of under funding.

Defence Estates is currently working with the armed forces on a long-term Estate Development Plan. This will allow us to identify future requirements and timescales for implementation.

The accommodation of more than 12,000 service families has been upgraded in the last six years. The current funded programme is expected to deliver 600 upgrades this financial year, 600 next year and some 800 for each year thereafter.

In addition, since 2001, some 20,000 new or improved single living accommodation bed-spaces have been delivered with a further 30,000 planned by 2013.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on project SLAM on increasing and enhancing service accommodation. [180294]

Derek Twigg: In the five years since the contract award in December 2002, Project Single Living Accommodation Modernisation (SLAM) has delivered 9,540 new bed-spaces, with a further 3,716 in construction and 2,592 in the design and development stage. Much of this accommodation is single en-suite rooms, with communal kitchen, laundry and drying room facilities and living areas.

In total, under Project SLAM and similar initiatives, some 20,000 new or improved bed-spaces have been delivered since 2001 with a further 30,000 to be delivered by 2013.

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research his Department has commissioned on the causes and prevention of combat stress. [172895]

Derek Twigg: MOD has funded the King's College London Centre for Military Health Research (KCMHR) to undertake major research into the health of those who have served on recent operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Many of its findings have already been published in the peer-reviewed medical literature, including major pieces of work published in 2006. This research showed that there was no increase in psychiatric disorders seen in regular personnel deployed on the first phase of Op. Telic compared to the rest of the UK armed forces, and that the later Op. Telic deployments examined were not associated with any worsening of mental health consequence compared to the initial Op. Telic group.

Within KCMHR, the Academic Centre for Defence Mental Health has been established as an in-house mental health research resource which is looking into a variety of smaller scale aspects of dealing with the mental health of service personnel.

A Tri-Service Overarching Review of Operational Stress Management was carried out in 2004-05 which recognised the issues surrounding operational and combat stress. The armed forces were tasked with adopting its recommendations as appropriate within their single-service provisions.

Armed Forces: Pay

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1449W, on armed forces pay, what the change was of the lowest increase in armed forces salaries against the retail price index; and which rank this was in relation to. [177635]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend, the Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Ainsworth) gave him on 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1449W. The average salary, on armed forces pay, is not available by rank and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Illustrative rates for military salaries (excluding allowances) are, however, published by DASA in table 2.26 of United Kingdom Defence Statistics. These show the rates for each rank for that pay level with the largest number of people at 1 May 2005. As such, they do not reflect all the possible changes to the various pay levels within a rank, nor the movements between increments which individual servicemen receive.

The following table shows the year-on-year percentage changes derived from these figures rounded to one decimal place. The ranks are shown in terms of Army ranks.

		2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*Compounded over period*
General	Level 1	2.5	2.3	2.8	7.5	6.3	23.2
Brigadier	Level 3	3.7	3.5	2.5	3.0	3.0	16.7
Colonel	Level 1	3.7	3.5	2.5	3.0	3.0	16.7
Lieutenant Colonel	Level 9	3.7	3.5	2.5	3.0	3.0	16.7
Major	Level 9	4.2	3.5	2.5	3.0	3.0	17.3
Captain	Level 2	4.2	3.5	2.5	3.0	3.0	17.3
Lieutenant	Level 8	3.7	3.5	2.5	3.0	3.0	16.7
2nd Lieutenant	Level 5	3.7	3.5	2.5	3.0	3.0	16.7
Warrant Officer I	Level 4 H1	4.4	3.5	2.5	3.0	3.0	17.5
Warrant Officer II	Level 6 H	3.7	3.5	2.5	3.0	3.0	16.7
Staff Sergeant	Level 6 L1	3.7	5.5	2.5	3.0	3.0	19.0
Sergeant	Level 5 H	3.7	3.5	2.5	3.0	3.0	16.7
Corporal	Level 3 H	3.7	3.5	2.5	3.0	3.0	16.7
Lance Corporal	Level 5 H	3.7	3.5	2.5	3.0	3.0	16.7
Private	Level 1 L1	4.2	4.0	2.9	3.0	3.3	18.7

Note:
Service personnel on these pay levels have at times received larger increases than colleagues on different spine points within the same pay range for their rank. This is the result of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body having targeted some groups with recommendations for higher pay increases than those aimed at the majority of their service colleagues. Note that the compounded increase over that period for each of the other pay levels within these ranks would be at least the 16.7 per cent. quoted for other ranks.

The changes in the retail prices index year-on-year are as set out in my answer on 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1449W.

Armed Forces: Schools

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the projected budget is for service children's education schools in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [177595]

Derek Twigg: The current projected resource control totals for service children's education for the next three financial years are as follows:

	£ million
2008-09	78.359
2009-10	79.743
2010-11	80.674

Armed Forces: Vehicles

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many road traffic accidents occurred which involved both a military tracked vehicle and a civilian vehicle, in each of the last five years. [178929]

Derek Twigg: Road traffic accidents involving both a military tracked vehicle and a civilian vehicle that occurred over the last five years are as follows:

	Number of accidents involving a military tracked vehicle and a civilian vehicle
2003	38
2004	26
2005	32
2006	103
2007	48

The Department takes all road traffic accidents extremely seriously. To reduce the number of accidents, we deliver road safety campaigns and initiatives through organisations such as the Defence Road Safety Committee.

Armed Forces: Widowed People

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the provision of continuing financial support to the widows and widowers of service personnel who die *(a)* on and *(b)* off operations while in receipt of armed forces' continuity of education allowance. [179900]

Derek Twigg: If a continuity of education allowance (CEA) claimant dies in service, the allowance will continue to be paid either to the end of the current stage of education, or for up to two full terms after the term in which the death of the service person occurred, whichever is the longer extension. This support applies to all children for whom CEA was being claimed prior to the date of death in service, and delivers the very continuity that the allowance was designed to provide.

Moreover, if a child is already studying for public examinations, CEA will continue to be paid for up to four years or to the end of the term in which the child takes the examination and then leaves school, whichever is soonest. By way of example, for a child aged 14 to 16 years who subsequently moves on to A-level studies, this would normally be up to four further years. Conversely, for a child aged 16 to 18 years, it would normally be up to two further years.

Given the emphasis on providing continuity of education, the allowance does not infer new entitlement for any child(ren) not already in receipt of CEA when the service parent dies.

Importantly, however, the same degree of support is available in all cases where a CEA claimant dies in service, whether or not the individual was deployed on operations. The above provisions are also available in all instances where CEA claimants are invalided from the armed forces.

Army: Admissions

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what grounds rejections of applications to join the Army are made. [179757]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* Applications to join the Army can be rejected because of a failure to satisfy eligibility criteria in any of the following fields:

- Age
- Convictions
- Driving disqualifications/endorsements
- Debt
- Drugs
- Education standard
- Eyesight
- Gender (women are excluded from employment in ground combat roles)
- Height
- Indentured apprentice
- Medical standard
- Nationality
- Parental consent (required for those enlisting below the age of 18)
- Physical fitness
- Record of conduct in previous service with armed forces
- Religion (Satanists are not accepted for service with the Army)
- Reserve liability to commonwealth armed services
- Residency
- Tattoos/body piercing
- Weight/body mass index

The applicability of, and the standard required within, each criterion, can depend on whether an applicant is seeking to become an officer or soldier, and also which trade or arm of the Army the applicant wishes to join.

Colombia: Military Aid

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of UK military assistance to the Colombian security forces was committed to humanitarian de-mining programmes in the most recent period for which figures are available. [179504]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In financial year 2007-08 it is planned that approximately 8 per cent. of UK MOD financial assistance to Colombia will be focused on humanitarian de-mining.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assistance his Department provided to the Colombian security forces in each of the last five years; what assistance he plans to provide in the future; what the cost was in each year; and if he will make a statement. [179506]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table provides the approximate cost of to the Department in assisting the Colombian security forces:

Financial year	*£000*
2003-04	120
2004-05	130
2005-06	130
2006-07	190
2007-08	[1]190

[1] Current estimate

This co-operation has been focused on British military education to strengthen human rights values and professional conduct within the Colombian armed forces, and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) training in order to reduce military and civilian deaths from explosive devices.

We plan to maintain co-operation at a similar level over the next year. However, the provision of future assistance continues to be dependent on our being satisfied that no one receiving UK training is engaged in illegal activities or abuses. Furthermore, we cannot currently specify the precise nature of future assistance as this will also depend on a number of factors such as the availability of UK resources, the wishes of the Colombian Government, and an analysis of training needs.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to ensure that British military assistance to Colombia is restricted to humanitarian work; and if he will make a statement. [179507]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: UK MOD co-operation with Colombia is focused on three main areas: embedding human rights reforms within the Colombian armed forces in order to increase democratic accountability and minimise human rights abuses; explosive ordnance disposal training to reduce civilian and military casualties from explosive devices; and bespoke counter-narcotics assistance to stem the flow of illegal drugs to the UK and strengthen the rule of law in Colombia. All these areas of activity are aimed at reducing internal conflict in Colombia, thereby alleviating humanitarian suffering.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to ensure British military assistance to Colombia is targeted towards counter-insurgency and counter-narcotics operations. [180348]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Our bilateral defence co-operation programme in Colombia has very specific objectives: to strengthen human rights values and professional conduct within the Colombian armed forces; to provide explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) training in order to reduce military and civilian deaths from explosive devices; and to stem the flow of illegal narcotics to the UK. It comes with conditions and safeguards attached which we monitor closely within the limitations of our co-operation programme.

Defence Aviation Repair Agency

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when *(a)* he and *(b)* his Ministers last visited the Defence Aviation Repair Agency at (i) Almondbank and (ii) Fleetlands. [179316]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: My predecessor last visited the Defence Aviation Repair Agency (DARA) rotary wing business at Fleetlands on 10 May 2007 and the Components business at Almondbank on 22 August 2003. My right hon. Friend the Defence Secretary has not visited DARA.

Defence Aviation Repair Agency: Privatisation

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to ensure that any private sector owner of the Defence Aviation Repair Agency be required to maintain current levels of productivity and versatility in repairing war-damaged helicopters. [179140]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 15 January 2008]:* I announced on 25 July 2007 that work would continue to assess whether sale of Defence Aviation Repair Agency Rotary Wing and Components businesses offers best value for Defence.

As part of this assessment, my officials are considering all operational issues, including the ability of any new private sector owner to maintain the standards currently being achieved by DARA, before a final sale decision is made. Sale will only proceed on the basis that current levels of productivity and versatility are maintained or improved.

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to sell the Defence Aviation Repair Agency; and if he will make a statement. [179314]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 879-80W, to the hon. Member for Chorley (Mr. Hoyle).

Defence Aviation Repair Agency: Standards

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the efficiency of the Defence Aviation Repair Agency rotary wing maintenance plants at *(a)* Almondbank and *(b)* Fleetlands. [179317]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The performance of the Defence Aviation Repair Agency, including its efficiency, is measured through annual Key Targets, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

The Defence Aviation Repair Agency's performance against these targets is assessed by the Department's Defence Internal Audit organisation.

Defence Equipment and Support Organisation: Manpower

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1035W, on Defence Equipment and Support Organisation: manpower, what the reasons are for the difference between the figures relating to staff numbers provided in the answer and those on the Defence Equipment and Support Organisation's homepage. [180453]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The DE&S website uses an approximate manpower figure of 29,000 to provide a general view of the size of the organisation. The precise manpower figure varies over time and in the event of requests for more detailed manpower figures, these are provided. We recognise the need to update the approximate manpower figure on the DE&S website and plan to do this annually.

Defence Export Services Organisation

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much of the Defence Export Services Organisation's budget was spent securing naval orders from other EU countries *(a)* in 2007-08 and *(b)* in each of the previous 10 years; [178149]

(2) how much of the budget of UK Trade and Investment will be spent on securing naval orders from other EU countries in 2007-08; [178150]

(3) how many of his Department's staff are employed to secure military procurement orders from other EU countries. [178176]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO) currently has 15 staff working full-time in support of UK industry efforts to win business in EU countries at an estimated cost in the current year of some £800,000.

Records are not kept, for this or previous years, of the proportion of DESO's budget relating to staff time spent on support for efforts to secure naval orders. This information is also not available with respect to other staff in DESO and elsewhere in the Ministry of Defence, who, when required, assist industry to win orders from EU countries.

UK Trade and Investment will take responsibility for supporting defence trade promotion on 1 April 2008. Its budget is not being used for this purpose until then.

Defence: Expenditure

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of gross domestic product was spent on defence in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007. [180617]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to my answer on 10 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 635W, to the hon. Member for Bournemouth, East (Mr. Ellwood).

Defence: Procurement

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* initial gate and *(b)* main gate decisions on category (i) A, (ii) B and (iii) C equipment projects are due to be taken over the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 period. [178505]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The timing of MOD investment decisions depends on the maturity of the project. It is not therefore possible to provide a list of projects due to submit initial gate and main gate business cases during the comprehensive spending review 2007 period.

The investment decisions for projects are taken as soon as the necessary work is complete—any date used within the Department is for planning purposes only.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what category *(a)* A, *(b)* B and *(c)* C projects have been (i) deferred, (ii) reduced and (iii) cancelled at (A) initial gate and (B) main gate since 1997-98. [178506]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of his Department's planned expenditure on major equipment projects is committed *(a)* three years, *(b)* six years and *(c)* nine years ahead. [178309]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department is currently in the process of Planning Round 08 and therefore planned expenditure for equipment projects is currently under consideration.

The percentage of the Department's planned expenditure on major equipment projects, currently financially committed, is as follows:

	Percentage
Three years ahead	48
Six years ahead	15
Nine years ahead	3

The answer is based on the projects listed in the National Audit Office Major Projects Report (HC 98-I Session 2007-2008, dated 30 November 2007).

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's *(a)* pre main gate and *(b)* post main gate category A projects were in each year from 1997-98 to 2007-08. [178580]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Capital Investment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* percentage and *(b)* value of his Department's (i) current and (ii) capital expenditure was paid for in (A) euros, (B) US dollars and (C) other foreign currencies in each year from 1997-98 to 2006-07. [178510]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department records all expenditure in its books of accounts in sterling, including that incurred in foreign currency. The values recorded in the accounts are the expenditure in currency converted at the general accounting rate (GAR) for the relevant month. All GARs are based on the cost to the Department of the actual purchases of the individual currencies.

The net cash requirement (NCR) reported in the departmental resource accounts reflects all cash expenditure incurred by the Department in a year, both current and capital, in all currencies. There is no central analysis by currency of the split between current (revenue) and capital expenditure and this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The overall expenditure in US dollars and euros is shown as follows and as a percentage of the NCR in each year. Details of actual US dollars and euros expenditure for years prior to 2000-01 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	US dollar expenditure		*Euro expenditure*	
	Value (£ million)	*Percentage of NCR*	*Value (£ million)*	*Percentage of NCR*
2006-07	1,567	5.0	1,389	4.4
2005-06	1,384	4.5	1,384	4.5
2004-05	1,239	4.2	1,244	4.2
2003-04	1,355	5.0	1,080	4.0
2002-03	1,224	4.7	911	3.5
2001-02	1,190	4.8	730	2.9
2000-01	1,204	5.1	719	3.1

Aggregate expenditure in other currencies is relatively small and is less than 1.5 per cent. of NCR in each of the years shown in the aforementioned table.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what products featuring departmental or Government branding were procured by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [179793]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many posters or displays there are in the offices of his Department and its agencies displaying the names and photographs of Ministers; and what the cost has been of producing such posters or displays in the last five years. [179842]

Derek Twigg: Currently there are no displays or posters containing the names or photos of Ministers in the Ministry of Defence London buildings.

Between 2003 and 2004 there were no displays produced containing the names or photos of Ministers.

In May 2005 eight displays were produced for the London buildings at a cost of £2,737.75.

In May 2006 four displays for the London buildings were produced at a cost of £766.10.

Accurate information on displays produced by the Defence Agencies, top level budget areas, trading funds, joint headquarters, single service commands and military units is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any of his Department's special advisers also work for organisations outside his Department. [178482]

Des Browne: Special advisers are appointed under the terms and conditions set out in the Model Contract and Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library an index of civilian salaries of his Department's staff, rebased to 2000, for each financial year from 1996-97 to 2006-07. [180300]

Derek Twigg: Although DASA publish a military salaries index, a similar index is not available for civilian personnel. A similar index is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Procurement

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of his Department's *(a)* equipment and *(b)* non-equipment vectors of final demand for each of the years 2002-03 to 2006-07. [178504]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The final demand vectors form one part of a complex methodology for deriving the estimates of UK employment dependent on MOD expenditure and defence exports, and associated breakdowns on MOD expenditure in UK industry and commerce. The latest aggregate information on the non equipment and equipment vectors is published by the Defence Analytical Services Agency (DASA) in Table 1.9a of "UK Defence Statistics 2007", a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

In isolation the raw underlying data used to construct these vectors will not reconcile to these final published estimates as a series of internal adjustments are made to the vectors prior to publication. Moreover, the vectors will also not reconcile to the published MOD resource accounts since they are constructed using cash rather than resource data. To correct these raw figures to make them consistent with published accounts would involve disproportionate cost.

A full account of the methodology, associated caveats and descriptions of the data sources used to construct these vectors can be found in the DASA "Defence Statistics Bulletins Nos. 5 and 5A", both of which are available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions since 1997-98 his Department has implemented *(a)* mileage restrictions, *(b)* track mileage restrictions and *(c)* petrol consumption restrictions. [178508]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

European Fighter Aircraft

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the reasons were for the change of specifications in relation to the Eurofighter cannon; and if he will make a statement; [178209]

(2) what the cost of adding the cannon option to the Eurofighter was; how many changes to specifications occurred over this capability; and what the end cost was of such changes. [178210]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There is no additional fitting cost because all RAF Typhoon aircraft have always been fitted with a cannon, and nor have there have been changes to the cannon specification. Trials are currently under way to test the activation of the cannon as a potential additional means of delivering an enhanced air-to-surface capability in support of ground forces.

Farnborough Aerodrome

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much TAG paid for the acquisition of the freehold interest in the Farnborough aerodrome. [178539]

Derek Twigg: TAG Farnborough Airport Freehold Limited paid the Ministry of Defence £1 million to acquire the freehold interest of Farnborough airport. A premium of £2 million was also paid to the Ministry of Defence when the 99-year lease was granted to TAG Farnborough Airport Limited in February 2003.

Helicopters: Crew

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* inflow and *(b)* outflow rate was of helicopter crews in each service in the last period for which figures are available. [173725]

Derek Twigg: Available data showing the number of helicopter crew joining the trained strength and leaving each of the services are shown in the following table.

	Inflow	*Outflow*
Royal Navy[1]		
Officers	36	16
NCOs	10	7
Army Air Corps[2]		
Officers	[3]42	[4]22
NCOs	[3]—	32
Royal Air Force[5]		
Officers	54	28
NCOs	68	17

[1] Figures given are for the period 1 October 2006 to 30 September 2007.
[2] Figures given are for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007.
[3] Combined.
[4] Figures exclude those leaving on retirement.
[5] Figures given are for 2007 up to 13 December 2007.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual strength of helicopter crews is in each service. [173726]

Derek Twigg: The current requirement and strength for helicopter crew personnel as at 17 December 2007, broken down by service:

Service	*Establishment (requirement)*	*Actual strength*
Army	440	382
Royal Navy	530	460
Royal Air Force	641	628

Hercules Aircraft

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the out of service date for the C130K fleet is. [178002]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The out of service date for the Hercules C-130K fleet is 2012.

Hydrographic Office

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how he plans to clarify the public task of the UK Hydrographic Office, as recommended in the review of that Office; and when he plans to do so. [179398]

Derek Twigg: As owner of the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO), I commissioned a review of structural and ownership options in February 2007. The recommendations of the review were announced in December 2007. The work to clarify the UKHO public task will be led by MOD officials together with the UKHO. The officials are currently drawing up a project plan for the work.

Marines

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the peace establishment was of the 40 Commando Royal Marines before its deployment to Afghanistan; what the strength was of the Commando on deployment; how many reinforcements to the Commando were received from *(a)* the regular Army, *(b)* the Territorial Army, *(c)* the Royal Navy and *(d)* the Royal Marine Reserves; how many of all ranks were (i) left behind on recruitment duties, (ii) physically unfit to deploy and (iii) left behind in barracks to form a rear party; and what the Commando's battle casualty replacement policy is. [177941]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Prior to deploying to Afghanistan in September 2007, the peacetime establishment of 40 Commando Royal Marines was 700; the strength of 40 Cdo RM on deployment was less than 20 short of the peacetime establishment; there were no reinforcements from the Regular Army or the Royal Navy; fewer than 10 from the Territorial Army; and 80 from the Royal Marine Reserves and Royal Naval Reserves. There were no individuals left behind in barracks on recruitment duties and on the date deployed fewer than 20 RMs remained in barracks unfit to deploy. Fewer than 30 RMs remained in barracks to form the rear party. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100 or where less than 100, to the nearest 10 as appropriate.

The policy on battle casualty replacement was to utilise appropriately trained personnel identified in theatre. In order to rectify a deficiency arising in a specific skill, trained replacements would be requested and deployed forward from the United Kingdom.

Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability Programme

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Government plan to put the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability project out to EU tender. [178151]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability (MARS) programme consists of three classes of ships (Fleet Tanker, Fleet Solid Support and Joint Sea Based Logistic), which will carry fuel, stores and provide logistic support for maritime and expeditionary forces including the Future Carrier. MARS Fleet Tankers will be procured competitively and the design and build requirement was advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union on 10 December 2007. No decisions have yet been made however, as to where the ships will finally be built. The procurement strategies for later ship classes in the MARS programme are still under development to ensure flexibility within the programme.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions have taken place with staff at BAE Govan and Scotstoun about the procurement of the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability project. [178152]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability (MARS) Integrated Project Team has ongoing dialogue with a number of key players in the shipbuilding industry, including BAE Systems. BAE Systems attended the MARS Industry day in November 2007 and has registered its interest in delivering the Fleet Tanker (FT) element of the MARS programme. Upon request, those interested in delivering the FT have been provided with a pre qualification questionnaire and, if returned, this will be evaluated during February and March 2008.

Procurement strategies for later ship classes in the MARS programme are still under development to ensure flexibility within the programme.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of each helicopter type in the *(a)* Army Air Corps, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* RAF are (i) in service and (ii) fit for purpose. [177536]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The numbers and types of helicopters utilised by the Royal Navy, Army Air Corps and Royal Air Force which are in the forward fleet and considered fit for purpose are detailed in the following table. Forward fleet aircraft are those that are available to the front line command for operational and training purposes (i.e. those not in depth maintenance). Aircraft defined as fit for purpose are those considered capable of carrying out their planned missions on a given date.

	Forward fleet	*Percentage of total fleet*	*Fit for purpose*	*Percentage of forward fleet*
Royal Navy				
Sea King HC Mk4 and 6	31	74	12	39
Lynx Mk 3 and 8	41	65	25	61
Merlin Mk 1	27	71	12	44
Sea King Mk 5	11	73	6	55
Sea King Mk 7	9	69	6	67
Army Air Corps				
Apache AH Mk1	48	72	25	52
Augusta A 109	4	100	3	75
Lynx AH Mk 7 and 9	57	58	33	58
Gazelle HC Mk 1	45	62	36	80
Royal Air Force				
Chinook HC Mk 2	26	65	17	65
Merlin HC Mk 3	15	68	8	53
Puma HC Mk 1	21	55	14	67
SAR Sea King Mk 3/3a	17	68	9	53

The figures shown are the average for the month of November 2007. The number of helicopters fit for purpose will vary from day to day due, primarily, to routine maintenance requirements. Operational capability is measured in terms of flying hours rather than the number of airframes available.

These figures do not include the six RAF Merlin helicopters recently acquired from Denmark or the eight RAF Chinook Mark 3 helicopters that are being converted to a battlefield support role.

Military Attaches

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK defence attachés and advisers there are *(a)* at each UK diplomatic post, *(b)* in each region of the world and *(c)* in total; what their responsibilities are; how many defence attaché posts have been (i) established and (ii) discontinued at each diplomatic post since 1997; and what effect the withdrawal of Foreign and Commonwealth Office funding for the defence attaché network has had on his Department's plans for its funding. [179164]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows resident attachés by country and by region. Other countries are covered on a non-resident basis.

Region/country	*Defence attaché/defence adviser*	*Military attaché*	*Naval attaché*	*Air attaché*	*Country total*
Asia Pacific					
Afghanistan	1				1
Australia	1		1 x MA/AA		2
Bangladesh	1				1
Brunei	1				1
China	1	1	1 x NA/AA		3
India[1]	1		1 x NA/AA		2
Indonesia	1				1
Japan	1				1
Korea	1		1 x NA/AA		2
Malaysia	1				1
Nepal	1		1 x AMA		2
New Zealand	1				1
Pakistan[2]	1		1 x NA/AA		2
Singapore	1				1
Sri Lanka	1				1
Thailand	1				1
Region total					*23*
Central Europe and Western Balkans					
Albania	1				1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1				1
Croatia	1				1
Czech Republic	1				1
Lithuania	1				1
Macedonia	1				1
Poland	1		1 x NA/MA		2
Serbia	1				1
Region total					*9*
Commonwealth of Independent States and the Black Sea					
Bulgaria	1				1
Georgia	1				1
Kazakhstan	1				1
Romania	1				1
Russia[1]	1	2	2	1	6
Ukraine	1				1
Region total					*11*
Latin America and Caribbean					
Argentina	1			1	2
Barbados	1				1
Brazil	1				1
Chile	1				1
Colombia	1				1
Guatemala	1				1

Region/country	*Defence attaché/defence adviser*	*Military attaché*	*Naval attaché*	*Air attaché*	*Country total*
Jamaica	1	—	—	—	1
Region total					*8*
Mediterranean					
Algeria	1	—	—	—	1
Cyprus	1	—	—	—	1
Greece	1	—	1 x NA/AA		2
Italy	1	—	1 x NA/AA		2
Morocco	1	—	—	—	1
Portugal	1	—	—	—	1
Spain	1		1 x Dep DA		2
Turkey	1		1 x NA/MA		2
Region total					*12*
Middle and Near East					
Bahrain	1	—	—	—	1
Egypt	1	—	—	—	1
Iraq	1	—	—	—	1
Israel	1	—	1 x NA/AA		2
Jordan	1	—	—	1	2
Kuwait	1	—	—	—	1
Lebanon	1	—	—	—	1
Oman	1	—	1 x NA/AA		2
Qatar	1	—	—	—	1
Saudi Arabia	1		1 x NA/MA		2
Syria	1	—	—	—	1
United Arab Emirates	1	—	—	—	1
Yemen	1	—	—	—	1
Region total					*17*
North America and Western Europe					
Austria	1		1 x Dep DA		2
Canada	1	—	1 x NA/AA		2
Denmark	1	—	—	—	1
Finland	1	—	—	—	1
France	1	1	1	—	3
Germany	1	1	1 x NA/AA		3
Netherlands	1	—	—	—	1
Norway	1	—	—	—	1
Sweden	1	—	—	—	1
United States of America	2	2	2	2	8
UK Mission to UN New York	—	2	—	—	2
Region total					*25*
Sub-Saharan Africa					
Congo, Democratic Republic of (DRC)	1	—	—	—	1
Ethiopia	1	—	—	—	1
Ghana	1	—	—	—	1
Kenya	1	—	—	—	1
Nigeria	1	—	—	—	1
Sierra Leone	1	—	—	—	1
South Africa	1	—	1 x NA/AA		2
Sudan	1	—	—	—	1
Uganda	1	—	—	—	1
Zimbabwe	1	—	—	—	1
Region total					*11*
Total					116

[1] DA is supported by an Assistant DA.
[2] DA is supported by an Assistant DA.
[3] DA is also the AA and is supported by an Assistant Air Attaché shown under the Air Attaché column above.

The role of defence attachés is to promote the Government's policies in the area of international security co-operation. The principal components of this policy are to strengthen international peace and stability by preventing conflicts, contributing to the transformation of the security structures of vulnerable states, assisting and building partnerships with those who may contribute to peace support operations and by reducing the risk of terrorism through greater co-operation and communication.

The following table details the changes to the MoD's attaché network by country since 1997.

Country	1997[1]	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007[2]	2008[3]
Afghanistan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Albania	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Algeria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Angola	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Argentina	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Australia	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Austria[4]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Bahrain	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bangladesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Belgium	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Barbados	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Brazil	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
Brunei	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bulgaria	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1
Canada	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Chile	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
China	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3
Colombia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Congo, Democratic Republic of (DRC)	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Croatia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cyprus	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Czech Republic	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
Denmark	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Egypt	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
Ethiopia	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
Finland	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
France	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Georgia	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Germany	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3
Ghana	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Greece	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Guatemala	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Hungary	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	0
India	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Indonesia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Iraq	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Ireland	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
Israel	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Italy	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2
Jamaica	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Japan	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Jordan	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Kazakhstan	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Kenya	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Korea	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Kuwait	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Latvia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Lebanon	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lithuania	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Macedonia	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Malaysia	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1
Mexico	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Morocco	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Country	1997[1]	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007[2]	2008[3]
Nepal	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
Netherlands	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
New Zealand	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Nigeria	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Norway	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Oman	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Pakistan	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Philippines	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
Poland	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Portugal	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Qatar	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Romania	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1
Russia	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Saudi Arabia	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2
Serbia (formerly FRY)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sierra Leone	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Singapore	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Slovakia	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	0
Slovenia	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
South Africa	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Spain	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Sri Lanka	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sudan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Sweden	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Switzerland	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Syria	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Thailand	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Turkey	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Uganda	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ukraine	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
United Arab Emirates	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
United States of America	7	7	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
UK Mission to UN New York	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Uzbekistan	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Venezuela	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Yemen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Zimbabwe	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Totals	116	117	125	122	128	127	129	125	128	124	119	116

[1] Based on available records from 1996. No changes are shown in available records from 1997.
[2] Includes changes from the third quarter of 07.
[3] Correct figures as at 16 January 2008.
[4] Vienna is now also used as a base for a co-located DA covering Switzerland, Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia.

The MOD will continue to maintain a Defence Attaché network that is effective and relevant to our international interests.

Military Equipment: Iraq

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what military equipment the UK gifted to Iraqi forces in each year since 2003; [163033]

(2) what military equipment the Government plan to gift to Iraq over the next 12 months. [163034][1]

Des Browne: The UK has gifted a range of military equipment and infrastructure to prepare the Iraqi security forces to be self-sufficient in the management of their own security.

The following military equipment has been supplied by HMG to the Iraqi Government for use by the Iraqi security forces. A list of security related equipment has also been provided for completeness:

2005 Military Equipment

6,500 AK47 assault rifles

5.3 million rounds of 7.62mm ammunition

25,058 sets of body armour

2,500 helmets

2,000 sets of public order equipment

7,444 Kevlar helmets

308 high frequency radios

992 Binoculars

69 GPS

42 GPS with radio

12 sets of urban operations equipment

450,000 rounds of AK47 blank ammunition (for training purposes)

500,000 rounds of PKM (light machine gun) blank ammunition (for training purposes)

438 Underslung grenade launchers (UGL) for AK47s

18,400 UGL rounds

36,800 UGL training rounds

1. *[Official Report, 26 February 2008, Vol. 472, c. 15MC.]*

5,666 x 9mm pistols
850,000 rounds of 9mm ammunition
3,000 personal radios handset
50 operations room radios
200 vehicle radios
79 refurbished armoured Land Rovers
774 light machine guns (PKMs)
5 million rounds of ammunition for the PKMs
1,150 light machine guns (RPKs)
211 high frequency radios
16 high frequency base station fixed installation kits.

The following security related equipment has also been gifted:

2 luggage x-ray machines
3 archway metal detectors
27 hand-held metal detectors
15 under vehicle search mirrors
211 pick-up vehicles
12 water trucks
9 flat bad trucks
Networked data/voice capability (local area network)
Refurbishment of 24 boats.

2006 Military Equipment

90 Dshka 12.7mm heavy machine guns
6,300 9mm pistols
85 medium machine guns
12 Dragunov sniper rifles
20,500 helmets
14,500 pairs of boots
734 Motorola GM160 VHP radios with microphone and antenna.

The following security related equipment has also been gifted:

415 Iraqi Police Service patrol cars
319 Iraqi Police Service 4x4 patrol cars.

Our records indicate that no military or security-related equipment was gifted to Iraq in 2003 or 2004; none was gifted in 2007. Currently, we have no plans to gift military equipment in future.

Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency: Recruitment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Ministry of Defence police officers were recruited for service in each year since 1997. [177592]

Derek Twigg: The figures for the number of Ministry of Defence police (MDP) officers recruited since 1997 are provided in the following table.

	Number of MDP officers recruited
1997	0
1998	39
1999	61
2000	55
2001	63
2002	126
2003	252
2004	233
2005	272
2006	220
2007	140
Total	1,461

QinetiQ

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much has been received from QinetiQ following the sale of each former Government-owned site as a result of the clawback agreement; and in relation to which sites the money has been received; [178249]

(2) in relation to the sale of which sites he expects to receive monies from QinetiQ as a result of the clawback agreement during 2008; how much he expects to receive in relation to each such site; and for which sites he does not expect to receive monies; [178250]

(3) what acreage of land has been transferred from his Department to QinetiQ; how much of that land has subsequently been disposed of and at what price; and if he will make a statement. [178976]

Des Browne: The requested information is not held centrally or in a consistent form. However, it should be possible to compile the requested information without incurring disproportionate cost. I will write to the hon. Member as soon as the work has been completed and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

RAF Innsworth: NATO Rapid Reaction Corps

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he anticipates the Rapid Reaction Corps will move to RAF Innsworth; and if he will make a statement. [180593]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The BORONA Programme is drawing up detailed plans for the move of the Headquarters Allied Rapid Reaction Corps to the Innsworth site. The exact timing of the move is subject to ongoing consideration.

Shipbuilding: Glasgow

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment the Government have made of the future viability of Govan and Scotstoun without work from the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability project. [178174]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD is working closely with industry, including BAE Systems, to ensure that a sustainable UK maritime sector is able to support the needs of the Royal Navy both now and in the future.

At this stage, in the timescales required for procurement of the MARS tankers, there is more than sufficient work from other maritime programmes to sustain the required on-shore design and build capability.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many orders the Government have helped

secure for Govan and Scotstoun from other EU countries. [178175]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Government's support for naval sales has helped to bring work for a number of UK shipyards, including Scotstoun. But no orders from EU countries have brought work to Govan or Scotstoun in recent years.

Territorial Army: Motor Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what forms Territorial Army personnel have to complete in order to take a vehicle out. [180036]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: All military personnel are required to hold a valid Form Military Transport (FMT) 600 before they may take a service vehicle out.

Additionally, any TA soldier required to undertake a driving duty must complete a Reserve Forces Certificate of Employment stating what activity that soldier has undertaken in the week preceding the driving activity.

Individual units may have local forms and procedures for completion before any type of vehicle is taken out in order to manage their vehicle fleets.

Trident

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of whether a new production plant for highly enriched uranium is needed for Trident nuclear warheads. [177838]

Des Browne: It is currently assessed that existing stocks of highly enriched uranium are sufficient to meet the needs of the Trident warhead programme.

In 1995 the UK declared a moratorium on the future production of fissile material. This was reaffirmed in the 2006 White Paper on the Future of the UK's Nuclear Deterrent. Negotiating a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty, banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons, remains the UK's disarmament priority.

Vetting

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 891W, on vetting, which other Government Departments use the Defence Vetting Agency for vetting *(a)* applicants for security clearance and *(b)* employees. [180034]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Defence Vetting Agency (DVA) undertakes the role of an approved Shared Service Provider for various Other Governments Departments (OGDs). The DVA reflects the relationship between itself and these repayment customers in a series of Customer Supplier Agreements. Applications for vetting can cover both direct employees and staff undergoing the recruitment process but also, contractor personnel engaged in support of Government approved contracts. The DVA presently conducts selected personnel security vetting inquiries for the following:

British Telecommunications Plc
Competition Commission
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service
Crown Prosecution Service
Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform
Department for Children, Schools and Families
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills
Department for Transport
Department for Work and Pensions
Department of Culture, Media and Sport
Department of Health
ESTYN (HM Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales)
Export Credits Guarantee Department
Financial Services Authority
Food Standards Agency
Gambling Commission (parent organisation Department for Culture, Media and Sport)
Government Car and Despatch Agency
Health and Safety Executive
HM Revenue and Customs
HM Treasury
Home Office (incorporating the Association of Chief Police Officers)
Metropolitan Police Service
Ministry of Justice
National Archives
National Assembly for Wales
National Audit Office
Northern Ireland Office
O2(UK) Plc
Olympic Delivery Authority
Office for Civil Nuclear Security
Office for Standards in Education
Office for the Gas and Electricity Markets
Office of Communications
Office of Fair Trading
Office of Government Commerce
Ordnance Survey
Registers of Scotland
Royal Mail Group
Scottish Court Service
Scottish Government
Serious Fraud Office
Serious Organised Crime Agency
Stabilisation Unit (parent organisation Department for International Development)
The Treasury Solicitor.

World War II: Prisoners of War

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information his Department holds on the amount of compensation paid by the German Government for British prisoners of war of the Second World War. [180278]

Derek Twigg: No money has been paid by the German authorities specifically to provide compensation for former British prisoners of war (POWs).

In 1964, the then Federal Republic of Germany paid £1 million to the British Government to provide compensation for victims of Nazi persecution. The scheme focused on survivors of Nazi Concentration Camps. Servicemen held as ordinary POWs and civilian internees held in non-concentration camps were excluded. In the late-1990s, a fund totalling some £3.3 billion was set up by the German Government and industry to make payments to those civilians who were forced labourers. Again, service personnel held as POWs were excluded.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Capita

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings (*a*) he, (*b*) Ministers in his Department and (*c*) officials have held with (i) directors and (ii) senior executives of (A) Capita Group plc and (B) its subsidiaries since 1 January 2001; what the (1) location and (2) duration of each meeting was; whether a record of each meeting was kept; and if he will make a statement. [180706]

David Miliband: Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not the usual practice of Government to disclose details of such meetings.

Colombia: Human Rights

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on alleged murders of civilians and breaches of human rights by soldiers of the Colombian Army, in particular the High Mountain Battalions. [180117]

Dr. Howells: I am concerned at continuing allegations of some Colombian policemen and army personnel being involved in abuses. I have raised these concerns with the Colombian Government, including when I visited Colombia in November 2007. However, it is clear that illegal armed groups and terrorist organisations such as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia are responsible for the majority of abuses in Colombia, as acknowledged in the 2006 report of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Colombia.

Helping the Government and civil society in Colombia to protect and promote the basic human rights of all Colombians is a priority for this Government. A large part of our bilateral assistance programme, including with the Colombian armed forces, is focused on human rights. I am satisfied that no UK assistance is being used to commit human rights abuses, directly or indirectly. We have received no evidence to suggest that this is the case.

Departmental Databases

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what requirements his Department and its agencies place on contractors in relation to the audit of personal data and IT equipment. [176624]

Meg Munn: The only substantial contracts the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has for the processing of personal data are with two commercial partners responsible for the collection and administration of visa applications from foreign nationals wishing to travel to the UK. Both contracts contain clauses committing the partner to conformity with ISO27001, the international standard relating to the security of data systems, requiring auditable processes, and to compliance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act. The contracts also provide for surprise audits of partner premises by UKvisas. More generally, FCO model contracts contain specific clauses obliging the contractor to abide by the provisions of the Data Protection Act and empowering the FCO to ensure compliance.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been spent by his Department (*a*) in total and (*b*) on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by his Department for this purpose. [173839]

Meg Munn: The information requested by the hon. Member is as follows:

Total expenditure on diversity

	£
2007-08	[1]277,815.82
2006-07	[2]47,090.50
2005-06	[2]98,955.00

[1] Of which £118,110.82 on training. [2] Training only.

2007-08 is the first year for which the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has a dedicated diversity budget for initiatives outside of training.

2007-08 is the first year, in the past three, where there have been dedicated officials working solely on promoting equality and diversity. The total cost of the staff working on equality and diversity issues in 2007-08 is £267,382.00 per annum.

The FCO has one full-time employee promoting equality and diversity who is assisted, on a temporary basis, by the equivalent of 3.9 full-time staff.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 828W, on Departmental Internet, how many times each individual blog has been visited since it was established. [179635]

Meg Munn: The statistics available to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for the blogging platform since its launch are for the site as a whole and not for individual blogs. Since the launch, on 26 September 2007, there have been 181,959 visits to the blogging platform, of which there were 554,259 individual page views.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what products featuring departmental or Government branding were procured by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [179791]

Meg Munn: This information is not held centrally and it would incur disproportionate cost to collate.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many posters or displays there are in the offices of his Department and its agencies displaying the names and photographs of Ministers; and what the cost has been of producing such posters or displays in the last five years. [179844]

Meg Munn: The information requested by the hon. Member is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisors

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any of his Department's special advisers also work for organisations outside his Department. [178480]

David Miliband: Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the "Model Contract" and "Code of Conduct for Special Advisers", copies of which are in the Library of the House.

Derek Pasquill: Official Secrets

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the classification of any of the documents disclosed by Mr. Derek Pasquill has been amended since the submission to the police of the Department's considered assessment of the damage caused to international relations under Section 3 of the Official Secrets Act 1989 by Mr. Pasquill's disclosures. [180408]

Meg Munn: None of the classifications have been changed.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Ministers approved, before it was presented to the police, the witness statement by his Department setting out its considered assessment of the damage caused to international relations under Section 3 of the Official Secrets Act 1989 by Mr. Derek Pasquill's disclosures. [180422]

Meg Munn: The witness statement was given by a senior Foreign and Commonwealth Office official on behalf of the Department. Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Ministers were briefed on its contents.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library copies of those documents the disclosure of which formed the basis of the prosecution of Mr. Derek Pasquill for breaches of the Official Secrets Act 1989. [180423]

Meg Munn: These documents have remained in the public domain since they were first disclosed.

Diplomatic Service: EU Nationals

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs under what circumstances British embassies provide services to citizens of EU member states who lack diplomatic representation in a particular country; and if he will make a statement. [179685]

Meg Munn: Under article 20 of the treaty establishing the European Community, every citizen of the EU, in the territory of a third country in which the member state of which he or she is a national does not have diplomatic or consular representation, is entitled to protection by the diplomatic or consular authorities of any member state, on the same conditions as the nationals of that state. In some countries there are local arrangements between the missions of EU member states whereby each provides consular assistance to the nationals of a number of unrepresented states.

Disclosure of Information

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many documents disclosed without authorisation by Mr. Derek Pasquill formed the basis for his prosecution for breaches of the Official Secrets Act 1989. [180315]

Meg Munn: The Crown Prosecution Service brought charges under the Official Secrets Act 1989 on six of the documents disclosed by Mr. Pasquill.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of whether the public disclosure now of *(a)* all or *(b)* some of the documents first disclosed by Mr. Derek Pasquill and which formed the basis of his prosecution for breaches of the Official Secrets Act 1989 would harm international relations. [180316]

Meg Munn: The documents have remained in the public domain since they were first disclosed. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office provided a witness statement to the police, in December 2006, setting out its considered assessment of the damage caused, by the disclosures. We have made no subsequent damage assessment.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the witness statement to the police by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office setting out the Government's assessment of the damage caused under section 3 of the Official Secrets Act 1989 to international relations by Mr. Derek Pasquill's disclosures. [180317]

Meg Munn: The Witness Statement is a police document, produced as part of a criminal investigation, which the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is therefore not at liberty to disclose.

European Directorate

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff work in his Department's European Directorate; what the cost of such staff was in 2006-07; and what each Directorate member's responsibilities are. [176050]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The following table charts the number of Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials working in the European Union Directorate for 2006-07 and for 2005-06 for comparison. The staff numbers and costs are average figures.

	2005-06		2006-07	
	Staff numbers	Cost (£ million)	Staff numbers	Cost (£ million)
EU home	199	9.9	138	7
EU overseas	761	40.2	650	35
Total	960	50.1	788	42

It would incur disproportionate cost to provide the right hon. Member with details of each individual's responsibilities in the directorate.

Humanitarian Aid: Medals

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will bring forward proposals to create a humanitarian service medal or similar recognition for British civilians operating on behalf of the Government in hostile environments. [180618]

Meg Munn: A humanitarian service medal, to reward British civilians working for international organisations overseas, is currently under consideration by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Ministry of Defence and Cabinet Office.

Indonesia: Export Credit Guarantees

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what communications he has had with the Indonesian Government on its outstanding debts to the UK Export Credits Guarantee Department in the last six months. [180327]

Meg Munn: Over the last six months, our embassy officials have on several occasions discussed the rescheduling of some elements of Indonesian debts to the Export Credits Guarantee Department with the relevant Indonesian authorities.

The Government of Indonesia owes the Export Credits Guarantee Department about £507 million plus US$400 million. These debts have been rescheduled in the Paris Club along with those of other Paris Club creditors. In addition to rescheduling Indonesia's debts through the Paris Club, the UK has also provided Indonesia with direct aid. In 2006-07, the Department for International Development provided £60 million to Indonesia to help it meet the Millennium Development Goals. This money was used for a range of poverty reducing programmes, including improving maternal health, tackling HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, and for support to forestry.

Industrial Disputes

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is the policy of Ministers in his Department to cross embassy staff picket lines in cases of industrial disputes. [180176]

David Miliband: In the event of an industrial dispute, as at all other times, Ministers act in accordance with their duties under the Ministerial Code.

Legalisation Office: Milton Keynes

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to move the Legalisation Office to Milton Keynes; which private sector users have been consulted; and if he will make a statement. [180101]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 25WS.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the viability of a one state, equal rights solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. [180599]

Dr. Howells: The UK has made no recent assessment of the viability of such a solution. Our position remains that the solution to the Israeli—Palestinian conflict is a two states solution: a democratic viable Palestinian state living in peace, side by side with Israel.

Middle East: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to his Sunday Times article of 6 January 2008, how many staff he intends to transfer from Europe to the Middle East and South Asia in financial years 2008-09 to 2010-11. [179153]

Meg Munn: Around 60 front line policy staff from Europe will be transferred.

Military Attaches

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons his Department decided to withdraw its funding for the UK defence attaché network; and if he will make a statement. [179165]

David Miliband: As part of the recent comprehensive spending review, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers considered carefully the relative

priority of all of our expenditure and took the view that the FCO could not provide funding to the Defence Attaché network at the expense of FCO priorities.

This decision was shared with the Ministry of Defence at an early stage.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what interim arrangements his Department has made with the Ministry of Defence on the funding of defence attachés at UK diplomatic posts following his Department's decision to withdraw its funding. [179166]

David Miliband: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has agreed to put a ceiling on the charges it will ask the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to pay during the one-year transitional period, from the previous position of not charging the MOD to the future position of charging full economic costs from April 2009. The exact details have not yet been finalised.

Republic of Ireland: Embassies

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on proposed redundancies at HM Embassy, Dublin. [180177]

Meg Munn: As part of its refocus of resources towards growth opportunities in emerging markets there will be a reduction in UK Trade and Investment's (UKTI) Dublin operation. This move is in line with UKTI's strategy to transfer resources to a number of key emerging markets. There will, however, remain an important role for Dublin's UKTI team which is being restructured to meet the needs of a mature market in a globalised economy.

Our embassy in Dublin has followed established consultation procedures with staff throughout. If redundancies do prove necessary, the package they offer will fully meet the requirements of Irish labour law.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the consequences of the end of the ceasefire in Sri Lanka. [180502]

Dr. Howells: The Government view the abrogation of the internationally-brokered Sri Lanka cease-fire agreement as a matter of great regret. I refer my hon. Friend to my statement during the debate on Sri Lanka in the House on 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1183-88.

Tour Operators: Health Services

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether UK travel operators are obliged to notify the Government when their clients require hospitalisation while on holiday *(a)* in another EU member state and *(b)* outside the EU. [180480]

Meg Munn: UK travel operators are not obliged to notify the Government when their clients require hospitalisation while on holiday in another EU member state or outside the EU. However, recent guidelines issued by the Federation of Tour Operators, the organisation which represents the major UK tour operators, suggest that operators should notify British consular officials of any customer they expect will have to stay beyond their scheduled departure date due to unexpected circumstances such as hospitalisation.

Turkmenistan: Politics and Government

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political and economic situation in Turkmenistan. [179295]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Since coming to power, President Berdimuhamedov has carried out some reforms but has not yet changed the fundamental political and economic character of the country. For example, he has instituted agricultural and educational reform, and modified pensions. He has relaxed travel restrictions and broadened internet access. He has encouraged students to travel abroad for education and members of the Government to learn from the experience of other countries. He has increased Turkmenistan's engagement with other countries and improved relations both with its neighbours and with the wider world.

Under President Berdimuhamedov, Turkmenistan has engaged more with the UN, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and EU on human rights, including by extending invitations to experts to visit the country. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the previous OSCE Chairman-in-Office, the current OSCE Secretary-General and the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), have all visited this year and have received assurances of co-operation from the President, including on electoral reform. ODIHR sent a needs assessment mission to the presidential election in February 2007. The Government have agreed to a comprehensive EU/UN human rights project. There have been some limited releases of political prisoners.

In late December 2007, President Berdimuhamedov announced reforms which will eventually lead to the abolition of the dual exchange rate. This is a welcome step, although it will take time to work through the economy.

Given the nature of the previous regime, it remains too early to assess the full extent and the ultimate direction of reform, but the signs are encouraging. With our EU and other partners, we will continue to work with Turkmenistan in support of the President's reform agenda.

USA: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what role is played by the British embassy in Washington to facilitate visits by British subjects to US administration sites including the Pentagon. [180171]

Dr. Howells: Our embassy in Washington assists with official visits to Washington and the US where requested, including those which involve visits to US Administration sites such as the Pentagon. All other requests for access to US Administration sites are usually directed to the relevant US institution.

Uzbekistan: Elections

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what assessment his Department has made of the conduct of elections in Uzbekistan in December 2007; [179293]

(2) what discussions he has had with other countries on the conduct of elections in Uzbekistan in December 2007. [179294]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Our ambassador in Tashkent discussed the elections with other embassies, and took part in the EU heads of mission discussions on the outcome of the election.

The EU issued a presidency statement on behalf of EU member states on 27 December 2007 which noted with concern that the presidential election did not meet many Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) commitments and other international standards for democratic elections, and that the recommendations issued by the OSCE/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) after the 2004 parliamentary elections had not yet been implemented.

ODIHR conducted a limited observation mission. It noted that there were more candidates than in previous presidential elections including a female and a non-partisan candidate. However, the electorate was deprived of a genuine choice as all the candidates publicly endorsed the incumbent.

With our EU partners, we stand ready to assist Uzbekistan to co-operate with ODIHR to bring its election process and framework in line with OSCE commitments and other international standards for democratic elections.

Zimbabwe: Sanctions

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department is holding with *(a)* the European Commission and *(b)* the US Administration to strengthen the sanctions regime in relation to Zimbabwe. [179740]

Meg Munn: We are in regular contact with EU and US partners on Zimbabwe regarding the application of our respective targeted measures and how they might be strengthened. We strongly support the renewal of the EU's targeted measures for a further 12 months from February 2008. We would not hesitate to recommend the addition of further names to the list of persons referred to in the EU Common Position on Zimbabwe in response to human rights abuses or specific events.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1363W, on Zimbabwe: sanctions, if he will make representations to *(a)* the European Commission and *(b)* other EU-member states to (i) increase the number of and (ii) share information on bank accounts frozen as part of economic sanctions against Zimbabwe. [179743]

Meg Munn: The UK can freeze accounts only in the names of listed persons. If further names are added to the EU regulation, any funds and economic resources held by those persons will be frozen. The UK will encourage other member states, through its participation in the relevant Brussels working groups, to share information regarding the funds they have frozen.

Zimbabwe: Sequestration of Assets

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been frozen in bank accounts under economic sanctions taken against Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [179737]

Dr. Howells: EU member states do not systematically share detailed information for Zimbabwe, or other sanctions regimes, concerning the value of funds they have identified and frozen. However, they are legally obliged to freeze all funds and economic resources belonging to persons listed under the sanctions regime. It is prohibited to make funds or economic resources available, directly or indirectly, to these persons. The reported balance of UK frozen funds amounts to over £170,000.

The UK is firmly committed to the full implementation of all EU sanctions, along with our EU partners.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Aerials

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what consideration has been given to making mobile telecommunications mast-sharing a requirement of future licence applications. [177097]

Mr. Timms: The Government encourage site and mast sharing by mobile telecommunications operators as part of developed planning policy, specifically under Planning Policy Guidance Note 8. The independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), is permitted to grant powers under the Electronic Communications Code to operators, and would encourage the sharing of electronic communications apparatus whenever it considers applications.

Operators with plans to share sites and masts must ensure that any proposals for infrastructure sharing do not breach the terms of their licence under the Wireless Telegraphy Act issued by Ofcom. The mobile network operators are committed to voluntary site sharing, and all have reciprocal mast sharing agreements already in

place for standard mast sharing, redevelopment of existing masts and joint development of new masts.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* 3, *(b)* O2, *(c)* Orange, *(d)* T Mobile and *(e)* Vodaphone mobile telecommunication masts that are shared; and between which companies each is shared. [177099]

Mr. Timms: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Bankruptcy: Greater London

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many businesses in each London borough filed for bankruptcy *(a)* less than five years, *(b)* less than 10 years, *(c)* less than 20 years and *(d)* more than 20 years after their establishment in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [178421]

Mr. McFadden: The information requested is not readily available and to attempt to provide it would incur disproportionate cost. The figures given as follows are the best that can be provided in the time available from information held centrally.

Table 1 records the number of individual bankruptcy orders in the London region (classified according to the Official Receiver's (OR) offices), for those cases where trading information was available. The figures are broken down by the length of trading period (years). Table 2 shows a similar breakdown for company compulsory liquidations.

It should particularly be noted that the only information held on which to base 'length of establishment' is the trading start and end dates, but that this is only available for on average 25 per cent. of trading bankrupts and 20 per cent. of compulsory liquidations over the period requested (nationally). This means that these figures should be interpreted with extreme caution and should not be considered to be representative of the totality of trading bankrupts or company liquidations during the period in question.

A breakdown by length of establishment is not available by London borough. Further, it should be noted that there are movements of individual OR's offices between broader regions which coincide with financial years, notably in FY 2004-05, Croydon OR's office moved from Anglia to London region. This means that the statistics cannot be treated as a consistent time series.

Table 1: Number of individual bankruptcy orders by length of time trading, in the London region, 1997-98 to 2006-07[1, 2]

	Trading length (years)				
Financial year	*Less than equal to 5*	*6-10*	*11-20*	*More than 20*	*Total cases trading length available*
1997-98	37	19	12	3	71
1998-99	10	7	3	1	21
1999-2000	54	21	17	7	99
2000-01	62	26	13	7	108
2001-02	40	17	17	4	78
2002-03	67	12	8	7	94
2003-04	76	22	19	9	126
2004-05	99	31	16	8	154
2005-06	132	23	17	5	177
2006-07	333	25	16	1	375

Table 2: Number of company compulsory liquidations by length of time trading, in the London region, 1997-98 to 2006-07[1, 2]

	Trading length (years)					
Financial year	*Less than equal to 5*	*6-10*	*11-20*	*More than 20*	*Total cases trading length available*	*Total number of compulsory liquidations*
1997-98	61	6	2	5	74	1,225
1998-99	120	11	6	4	141	1,370
1999-2000	158	26	6	9	199	1,047
2000-01	117	20	13	3	153	993
2001-02	147	17	10	3	177	866
2002-03	198	39	8	5	250	1,211
2003-04	173	21	13	7	214	823
2004-05	104	11	2	6	123	1,137

Table 2: Number of company compulsory liquidations by length of time trading, in the London region, 1997-98 to 2006-07[1, 2]

	Trading length (years)					
Financial year	*Less than equal to 5*	*6-10*	*11-20*	*More than 20*	*Total cases trading length available*	*Total number of compulsory liquidations*
2005-06	72	19	8	3	102	1,364
2006-07	156	22	9	13	200	1,651

[1] Croydon Official Receiver's office is classified under London region from 2004-05 onwards. It was previously classified under the Anglia region.
[2] From 2004-05 onwards, the figures also include public interest unit (PIU) and carousel.

Carbon Emissions: Utilities

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the changes in levels of carbon dioxide emissions which *(a)* has resulted since 2002 and *(b)* is expected to result by 2027 from the progressive switch to natural gas in electricity generation. [175702]

Malcolm Wicks: The share of gas in electricity generation has fallen since 2002 while the share of coal has increased. It is estimated that emissions in 2006 would have been approximately 2.5MtC lower if the shares of gas and coal had not changed from 2002. Data are not yet available for 2007.

If the 2002 shares of coal and gas within fossil fuel generation were to prevail in 2020, emissions would be around 10MtC higher than projected. There is much uncertainty in such calculations. No estimates have been made for 2027.

There are likely to be many other influences on future power station emissions, including the EU emissions trading scheme. The projected effects of the EU-ETS are set out in Annex I of the published projections, which are available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file39580.pdf

Certification Officer: Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what requirements there are on the Certification Officer to make Gershon savings or annual efficiency savings. [179573]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service is responsible for providing the Certification Officer with the finance and support services necessary for the performance of his statutory duties. The annual budget process involving the Certification Officer and ACAS addresses the need for efficiency savings.

Certification Officer: Standards

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Certification Officer in scrutinising union political funds. [179572]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* The Certification Officer enjoys an excellent reputation for professionalism, expertise and impartiality. That reputation is based in part on the effective way he carries out his statutory functions in regard to political funds.

Certification Officer: Trade Unions

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the Certification Officer's statutory responsibilities are in relation to trade unions; and what legislative provisions govern them. [180174]

Mr. McFadden: The certification officer has a large number of statutory responsibilities, which are provided by the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992. A description of these statutory responsibilities is given in the annual report of the certification officer, which is deposited each year in the House Library.

Coal Fired Power Stations: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the carbon dioxide emissions from coal-fired power stations in each year until 2020. [180475]

Malcolm Wicks: The most recent estimates of carbon dioxide emissions from coal-fired power stations in the UK were made for the Energy White Paper 2007. For 2010, 2015 and 2020, they were projected to be 106.3, 69.2 and 57.3 million tonnes of carbon dioxide respectively.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what amount of carbon dioxide emissions have come from coal-fired power stations in each of the last 10 years. [180477]

Malcolm Wicks: Carbon dioxide emissions for 2007 are not yet available; emissions from coal fired power stations for the last 10 years for which we have data are given in the following table:

	Million tonnes of carbon dioxide emitted
1996	119.6
1997	102.0
1998	105.1
1999	87.8
2000	98.8
2001	110.3
2002	104.0
2003	114.3

	Million tonnes of carbon dioxide emitted
2004	110.0
2005	114.1
2006[1]	125.9

[1] 2006 provisional BERR estimate based on energy consumption data.

Source:
1996-2005 data National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI).

Consumers: Finance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the annual effect on costs for his Department resulting from the merger of Energy Watch, Post Watch and the National Consumer Council. [180384]

Mr. Thomas: The new National Consumer Council (NCC) will create a more effective and efficient system of consumer representation across markets. It is anticipated that any savings that result from the creation of the new NCC will accrue to industry (and ultimately consumers) and not to Government, as sectoral bodies are funded by the individual industries that, in turn, recover their costs from consumers.

Consumers: Protection

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform in relation to which sectors the new National Consumer Council will pursue complaints from consumers. [180383]

Mr. Thomas: The Consumers, Estate Agents and Redress Act 2007 provides for:

a single point of contact for consumers across all markets (Consumer Direct) to obtain information and impartial advice;

the extension of new redress schemes to all energy complaints and the postal services sector to resolve complaints where service providers have been unable to do so;

the consolidation of sectoral consumer bodies to form one stronger body (new National Consumer Council) to represent the interests of consumers across all markets and to provide information and advice on the consumer perspective to business, to Government, and to the sectoral regulators.

The legislation provides for the new NCC to have the power to assist vulnerable consumers in the gas, electricity and postal services sectors with their complaints.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what audits his Department and its agencies carried out in relation to personal data and IT equipment in each of the last 10 years. [176476]

Mr. Thomas: The Department undertakes a formal programme of audits each year which can incorporate audit of personal data. The contents of these audits is dependent on the specific terms of reference for each review and a large number of audits have been carried out each year in the last 10 years across various areas of the Department. Since 1999 all IT provision to the Department has been provided under a PFI agreement. Auditing of the service providers IT equipment is the contractual responsibility of the service provider.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what proportion of his Department's staff are employed within each salary band; what the title and role of each position within each salary band is; and for each salary band what the *(a)* bonus structure, *(b)* retirement provision, *(c)* expenses provision, *(d)* total expenses incurred in each of the last 10 years, *(e)* average age of employee, *(f)* number of (i) women and (ii) men and *(g)* ethnic composition is. [171407]

Mr. Thomas: The information is as follows:

Salary bands: BERR core staff in post (SIP) as at 1 November 2007

Band	*SIP Strength*	*Percentage of BERR core*
Senior civil service	164	6
Band C	963	37
Band B	920	35
Band A	374	14
Other (not aligned with pay range)[1]	216	8
Total	2,637	—

[1] Includes staff in Business and Regulatory Reform who recently transferred from the Cabinet Office and whose grades are not yet aligned with the rest of the Department.

The title and range of each position varies according to the work of the individual staff member therefore it is not practical to give a complete breakdown. To summarise:

Band A consists of four pay ranges (1-4) and generally includes those posts providing a support role to management either in operational or administrative areas.

Band B consists of four pay ranges (5-8) and generally includes posts dealing with case work, desk officer functions, research and specialist subject work, policy support, junior management, some secretarial work and other executive type functions.

Band C consists of three pay ranges (9-11) and includes posts with more senior advisory and policy responsibilities or wider ranging managerial functions.

Bonus structure

Non-civil service pay grades and bonus structure:

Pay grades

Posts below senior civil service within the Department for Business, Enterprise, and Regulatory Reform are structured in generalist ranges. These are allocated in line with the Department's grading guidance which specifies the level of tasks required under each range. The ranges are not directly equivalent to the former civil service system of grades but are broadly comparable, as follows:

Former civil service grade	*BERR Range*
Grade 6	11
Grade 7	10
SEO and equivalents	9

Former civil service grade	BERR Range
HEO and equivalents	8
	7
EO and equivalents	6
	5
AO and equivalents	4
	3
AA and equivalents	2

Bonus structure

There are two bonus structures; performance awards and special bonuses.

Special bonuses recognise performance in particularly demanding tasks or situations. Staff in receipt of a special bonus may also receive a performance award. They are taxable, non-pensionable lump sum payments, which can be paid at any time of the year.

Performance awards are linked to the annual staff appraisal system. At the end of each appraisal year staff performance is assessed as highly successful, successful or improvement needed. Approximately 25 per cent. of staff receive a highly successful performance assessment and these get a performance award. These are paid as taxable, non-pensionable lump sum payments as part of annual pay awards. The following table shows the value of 2007 performance awards by range:

Range	HS performance award (£)
2	650
3	702
4	754
5	806
6	858
7	962
8	1,040
9	1,196
10	1,612
11	1,950
FastStream	1,040

Senior civil service pay and bonus structure:

The Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB) provides independent advice to the Government on the remuneration of the senior civil service (SCS). The Cabinet Office submits the Government's evidence to the SSRB for the annual pay round. Once a decision is made on whether to accept the SSRB recommendation, the Cabinet Office issues documentation on the SCS performance management and pay framework. Individual Departments then make awards of increases to base pay and of non-consolidated bonuses within the framework.

Retirement provision

The normal retirement age for members of PCSPS is age 60. The Department provides a variety of early retirement schemes, although availability for release under these schemes is limited, and an ill-health retirement scheme.

Expenses provision

The Department reimburses staff who have incurred expenses as part of their work for the Department e.g. travel and subsistence and relocation expenses. The cost of preparing an answer for the total expenses incurred over the past 10 years by band would be disproportionate to the benefit to be derived.

Age split by band

	Percentage group				
Band	25years and under	26-35 years	36-45 years	46-55 years	56+ years
SCS	0	6	34	46	15
Band C	0	18	36	35	11
Band B	6	23	36	24	11
Band A	5	11	34	29	22
Other	21	39	18	9	12

Gender split by band

Band	Female percentage of band
SCS	33
Band C	38
Band B	45
Band A	63
Other	49

Ethnic composition

	Percentage of band SIP	
Band	Black and minority ethnic staff	Unknown/ethnicity
SCS	4	12
Band C	7	35
Band B	18	39
Band A	20	38

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what weight of paper his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [179444]

Mr. Thomas: The Department has recycled the following weights for paper and cardboard (they are not segregated):

	Kilograms
2003-04	342,905
2004-05	434,108
2005-06	349,707
2006-07	281,530
2007-08[1]	253,700

[1] April-December

The historic figures (2003-06) are for DTI. It is not practical to separate out the 2007-08 recycling figures for BERR and DIUS since they are co-located. (DIUS has part occupied Kingsgate house for the past two months and was previously located in 1 Victoria street).

Direct Selling

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what measures are in place to regulate door-to-door tradesmen in order to ensure elderly people are protected from fraudulent cold calling. [179605]

Mr. Thomas: Current doorstep selling regulations provide rights to consumers who enter into agreements to buy goods or services in their homes or place of work when the trader's visit was unsolicited. Those rights provide for a cooling off period of seven days, during which time the contract may be cancelled by the consumer, and a requirement that the trader provides the consumer with a written notice of the right to cancel the contract. We are planning, later this year, to introduce new Doorstep Selling Regulations to extend the cooling off period and cancellation rights to include solicited visits, and to require the trader to include the notice of the right to cancel the contract in the written contract.

Additional consumer protection will be provided by the EC Unfair Commercial Practices Directive (UCPD) which will be implemented by the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 (CPRs). Draft regulations will be laid before Parliament shortly and, if approved in debate, will come into force on 6 April. The CPRs will complement the Doorstep Selling Regulations by addressing high pressure sales and deceptive marketing techniques used by unscrupulous traders engaged in doorstep selling and cold calling.

Ecuador: Debt

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will provide a breakdown of Ecuador's debt to the Export Credits Guarantee Department rescheduled in the Paris Club. [180328]

Malcolm Wicks: As at 31 December 2007 the balance of the debt owed to ECGD and rescheduled under Paris Club arrangements consisted of £16,901,934 principal and £22,049,168 interest.

Electricity: Imports

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of the UK's electricity was supplied from sources outside the UK in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07. [180181]

Malcolm Wicks: Using data from the Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics 2007, imports of electricity accounted for 2 per cent. of the electricity supplied in the United Kingdom in 2004, 2005 and 2006.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of electricity supplied to Kent was from sources outside the UK in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07. [180182]

Malcolm Wicks: It is not possible to identify where the electricity supplied to any particular geographic area was generated before it entered the national transmission system.

Electronic Equipment: Recycling

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government has taken to encourage the recycling of electrical equipment. [179565]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* The waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) directive aims to minimise the impact of electrical and electronic goods on the environment, by increasing re-use and recycling and reducing the amount of WEEE going to landfill. It introduces producer responsibility for WEEE. Producers must finance the collection, treatment and recycling/recovery of waste electrical equipment. Distributors supplying electrical and electronic equipment to household end users must provide facilities for waste equipment to be returned free of charge.

The UK Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations 2006, implementing the WEEE directive, were laid before the House on 12 December 2006 and entered into force on 2 January 2007 with producer responsibility commencing from 1 July 2007.

The WEEE directive also requires member states to establish adequate collection facilities to enable consumers to discard their WEEE from other forms of waste free of charge. In the UK, local authority civic amenity sites have registered their sites as designed collection facilities (DCFs) where consumers can return their WEEE for free. Producers, through their Producer Compliance Schemes, are liable for the costs of collecting, treating and recycling household WEEE from a DCF. Consumers can locate details of their nearest recycling centre from http://recycle-more.co.uk/

The Department will undertake a campaign to raise consumer awareness later this year. Information on the WEEE regulations is also available from the BERR website at http://www.dti.gov.uk/innovation/sustainability/weee/page30269.html

Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what research his Department has undertaken into awareness of the regulations on waste electrical and electronic equipment among *(a)* producers, *(b)* retailers and *(c)* households; and if he will publish the results of that research. [179557]

Malcolm Wicks: No research has been commissioned by the Department to date. The WEEE regulations place a number of obligations on both the producers and retailers of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) to provide information to householders as to how they should dispose of their WEEE to protect the environment.

The enforcement authorities will be undertaking activities to raise awareness within the producer and retail sectors to ensure that those affected by the

WEEE regulations are aware of their requirements. The Department will undertake a campaign to raise householders' awareness later this year.

Energy Bill

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to bullet point two in paragraph 4, page 69, relating to the impact assessment for the Energy Bill, what are the European legislative requirements. [180064]

Malcolm Wicks: As part of the Strategic Siting Assessment Government intends to conduct a Strategic Environmental Assessment under the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.

Energy: Meters

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) whether the Government's forthcoming response to the metering and billing consultation will refer to the creation of a market for smart enabled meters; [180591]

(2) what submissions he has received on the potential inclusion of provision of smart meters in the recently published Energy Bill; and if he will make a statement; [180592]

(3) when the Government will publish its response to the recent consultation on metering and billing in relation to energy supplies. [180598]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government are assessing responses to their recent consultation on metering and billing, and will shortly publish their response, including their approach to the delivery of smart meters. My Department has received a communication about the omission of smart meters from the Energy Bill, to which we will respond in due course.

Energy: Prices

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he last met representatives of Ofgem to discuss energy prices. [180397]

Malcolm Wicks: Ministers have regular meetings with Ofgem to discuss all areas of their remit. The Secretary of State's last meeting was with Sir John Mogg and Alistair Buchanan on 18 December 2007 where they discussed effective operation of the market.

Franco-British Nuclear Forum: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has for funding of the Franco-British Nuclear Forum; and if he will make a statement. [180447]

Malcolm Wicks: We expect that the budget for the Franco-British Nuclear Forum will continue to be met from the Department's existing budget for nuclear liabilities.

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of households in fuel poverty since 2004. [180462]

Malcolm Wicks: Estimates of the number of households in fuel poverty are published annually and can be accessed through the BERR website at:

http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/fuel-poverty/strategy/index.html

The most recent publication, "The UK Fuel Poverty Strategy 5th Annual Progress Report 2007", available at http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file42720.pdf, shows that in 2004 there were approximately 2 million fuel poor households in the UK (1.2 million in England), rising to approximately 2.5 million in the UK in 2005 (1.5 million in England). This report covers up to 2005, the last year for which published statistics are available.

The Energy White Paper, published in May 2007, held projections to 2006. It estimated that an extra 1.2 million households in England were fuel poor in 2006 compared to 2004, this increase being caused by rises in fuel prices.

Fuel Poverty: Rural Areas

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many rural households in England are in fuel poverty; and if he will make a statement. [180761]

Malcolm Wicks: A breakdown based on the rurality of the household, as defined by the National Statistics Definition, is available in the "Fuel Poverty 2005—Detailed Tables" available online at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file42705.pdf

This shows that in 2005 there were approximately 288,000 fuel poor households in a "Village, hamlet or isolated dwelling". This is 14.6 per cent. of the total 1,980,000 houses defined as being members of this category.

Liability: Construction

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking to ensure proportionate liability for consultants and engineers in construction projects. [179694]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* My Department sees no current need for any such steps.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Minister of State will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire dated 20 November 2007, about people whose assets place them on the margins of eligibility for state aid. [180321]

Mr. Timms: The hon. Member's letter was for my colleagues at the Department for Work and Pensions to respond to. I apologise that the transfer of the letter

was delayed over the Christmas period, but it was completed on 15 January. The hon. Member will receive a response in due course.

Minimum Wage

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many persons he estimates are working *(a)* at below the minimum wage, *(b)* at the minimum wage, *(c)* for between £5.53 and £7.00 per hour, *(d)* for between £7.01 and £8.00 per hour, *(e)* for between £8.01 and £9.00 per hour, *(f)* for between £9.01 and £10.00 per hour and *(g)* for between £10.01 and £12.50 per hour; and what percentage each of these groups are of the total work force. [167850]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The information requested is as follows.

(a) It is estimated that there are 292,000 jobs which were paying below the applicable NMW rate in April 2007.

Some people may be paid below the NMW due to non-compliance with the legislation. The Government have announced their intention to introduce new penalties for all employers who underpay the national minimum wage and a fairer system of paying arrears. These measures are included in the Employment Bill announced in the Queen's Speech 2007. However, not all those that are paid less than the NMW reflect non-compliance. There are a number of circumstances where the national minimum wage does not apply and so individuals may legitimately earn less than the appropriate national minimum wage rate for their age. For example, individuals may be on Government training programmes or apprenticeships, where they are exempt for the first year, up to the age of 26. Employees may also not be receiving the national minimum wage in cash terms because employers can legitimately reduce rates to take into account the cost of accommodation provided, for which there is a standard level of deduction.

(b) The estimates of those at the NMW level are not available from the Office of National Statistics, as hourly earnings are calculated from weekly earnings divided by the numbers of hours, it is not possible to be so precise. However, the number of jobs less than the NMW plus 5p are 921,000 (3.6 per cent.).

(c) 3,939 jobs (16.5 per cent.)

(d) 2,279 jobs (9.5 per cent.)

(e) 2,062 jobs (8.6 per cent.)

(f) 1,777 jobs (7.4 per cent.)

(g) 3,342 jobs (14.0 per cent.)

The numbers are from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE). They are indicative as they exclude some employees (such as those whose pay has been affected by loss of earnings or those who are not on adult rates) in order to give a better measure of earnings. Therefore, the proportions are more meaningful than the absolute numbers.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will bring forward proposals to increase the minimum wage for *(a)* adults and *(b)* young workers; and if he will make a statement. [180059]

Mr. McFadden: National minimum wage rates are set by the Government based on the recommendations of the independent Low Pay Commission (LPC). The Low Pay Commission is due to report to Government in February.

New Businesses

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government has taken to encourage individuals and companies to set up businesses in the West Midlands in the last five years. [166165]

Mr. Timms: Over the last five years, the Business Link service in the West Midlands has provided a wide range of support and guidance to companies and individuals who want to set up new businesses. It provides advice on key issues as well as training workshops and mentoring. Since 2002, the Business Link service in the West Midlands has offered a bespoke high growth start-up programme called Mustard. This service includes advice on how to access non-traditional sources of finance including venture capital and business angels. Companies also receive specialist advice from accountancy and finance specialists. Over 500 start-up businesses every year have taken part in this bespoke programme.

The Business Link service in the West Midlands has also supported the Young Enterprise and Prince's Trust initiatives which encourage young people to start their own businesses and has run bespoke programmes to encourage women, ethnic minority and social entrepreneurs to set up businesses.

Since 2003, the Business Link service in the West Midlands has provided support and advice to the following number of individuals and businesses who have been trading for less than 12 months.

	Number of individuals who have been supported at least once with advice or training on how to	
Financial year	*Start up and manage a new business*	*Operate their business during their first 12 months of trading*
2003-04 to 2007-08	94,824	20,791

Manufacturing Advisory Service

The region's important manufacturing sector has benefited from support from the Manufacturing Advisory Service which offers companies access to a range of services as part of the wider larger business support network.

The Manufacturing Advisory Service in the West Midlands (MAS-WM) has been successful in attracting individuals and businesses to the region particularly through its specialist sourcing service which encourages inter-trading between local suppliers.

Advantage West Midlands

Advantage West Midlands (AWM), the regional development agency, also has in place a further range of initiatives to increase the creation, growth and survival of economically sustainable new businesses. AWM also administers the selective finance for investment (SFI) grant for manufacturing and service projects. Under SFI, between April 2004 and March 2007, 234 offers of grant made by AWM were accepted. These grant offers are expected to create 2,782 jobs and safeguard 3,325 jobs. In total, £35.1 million of grant funding has been provided.

Through one of the key delivery mechanisms for delivering the West Midlands Economic Strategy—the High Technology Corridors-AWM has supported the creation of 148 new business, and assisted a further 1,786 businesses.

Inward Investment

The West Midland's region has a good track record of attracting inward investment. The West Midlands is home to around 2,300 foreign owned firms from over 40 countries which employ around 250,000 people.

AWM manages inward investment activity for the region, working with a range of regional, national and international partners. Support for potential inward investors includes land and property searches, help with staff recruitment training and assistance with developing partnerships, particularly with universities.

News Corporation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what communication has occurred between *(a)* the Secretary of State and *(b)* other members of his Department and BSkyB, News International or any News Corporation controlled company following BSkyB's acquisition of a 17.9 per cent. stake in ITV; and what form this communication has taken in each case; [180998]

(2) whether his Department has been contacted by BSkyB, News International or any other News Corporation controlled company during the past four weeks in relation to the Competition Commission's final report into the BSkyB acquisition of a 17.9 per cent. stake in ITV published on 20 December 2007; [180999]

(3) whether his Department has been contacted by BSkyB, News International or any other News Corporation controlled company during the past four weeks in relation to the Competition Commission's final report sent to him on 14 December 2007. [181000]

Mr. Thomas: Since receipt and publication of the Competition Commission's final report of its inquiry into British Sky Broadcasting Group plc's (BSkyB) acquisition of a 17.9 per cent. shareholding in ITV plc, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has received written representations from BSkyB as well as from Virgin Media, ITV plc, Rapture Television, the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom and by Mr. David Hammond. In addition, BERR officials have met with representatives of BSkyB to receive further oral representations.

Nuclear Power

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to paragraph 3.77 of the White Paper on Nuclear Power, CM 7296, what steps may be taken by Ministers to ensure a level playing field between nuclear power and other forms of electricity generation. [180088]

Malcolm Wicks: As set out in the White Paper, it is not intended that incentives will be provided through the fiscal regime to invest in nuclear power generation in preference to other types of generation. Should it be determined that the timing of nuclear decommissioning creates a tax disadvantage for nuclear operators, the Government will consider whether it might be appropriate to take action to ensure a level fiscal playing field between nuclear power and other forms of electricity generation. There are no proposals for measures at this stage.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects to post on his departmental website the written submissions received by the consultation on nuclear energy policy held in 2007; and if he will list those individuals and organisations that made submissions, but requested their content not to be published by the Department. [180450]

Malcolm Wicks: I placed the written responses on our consultation website at www.direct.gov.uk/nuclearpower2007 on 10 January 2008, the day that we published our White Paper on nuclear power. Where respondents requested confidentiality, we have not published their names or their submissions.

Nuclear Power Stations: Construction

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to paragraph 3.4 of the White Paper on Nuclear Power, Cm 7296, whether an inquiry looking into an application for a new nuclear power plant will be permitted to examine any potential local effects of such a plant being built and operated. [180090]

Malcolm Wicks: The Planning Bill proposes that the Government should set out the case for nationally significant infrastructure projects in National Policy Statements. There would be public consultation before the National Policy Statement was finalised. This would allow relevant local and regional factors to be considered where the statement identified specific locations. National Policy Statements would be subject to scrutiny by Parliament.

This approach would enable the inquiry phase of any application to focus on and examine potential local effects, rather than re-examining national issues that have already been debated.

Developers would be required to consult local communities before they submit a planning application, allowing the community greater opportunity to influence the outcome. The inquiry stage will be easier and quicker for members of the public to engage with and anyone who registers an interest will have a right to be heard subject to the normal qualifications ruling out irrelevant, repetitious evidence. There will also be extra funding to help hard to reach groups have their say.

Nuclear Power Stations: Costs

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the average cost of producing one kilowatt of energy from a nuclear power station. [179424]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department carried out an extensive cost-benefit analysis of the costs of nuclear generation for the Energy Review in 2006 and the Energy White Paper in 2007. This compared the costs of nuclear against those of other low carbon generation options as well as against the cost of generation from gas.

The cost-benefit analysis included a number of sensitivities for the costs of nuclear generation, including variations in the construction cost, discount rate and waste management and decommissioning costs.

The analysis is available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file39525.pdf

Nuclear Power Stations: Radiation Exposure

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether it is intended that the Independent Radioactive Waste Management and Decommissioning Fund, as described at paragraphs 3.46 to 3.76 of the White Paper on Nuclear Power, Cm 7296, should be available to pay for such functions including those necessary in the event of unplanned release of radioactivity in the case of an accident involving a breach of containment at a nuclear power station. [180062]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government have determined that independent funds, outside of the control of nuclear operators, should be created to accumulate and manage payments from operators to meet the full costs of decommissioning and full share of waste management costs. These funds will only be accessible to pay for decommissioning and waste management.

The arrangements being put in place through the Energy Bill 2008 are not designed to respond to the event of unplanned release of radioactivity in the case of an accident involving a breach of containment at a nuclear power station. However, should decommissioning result from such an event, the fund could be made accessible to contribute to the associated costs. Should the cost estimates of decommissioning liabilities increase as a result of such an event, operators would be required to make provisions to cover the increase in costs.

Under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965, nuclear operators have strict and exclusive liability for nuclear incidents causing personal injury or damage to property. This liability is capped and in the UK is currently £140 million. The operator must demonstrate that they have the financial security (through insurance or other means) to cover this amount.

Nuclear Power: Inspections

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to paragraph 2.93 of the White Paper on Nuclear Power, Cm7296, by what *(a)* percentage and *(b)* amounts the Government have authorised the Health and Safety Executive to increase salary levels of the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate's nuclear inspectors; how these changes in remuneration were arrived at; and whether there has been any effect on recruitment as a result of the new payment package. [180451]

Malcolm Wicks: Details of the pay settlement for nuclear inspectors in the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) are a matter for the Health and Safety Executive. We are hopeful that this settlement will enable the NII to recruit and retain the right calibre of staff they need to carry out their work. However, it is too early to assess the effect the settlement has had on recruitment.

We will continue to work closely with the regulators to ensure they have sufficient resource to carry out their work, including generic design assessments of new nuclear reactors within the three to three and a half year time frame.

Nuclear Power: International Cooperation

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions his Department has had with the United States administration on Global Nuclear Energy Partnership proposals. [180030]

Malcolm Wicks: There have been no recent discussions between my Department and the US Administration on Global Nuclear Energy Partnership proposals.

Political Impartiality

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for what purpose his Department records the political opinions of *(a)* staff and *(b)* the public. [179321]

Mr. Thomas: The Department does not record the political opinions of its staff.

On public appointments to non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) information is sought at application stage of political activity, in line with the Commissioner for Public Appointments Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies, and is declared in the press notices which announce appointments to these bodies. Appointees are asked to update this information on a regular basis.

Post Offices: Pensions

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government are taking to protect the pensions of those post office workers affected by national post office reorganisation. [177816]

Mr. McFadden: Subpostmasters are agents or franchises and not employees of POL. Therefore neither they nor the staff they employ are members of the Royal Mail pension scheme.

POL staff in Crown Offices are members of the Royal Mail pension scheme. Royal Mail has proposed changes to the scheme to help it tackle the current pension fund deficit and to bring pensions costs down to a more affordable and sustainable level. UNITE and the CWU have both accepted the proposals for pension reform for existing members.

The Government agreed a finance framework in March 2007 which provides Royal Mail with the ability

to manage its pension deficit by allowing the transfer of £850 million of reserves into an escrow account to support the pension fund. This is supplemented by £150 million from Royal Mail's resources.

Post Offices: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether an alternative site for the main post office in Cowgate, Peterborough has been identified for after the expiry of its lease in December 2008; and if he will make a statement. [179271]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 17 January 2008]*: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Power Failures: Kent

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many severe electrical blackouts were recorded in *(a)* Gravesham constituency and *(b)* Kent in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [180184]

Malcolm Wicks: Major electricity interruptions are reported to the Secretary of State in accordance with regulation 32 of the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002.

Since 2002:

(a) one major incident affecting the Gravesham constituency was reported in 2007; and

(b) four major incidents were reported that affected parts of Kent—two in 2003 and two in 2007.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many power cuts attributable to the performance of networks operated by distributors covering the Kent area were reported in each year since 2002; and in each case what was the *(a)* date, *(b)* location and *(c)* number of users affected. [180185]

Malcolm Wicks: Power cuts are a daily occurrence due to faults on every distribution network. Individual reports for each interruption are not submitted to Government. Instead, electricity distribution companies report summary information to Ofgem on an annual basis. These reports include numbers of customer interruptions (CI) and durations of interruptions (customer minutes lost CML). The performance figures for EdF South East (which includes Kent) are:

	CI	*CML*
2002-03	90.42	81.25
2003-04	97.77	90.04
2004-05	82.57	84.02
2005-06	77.80	72.50
2006-07	85.90	88.70

Public Sector Index (Non-Housebuilding) (PubSec) Index

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library a copy of the latest version of the Public Sector Index (Non-Housebuilding) (PubSec) Index. [180297]

Mr. Timms: The Public Sector (Non-Housebuilding) Index was published in the bulletin "Quarterly Building Price and Cost Indices", and I have arranged for a copy of the Index from the December 2007 issue to be placed in the Library.

From January this year, it will be published on the World Wide Web, on BERR's behalf, by the Building Cost Information Service. Their website is at http://www.bcis.co.uk/. The publication has always been available on subscription, and in future the subscription will give access to the information in electronic form. Requests for subscriptions to periodicals should be addressed to the Librarian.

Radioactive Wastes: Waste Management

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of disposing of historic nuclear waste. [180448]

Malcolm Wicks: In 2003 Nirex produced figures for the estimated total cost of UK nuclear waste disposal in a geological facility which ranged between £7.5 billion and £10.4 billion (undiscounted) depending on facility design and whether or not high and intermediate level wastes were ultimately located in the same facility or in two separate facilities.

In October 2006, when Government responded to the recommendations of the independent Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM), the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) was given responsibility for taking forward development and implementation of a geological disposal facility for higher activity wastes. The NDA is working to produce a new model which will estimate the cost of implementing a deep geological disposal facility for a variety of scenarios i.e. geology type, geographical position and types and amounts of wastes. We anticipate the model to be complete during 2008.

Recycling: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value of the recycle payment for each renewables obligation certificate held was on each occasion on which recycle payments have been made. [180446]

Malcolm Wicks: The Renewables Obligation (RO) was introduced in 2002. Recycle payments for each Renewables Obligation Certificate (ROC) presented to Ofgem by electricity suppliers in order to comply with their renewables obligation have been made as follows:

	RO England and Wales	RO Scotland	Per ROC Northern Ireland RO[1]
2002-03	15.94	23.55	
2003-04	22.92	23.70	
2004-05	13.66	19.99	
2005-06	10.21	10.21	10.21
2006-07	16.04	16.04	16.04

[1] The Northern Ireland RO was not introduced until 2005-06.

Regional Development Agencies: Finance

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what requirements his Department has placed on regional development agencies in spending monies allocated via the single pot from his Department. [179227]

Mr. Timms: Government Departments and the RDAs agreed a Tasking Framework which came into effect from April 2005. This required each RDA to show in its corporate plans for 2005-08 how, in support of its statutory role and responsibilities, it would contribute to the delivery of the Government's Public Service Agreement (PSA) Targets on Regional Economic Performance, Sustainable Development and Productivity/Rural Productivity and, through these, how it would contribute to delivery of a range of other PSAs and output targets.

In line with the conclusions of the Review of Sub-national Economic Development and Regeneration, BERR is working with the RDAs and other Government Departments to set overarching regional economic growth objectives for the RDAs which will apply from April 2008 (and will replace the 2005 Tasking Framework). The regional growth objectives will be aimed at increasing regional GVA per head, consistent with the Government Regional Economic Performance PSA. From April 2008, RDAs will also be required to demonstrate regard to two underlying cross-cutting principles—sustainable development and economic opportunities for all—as they seek to achieve the regional growth objective.

The RDAs are currently developing new corporate plans, for the period 2008-11, in which they will set out corporate objectives showing how their activities will be aligned with their overarching regional growth objective and how they will apply the cross-cutting principles of sustainable development and economic opportunities for all. BERR and other Government Departments will review the new corporate plans and in my capacity as the Minister for the Regions, on behalf of Government, I will approve the new corporate plans for the eight RDAs outside London.

All RDA activity must be in line with the statutory purposes and powers set out for them in the Regional Development Agencies Act 1998. In addition, the RDA financial duties are set out in the Management Statement and Financial Memorandum.

Regulation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for which regulators and inspectorates his Department has had responsibility in each year since 1997; what the budget was of each such body in each year; and what the cost to the public purse was of any restructuring of each such body in each year. [175310]

Mr. Thomas: The Department (and the former DTI) has sponsored the following inspectorates/regulators since 1997:

Inspectorates

Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate

Engineering Inspectorate

Regulators

Executive Agencies

Companies House

Insolvency Service

Executive NDPBs

Coal Authority

Competition Commission

Hearing Aid Council

The following bodies are financially independent but BERR/former DTI has had policy responsibility for the areas they cover:

Non Ministerial Departments

Office of Fair Trading

Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem)

Postal Service Commission (Postcomm)

Public Corporation

Office of Communications (Ofcom). Ofcom absorbed the Radio Communication Agency at the end December 2003 which was a former regulatory agency of the DTI.

Other Bodies

Financial Reporting Council

Until June 2007, the Department also had responsibility for the following bodies, which were transferred to DIUS:

Executive Agencies

National Weights and Measures Laboratory Agency

UK Intellectual Property Office

Executive NDPBs

British Hallmarking Council (ENDPB)

The budgets and restructuring costs of these bodies are not held in a composite form and could be collated only at disproportionate cost. However, with the exception of the Engineering Inspectorate and Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate, budgets can be obtained from their past and present annual reports or the Central Government Supply Estimates in each of the relevant years.

Renewable Energy

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the percentage of UK electricity which will be supplied from renewable sources in each year until 2015. [180282]

Malcolm Wicks: Based on the Energy White Paper projections, the percentage of electricity supplied by renewables was assessed at between 8 and 10 per cent. in 2010, between 12 and 16 per cent. in 2015 and

between 12 and 19 per cent. in 2020[1]. Assessments for other years are not available.

Following the consultation on our proposed reforms of the renewables obligation (RO) we have revised our modelling of the likely deployment attributable to the RO. Our revised proposals were published on 10 January, and these new estimates have not yet been included in our formal energy projections.

[1] The figures represent the share of renewables, including waste streams, in electricity supply. The coverage of the industry is defined at footnote 21 of the document: http://www.berr.gov.uk//files/file39580.pdf

Renewable Energy: Contracts

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he was *(a)* consulted on and *(b)* asked to approve the tendering process conditions imposed by the Welsh Assembly Government on renewable energy company investors in schemes that will exceed 50 megawatts; and if he will make a statement. [179933]

Malcolm Wicks: *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* The tendering process for the Welsh National Forest Estate Wind Farm programme was a matter purely for the devolved administration and my Department had no role in it.

Renewable Energy: Planning

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of the renewable energy projects built in the last 15 years would *(a)* have been large enough to qualify for decision making by the Infrastructure Planning Commission proposed in the Planning Bill and *(b)* would have been dealt with by local authorities. [179040]

Malcolm Wicks: The Planning Bill provides that renewable energy projects generating electricity over 50 megawatts onshore and those generating over 100 megawatts offshore in England and Wales will in future be dealt with by the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC). Approximately 3 per cent. (58.5 MW) of the 1,890 MW of constructed renewable generating capacity in England and Wales would have been consented via the IPC had it been in existence (Source: 2010 Planning Database). Another 390 MW of offshore wind generation has been constructed comprising of projects generating between 50 MW and 100 MW. The remainder of the constructed wind farms would have been decided by local authorities.

In addition, BERR has consented to more than 3,500 MW (around 3,000 MW offshore and 550 MW onshore) of renewable energy projects which have not yet been built but are above the threshold to be dealt with by the IPC in future.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what effect he expects the Planning Bill, if enacted, to have on the process for building new renewable generators. [179050]

Malcolm Wicks: The reforms will have no impact on the processes for building new energy infrastructure but are intended to improve the efficiency and transparency of the planning system and the speed with which applications are considered.

Renewable Energy: Standards

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received from the renewables industry on the Government's commitment to a EU 20 per cent. renewables target since that contract was made. [179043]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has had representations from various industry and other stakeholders since the Government's commitment to the EU 20 per cent. target. The Department is planning further engagement with stakeholders this year to inform the development of the UK Renewable Energy Strategy which will set out how the UK intends to meet its share of the EU target.

Solar Power

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assumptions were made about the cost of solar electricity generation in the UK MARKAL-macro model. [179335]

Malcolm Wicks: The full results of the MARKAL-macro modelling for the Energy White Paper and are available at: http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file38979.pdf. The assumptions used for solar photovoltaic power in the MARKAL-macro modelling were provided by AEA Technology and are shown in the following table. The capacity value factors vary according to the season so figures for summer and winter days have been provided. The figures in the final column show the estimated final production cost after taking account of capital cost, capacity factor, operation and maintenance costs and equipment lifetime. The capital costs are assumed to decline over time as a result of technological learning.

Technology description	*First year available*	*Capacity factor (percentage)*	*Cap cost (£/kW)*	*O and M (fix) (£/kW)*	*Life (years)*	*Costs (p/kWh)*
Solar PV (summer day)	2000	19.5	5,750	58	20	42.9
Solar PV (summer day)	2050	19.5	1,386	14	20	10.3
Solar PV (winter day)	2000	7.0	5,750	58	20	119.5

Technology description	First year available	Capacity factor (percentage)	Cap cost (£/kW)	O and M (fix) £/kW	Life (years)	Costs (p/kWh)
Solar PV (winter day)	2050	7.0	1,386	14	20	28.8

Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what meetings he has had with trade unions officials since 1 July 2007; on what dates; and with which trade unions. [179871]

Mr. Thomas: Ministers meet many people as part of the process of policy development. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

Trading Schemes (Exclusion) Regulations 1997

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the draft regulations referred to in the memorandum and letter dated 15 July 1997 to Mr. Bigmore concerning the Trading Schemes (Exclusion) Regulations 1997 entered into force. [179827]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 17 January 2008]*: These regulations came into force on 21 August 1997.

Utilities: Disadvantaged

Martin Salter: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with energy companies on support for vulnerable consumers. [180129]

Malcolm Wicks: Since the publication of the Energy White Paper, I have met the chief executives of all the energy supply companies with a view to improving support to those at risk of fuel poverty. The level of support has increased from £40 million to £56 million for this winter.

I will meet with all the chief executives again shortly to discuss the best way to ensure continued support for their most vulnerable consumers.

Utilities: Low Incomes

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government plan to take to assist people on low incomes to meet the cost of electricity and gas, with particular reference to recent price increases. [179689]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government have a package of measures in place to support vulnerable households to keep their homes warm. We have announced that spend on energy efficiency measures for those on low incomes for the period 2008-11 will be in excess of £2.3 billion. This is in addition to the winter fuel payments, payable to all pensioners, which will continue for the lifetime of this Parliament.

In addition, energy companies have recently increased the level of support they provide to vulnerable customers as a result of Government pressure. The level of support available this winter is now close to £60 million.

Utilities: Meters

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what the regulatory framework will be for the introduction of smart meters for electricity and gas; and if he will make a statement; [179722]

(2) what plans he has to implement the aim in the 2007 Energy White Paper that every home should have a smart meter for electricity and gas; and if he will make a statement. [179723]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government are assessing responses to their recent consultation on metering and billing, and will shortly set out their next steps, including their approach to the delivery of smart meters.

Utilities: Standards

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he has taken to ensure that consumers have access to information on the performance of energy suppliers in handling complaints; and if he will make a statement. [180190]

Malcolm Wicks: The statutory consumer body, Energywatch, currently provides consumers with a range of information about the performance of gas and electricity suppliers, although this focuses on areas of operation, rather than internal complaint-handling. Following the passage of the Consumers, Estate Agents and Redress Act 2007, Ofgem will set minimum standards for complaint-handling for suppliers, which will take effect from October 2008. The arrangements surrounding these standards are currently being developed.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of wind power generation applications which are not being implemented as a result of network capacity constraints which prohibit their connection. [179044]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 14 January 2008]*: National Grid is responsible for managing connection agreements for larger generation projects. Figures from National Grid indicate that developers of approximately 500MW of wind generation projects with planning permission have requested earlier connection dates than set out in their current connection agreements. Available network capacity is a key consideration in whether National Grid can agree to these requests.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the estimated *(a)* cost and *(b)* capacity is of those wind power projects that have been given planning permission which are waiting for connection permits. [179046]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 14 January 2008]:* There are approximately 4.3GW of onshore and offshore wind power projects with planning permission under development. All these projects have signed connection agreements with National Grid. The Government are working with Ofgem and National Grid to seek to ensure that these projects are offered a connection date in line with the developer's preferred programme wherever possible.

The cost of developing these projects are met by the private sector within the regulatory framework set by Government.

JUSTICE

Bail

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral answer to the hon. Member for South West Bedfordshire on 16 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 925 on bail, what steps he plans to take to review the issue raised and decide whether any changes in the law are necessary. [180868]

Mr. Straw: In determining applications for bail, the courts have to make difficult decisions within the statutory framework laid down by Parliament in the Bail Act 1976 as amended by the 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act. The law and procedure governing bail is kept under constant review. We are currently considering whether any wider implications flow from relevant and high-profile cases.

British Nationality: Armed Forces

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many applications have been made for UK citizenship on behalf of children of members of UK armed forces who do not have UK citizenship over the last 10 years, broken down by country of origin; [179775]

(2) how many children of members of the armed forces who are citizens of other Commonwealth countries have been born in the UK and granted UK citizenship. [179776]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

Children: Protection

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what data protection obligations there are on *(a)* police authorities, *(b)* NHS trusts and *(c)* social services departments to (i) amend and (ii) delete data collected through child protection investigations undertaken on the basis of incorrect clinical diagnosis. [179555]

Mr. Wills: The obligations on data controllers processing personal data are set out in the Data Protection Act. It contains eight principles which govern the processing of personal data. They apply to all processing of data by all data controllers, including police authorities, NHS trusts and social services.

The fourth principle requires that personal data should be accurate and, where necessary, up to date. Correcting inaccuracies in data held could be achieved by deleting or amending, depending on the circumstances.

The Data Protection Act is administered and enforced by the Information Commissioner, Richard Thomas, independently of the Government. His office is able to provide advice on specific cases and situations relating to data protection.

ClearSprings Management: Offenders

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the criteria are for selecting offenders to be accommodated in bail and home detention facilities managed by Clear Springs; [179904]

(2) how many offences have been committed by offenders housed in bail and home detention accommodation managed by Clearsprings, broken down by *(a)* number of offences, *(b)* category of offence and *(c)* location of the accommodation; [179905]

(3) what categories of offences were committed by offenders prior to their transfer to bail and home detention accommodation managed by Clearsprings; [179906]

(4) how many offenders housed in bail and home detention accommodation managed by Clearsprings have been returned to custody since the inception of the scheme; and for what reason in each case; [179907]

(5) what procedures are in place for notifying local residents that bail and home detention accommodation managed by Clearsprings is opening in their area; [179908]

(6) what procedures are in place for consulting local authorities on proposals to open bail and home detention accommodation managed by Clearsprings in their area. [179909]

Mr. Straw: The Bail Accommodation and Support Service provided by ClearSprings is for defendants on bail and offenders on Home Detention Curfew. The following are excluded from the scheme: (i) those convicted of or charged with sex offences, (ii) those convicted of arson in the last 10 years or charged with arson, (iii) those who are considered to pose a significant risk to the public or to ClearSprings staff or to others in a shared house and (iv) those sentenced prisoners who are excluded from HDC. The main exclusions from HDC are:

sex offenders subject to the notification requirements of the Sex Offenders Act 1997/Sexual Offences Act 2003;

violent and sex offenders currently serving an extended sentence;

prisoners currently serving a sentence for failing to return after a Release on Temporary Licence;

prisoners currently serving a sentence for failing to comply with a curfew order;

most prisoners who have been recalled to prison for failing to comply with the HDC curfew conditions.

fine defaulters and contemnors; and

foreign national prisoners who are liable to removal.

In addition, prisoners with any history of sexual offending (who are not required to register as a sex offender) or serving sentences for the following categories of offences are considered unsuitable for release on HDC and can apply for HDC only if there are exceptional circumstances:

homicide, including attempted murder, threats to kill, conspiring, aiding or inciting murder and death by reckless/dangerous driving;

causing explosions, placing explosives, possessing explosives;

possession of offensive weapons;

possession of firearms with intent;

cruelty to children; and

racially aggravated offences.

Defendants and offenders who are not excluded, who otherwise have no suitable address and who apply for bail or home detention curfew will be considered for the scheme. But a defendant will be released into the service only if granted bail by the court. The court can refuse bail if it considers that there is a risk that the defendant will abscond, offend or interfere with witnesses or otherwise obstruct the course of justice. An offender will be released into the service on Home Detention Curfew only on the decision of a prison governor following consultation with probation and a thorough assessment of risk and of the suitability of the proposed location.

Information on how many offences have been committed by defendants and offenders while accommodated by ClearSprings cannot be obtained except at disproportionate cost.

Information on the categories of offences committed by offenders prior to their transfer to bail and Home Detention Curfew cannot be obtained except at disproportionate cost. However the service is available only to those who are granted bail or who are released on Home Detention Curfew, and to those who have not committed offences or been charged with offences that would exclude them, as mentioned.

I will provide information on how many defendants or offenders released into ClearSprings service who have been returned to custody as soon as possible.

ClearSprings staff personally call on the immediate neighbours of a BASS property to provide information on the BASS scheme and a 24/7 contact telephone number. Where it is not possible to make face-to-face contact an introductory letter is left providing ClearSprings' contact details.

ClearSprings consult with local authorities, and with police and probation, when acquiring properties so that local knowledge can inform the selection of addresses and avoid inappropriate locations. The scheme endeavours to return people to their own communities unless there is reason not to.

Commission for Racial Equality

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Commission for Racial Equality was asked to conduct a race impact assessment on the introduction of the indeterminate sentence for public protection. [180285]

Mr. Hanson: The Commission for Racial Equality worked with the Home Office to identify a list of provisions in the Criminal Justice Act 2003, prior to its introduction, for impact assessment—this list did not include the provision relating to the sentence of imprisonment for public protection.

Community Orders: Expenditure

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much was spent by his Department on programmes directed at offenders given community sentences in each of the last five years; [179661]

(2) how much was spent by his Department on programmes directed at offenders with community sentences in each of the last five years. [179897]

Maria Eagle: Probation boards meet the cost of delivering accredited programmes through their grant as they see fit to meet their statutory duties. Accredited programmes can be delivered to offenders on both community sentences and on licence in the community following a custodial sentence. Data are only available on the budgeted cost of delivering programmes to offenders under probation supervision and are not differentiated by sentence type. Probation boards' budgeted spend on Accredited programmes is as follows:

	£ million
2005-06	77
2006-07	85
2007-08	86.5

There is no information relating to expenditure for years leading up to 2005.

Community Orders: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on administering each type of community sentence in each of the last five years; and what the cost per offender was in each category. [179896]

Maria Eagle: Probation Boards meet the cost of delivering community sentences through their grant as they see fit to meet their statutory duties. The Criminal Justice Act 2003 established the new community order as a single community sentence with a number of elements in respect of offences committed after 4 April 2005. This replaced the separate community sentences which existed previously. 2005-06 was a transitional year with pre-CJA 2003 and post CJA 2003 sentences. From 2005 to present, cost exercises have been carried out by Probation Boards annually and have produced the planned cost of a range of activities. These together represent the best available data on the planned cost of

administering and delivering the Community Order and include Probation Board overhead costs. The planned costs are as follows:

2005-06—£418 million—cost per offender commencement £2,400

2006-07—£519 million—cost per offender under supervision £1,831

2007-08—£496 million—cost per offender under supervision £1,677

The costing methodology changed between the 2005-06 and subsequent exercises which means that they are not directly comparable. The 2005-06 exercise provides a cost per offender commencement; subsequent exercises provide a cost per offender under supervision.

There is no information relating to expenditure for years leading up to 2005.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether personal data for which his Department is responsible are *(a)* stored and *(b)* processed overseas; and if he will make a statement. [176016]

Mr. Wills: The Department does not have any personal data for which it is responsible stored or processed overseas.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what obligations his Department and its agencies place on contractors in relation to the audit of personal data and IT equipment. [176467]

Mr. Wills: The Department's information technology is provided mainly through contracts with external suppliers. The contracts place obligations on contractors to provide IT and data management systems that meet government security standards, including the standard for Information systems risk management known as HMG Infosec Standard 2, and the Ministry of Justice's own security policies and standards.

The contracts place obligations on contractors to comply fully with all legislative requirements, including the relevant provisions of the Data Protection Act.

There is also provision for the Department to undertake audits to ensure compliance with all provisions of the contracts. For example, all new systems, and any that involve a significant upgrade or change, are subject to rigorous audit before acceptance into live service.

The Department also has appropriate measures in place to protect the confidentiality and integrity of its data and systems. For example, contracted staff employed by Her Majesty's Prison Service (HMPS) and the National Probation Service, are security cleared to an appropriate level commensurate with the level of access they have to data.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what audits his Department and its agencies have carried out in relation to personal data and IT equipment in each of the last 10 years. [176473]

Mr. Wills: Our IT suppliers are contractually obliged to maintain the Department's IT systems in accordance with government security standards, and the relevant provisions of the Data Protection Act. Assurance that these security standards are being met is obtained through compliance with the HMG standard for information systems risk management, known as HMG Infosec Standard 2.

The Ministry of Justice and its agencies undertake a formal programme of audits each year as well as carrying out other internal reviews as required. The scope of these audits is dependent on the reason for the audit taking place, or the specific terms of reference for the review. Past audit programmes undertaken by the former Department for Constitutional Affairs have contained a number of audits that have included coverage of systems and procedures incorporating aspects of personal data, including their storage and processing. Audit reports have been issued and action taken where necessary.

Her Majesty's Prison Service (HMPS) is subject to continuous audit, under the oversight of the NAO. The results are considered by the HMPS's audit committee.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many posters or displays there are in the offices of his Department and its agencies displaying the names and photographs of Ministers; and what the cost has been of producing such posters or displays since its establishment. [179914]

Maria Eagle: Since the Ministry of Justice was established on 9 May 2007, no posters or displays showing the names or photographs of Ministers have been displayed in the offices of the Ministry or of its agencies.

English Language

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on English language classes for staff in the last year for which figures are available. [177488]

Maria Eagle: There is no centrally held information on English language classes for staff. Written and oral communication skills are tested as part of the recruitment process. Line Managers work with individuals to identify any learning and development needs. Staff who need to expand their English language skills are able to access support via the Department's Further Education Programme.

Forced Marriage

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to ensure that people vulnerable to forced marriages are made aware of the provisions of the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007. [179606]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice is working closely with other Departments to decide the best ways in which to publicise the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 to victims and potential victims of forced

marriage when it comes into force in autumn 2008. We will build on the ongoing outreach programme of the joint Home Office/Foreign and Commonwealth Office Forced Marriage Unit. The Forced Marriage Unit in collaboration with Karma Nirvana (an NGO based in Derby) are piloting a survivor's helpline this year, and helpline staff will receive guidance in the provisions of the Act. We are considering how best to engage public authorities and voluntary sector organisations before the Act is implemented, to raise their awareness and ensure they meet their statutory obligations and provide co-ordinated support for victims.

Harriet Harman

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what date the Permanent Secretary of the former Department for Constitutional Affairs received notice of each donation made to the then Minister of State in relation to her campaign for the deputy leadership of the Labour Party; and if he will make a statement. [180108]

Mr. Straw: In accordance with the requirements of the ministerial code, a list of Ministers' relevant interests declared to their permanent secretary will be published in due course.

HM Prison Service

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make a statement on the recruitment procedures in place for the appointment of the Director General of HM Prison Service. [180053]

Maria Eagle: As the Director General, HMPS has not indicated an intention to retire, there are no plans in place for recruitment of a successor.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Director General of HM Prison Service has given notice of his intention to retire; and if he will make a statement. [180065]

Maria Eagle: It is not appropriate to comment on individuals and their future plans.

Retirement provisions are common across the senior civil service. In accordance with the provisions of the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006, from 1 October 2006, retirement age for senior civil servants was raised to 65.

Homicide: Bail

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department provides the judiciary on the granting of bail to people accused of murder; and if he will make a statement. [179695]

Mr. Straw: Whether to grant bail, or not, is and must remain a decision for the courts to make within the statutory framework provided by Parliament in the Bail Act 1976 as amended, taking account of relevant case-law. It is the responsibility of the Government to keep the statutory framework under careful review, bringing proposals for change to Parliament as necessary.

The 1976 Act as amended provides for a general presumption that bail will be granted in all cases, including murder, except in specific circumstances which have to be supported by evidence. The court can impose conditions to prevent absconding, committing further crime while on bail, interfering with witnesses or for the purpose of medical or other reports: s3(6A) deals with the need for such a report when bail is granted in murder cases. In addition, it may require a defendant to provide security. The exception to this, under section 25 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, is that bail can only be granted in exceptional circumstances in cases of homicide (or rape) where there has been a previous conviction for such an offence.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many suspects were *(a)* remanded in custody, *(b)* bailed on tag and *(c)* bailed without tagging for a charge of (i) murder, (ii) rape, (iii) manslaughter and (iv) grievous bodily harm in the last year for which information is available. [179921]

Mr. Straw: Data published by my Department show that 13,900 persons were remanded in custody in 2006 for offences in the 'Violence against the Person' group, which includes the offences of murder, manslaughter and grievous bodily harm, as well as a wide range of other offences. 2,300 persons were remanded in custody for sexual offences, which include rape. These figures exclude persons held in police cells. These data are taken from the annual publication "Offender Management Caseload Statistics, 2006", table 7.2. No further breakdown is available by offence type within the groups.

64,800 persons were bailed by the courts for offences in the 'Violence against the Person' group in 2006. 10,100 persons were bailed for sexual offences. These figures include those also held in custody for some but not the whole period of the proceedings. These data are taken from the annual publication "Criminal Statistics 2006, England and Wales", table 4.9. No further breakdown is available.

The total number of times the courts imposed 'bail on tag' in 2006-07 was 18,321. A breakdown of data by offence type for bail involving electronic tagging is not available.

Honours

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether there is an upper limit on the number of honours awarded in *(a)* the new year honours list and *(b)* the birthday honours List to (i) citizens resident in the UK and (ii) citizens resident in the British Crown dependencies. [179804]

Mr. Wills: No more than 1,000 names may appear in the Prime Minister's recommendations for the new year honours list or the Queen's birthday honours list. There are no separate limits for citizens resident in the UK and citizens resident in the British Crown dependencies.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements are in place to administer nominations for honours for citizens of *(a)* the British overseas territories and *(b)* the UK. [179805]

Mr. Wills: Nominations for citizens of the overseas territories are administered by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Successful nominations appear on the diplomatic service and overseas list.

The process is the same for citizens of the British overseas territories as for citizens of the UK. Nominations are channelled through the relevant Department of State and submitted to the Cabinet Office ceremonial secretariat for consideration by the specialist honours sub-committees. The sub-committees make recommendations to the main Honours Committee which advises the Cabinet Secretary. The Cabinet Secretary puts the recommendations to the Prime Minister for onward transmission to the Queen. The Prime Minister has stated that he will not seek to amend the recommendations in any way.

Honours: Channel Islands

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many honours have been awarded to individuals from the Channel Islands since 1997. [179802]

Mr. Wills: Until June 1999 figures for the Channel Islands were amalgamated with those for the Isle of Man. Between January 1997 and January 1999 47 individuals from the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man inclusive were recognised in the Prime Minister's honours recommendations. Between June 1999 and December 2007 92 individuals from the Channels Islands were recognised in the Prime Minister's honours recommendations.

Honours: Crown Dependencies

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the process is whereby honours are awarded to citizens from British Crown dependencies. [179801]

Mr. Wills: In common with citizens in the UK there are two routes by which citizens from the British Crown dependencies enter the honours system:

Nomination by an individual or a public/private sector organisation familiar with the work of the candidate.

Submission by the Lieutenant Governors of the Crown dependencies, via the Ministry of Justice, who have identified candidates doing good work within their island communities or in a wider international field. (Candidates may be identified as a result of nominations sent to the Lieutenant Governors from public or private sources).

Honours: Public Service

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether individuals filling certain public roles are awarded honours as a matter of custom. [179806]

Mr. Wills: With the exception of High Court judicial appointments, honours are not automatically attached to particular posts in either the public or the private sector.

Land Registry Direct

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which Government *(a)* departments and *(b)* agencies have business user accounts with Land Registry Direct. [180373]

Mr. Wills: The following Government Departments and agencies have business user accounts with Land Registry Direct.

Assets Recovery Agency
Charity Commission
Child Support Agency
Crown Prosecution Service
Defence Estates
Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform
Department for Communities and Local Government
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Department for Work and Pensions
Environment Agency
Forestry Commission
Health and Safety Executive
Highways Agency
HM Courts Service
HM Prison Service
HM Revenue and Customs
Home Office
Home Office—Border And Immigration Agency
Insolvency Service
Legal Services Commission
National Offender Management Service
Rural Payments Agency
Serious Fraud Office
The Crown Estate
The Office of the Public Guardian
Treasury Solicitor's Department
Valuation Office Agency
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency

National Offender Management Service: Border and Immigration Agency

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what dates the Chief Executive of the National Offender Management Service and the Chief Executive of the Border and Immigration Agency have met in the last 12 months. [179898]

Mr. Straw: Over the last 12 months the chief executive of the National Offender Management Service and the chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency have held regular meetings on both a bilateral and wider basis. These have been conducted through face to face and teleconferencing discussions.

Additionally, other NOMS and BIA directors have met on a regular basis to discuss issues concerning foreign national prisoners. Since April 2007 a monthly liaison meeting has been held between BIA and NOMS officials to ensure that the management of this group of prisoners and their detention and deportation, where appropriate, is as efficient as possible.

National Offender Management Service: Expenditure

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on central management for the Probation Service and subsequently the National Offender Management Services in England and Wales in each financial year since 1997-98. [173806]

Maria Eagle: The National Probation Directorate (NPD) was the sponsoring unit of the National Probation Service (NPS) from 1 April 2001 to 31 March 2007.

The responsibilities of NPD included a number of front line and support services as well as central management. Expenditure on central management is not separately identified, but expenditure on "Administration Costs" as opposed to "Programme Costs", was as follows:

	£ million
2001-02	10.858
2002-03	11.300
2003-04	14.267
2004-05	10.579
2005-06	4.887
2006-07	3.652

Since January 2005 certain functions have transferred from NPD to the centre of the National Offender Management Service and from 1 April 2007, expenditure is completely subsumed within NOMS centre.

NOMS central costs are not specifically allocated to separate activities including central management of probation services and to attempt to separately identify the costs would be a disproportionate cost.

Prior to 2001, the NPS and NPD did not exist as such and comparable figures are not available.

National Offender Management Service: ICT

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent by the National Probation Service on development of C-NOMIS; and how much has been spent in total by his Department on making C-NOMIS available to the Probation Service. [179368]

Mr. Straw: As stated in the written ministerial statement laid before Parliament on 8 January 2008, and following the Strategic Review of the NOMIS Programme, probation areas will no longer be receiving the C-NOMIS application.

However, the probation specific projects now established within the new NOMIS Programme, and those which will provide arrangements to allow the sharing of information between public prisons and probation areas, and replace at risk probation case management systems, will continue to derive benefit from the investment and work on NOMIS to date. In addition, work completed by the programme on dependent projects, such as improving the OMNI infrastructure, will also provide further benefit.

C-NOMIS has been, and continues to be, funded centrally through the National Offender Management Service and nearly all of the expenditure attributable to it is relevant to its future use in HMPS as 'Prison NOMIS'. No separate funding has been provided. About £1 million of computer hardware was acquired for use by probation in association with C-NOMIS. This is being reallocated to other projects which have similar hardware needs.

Offenders: Accommodation

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* suspects, *(b)* convicted unsentenced offenders, *(c)* convicted offenders on community sentences and *(d)* prisoners on licence were provided with accommodation by ClearSprings in each month since August 2007; [179922]

(2) how much was paid to ClearSprings for the provision of bail and home detention accommodation in each month since July; [179923]

(3) what the criteria are for identifying properties to be managed by ClearSprings for the provision of bail and home detention accommodation; [179924]

(4) what properties *(a)* are and *(b)* will be managed by ClearSprings for the provision of bail and home detention accommodation in England and Wales. [179925]

Mr. Straw: The Bail Accommodation and Support Service provided by ClearSprings is for defendants on bail and offenders on home detention curfew. It is not available for offenders on community sentences. Information on the breakdown of bail cases between those untried and those convicted but unsentenced cannot be obtained except at disproportionate cost. The numbers of those provided with accommodation in each month is shown in the following table:

	Bail (a) untried and (b) convicted unsentenced combined	*Home detention curfew (d)*
August 2007	23	7
September 2007	24	13
October 2007	36	23
November 2007	69	42
December 2007	55	47
January 2008 (up to 14 January)	16	20

During the period July to December 2007 £2,391,470 was paid to ClearSprings Management Ltd. in respect of accommodation provided.

The Regional Offender Managers in England and the director of Offender Management in Wales identify the towns in which accommodation is required based on the distribution pattern of remand prisoner and offender origins. ClearSprings consult with the police and local authorities and probation when acquiring properties so that local knowledge can inform the selection of addresses and to avoid inappropriate locations. The scheme endeavours to return people to their own communities unless there is reason not to.

A list of towns or areas, by county, where accommodation is currently provided or is being sought is in the following table. The distribution will be reviewed regularly by the Regional Offender Managers

in the light of experience and adjustments will be made to the locations of addresses to match supply to the pattern of demand, so that in general people can be placed in the communities from which they originate.

ClearSprings—locations where accommodation is provided or being sought

Region and town	County	Accommodation provided at 11 January 2008
Bath	Avon and Somerset	Yes
Bristol	Avon and Somerset	Yes
Taunton/Yeovil	Avon and Somerset	—
Weston-Super-Mare	Avon and Somerset	Yes
Bedford	Bedfordshire	—
Luton	Bedfordshire	Yes
Newbury	Berkshire	—
Reading	Berkshire	Yes
Slough	Berkshire	—
High Wycombe	Buckinghamshire	—
Milton Keynes	Buckinghamshire	—
Peterborough	Cambridgeshire	Yes
Chester	Cheshire	—
Crewe	Cheshire	Yes
Macclesfield	Cheshire	—
Northwich	Cheshire	—
Runcorn	Cheshire	—
Warrington	Cheshire	—
Barrow-in-Furness	Cumbria	—
Carlisle	Cumbria	—
Kendal	Cumbria	—
Whitehaven	Cumbria	—
Workington	Cumbria	—
Chesterfield	Derbyshire	—
Derby	Derbyshire	Yes
Bodmin	Devon and Cornwall	—
Plymouth	Devon and Cornwall	Yes
St. Austell	Devon and Cornwall	—
Willand	Devon and Cornwall	Yes
Bournemouth	Dorset	—
Salisbury/Shaftsbury	Dorset	—
Darlington	Durham	—
Durham	Durham	Yes
Easington District	Durham	—
Hartlepool	Durham	—
Stockton	Durham	—
Carmarthen	Dyfed	—
Llanelli	Dyfed	Yes
Eastbourne/Hastings	East Sussex	—
Haywards Heath/Hove/Worthing	East Sussex	—
Basildon/Laindon	Essex	Yes
Chelmsford/Maldon	Essex	—
Colchester	Essex	—
Harlow	Essex	—
Gloucester	Gloucestershire	Yes
Ashton-under-Lyne	Greater Manchester	—
Bolton	Greater Manchester	Yes
Bury	Greater Manchester	Yes
Eccles	Greater Manchester	—
Leigh	Greater Manchester	Yes
Manchester	Greater Manchester	Yes
Oldham	Greater Manchester	Yes
Rochdale	Greater Manchester	—

ClearSprings—locations where accommodation is provided or being sought

Region and town	County	Accommodation provided at 11 January 2008
Sale	Greater Manchester	—
Salford	Greater Manchester	—
Stockport	Greater Manchester	—
Wigan	Greater Manchester	Yes
Newport	Gwent	Yes
Basingstoke/ Winchester/Andover/ Aldershot/Alton	Hampshire	—
Portsmouth	Hampshire	Yes
Southampton	Hampshire	Yes
Droitwich	Hereford and Worcs	—
Evesham	Hereford and Worcs	—
Hereford	Hereford and Worcs	—
Kidderminster	Hereford and Worcs	—
Redditch	Hereford and Worcs	—
Worcester	Hereford and Worcs	—
Cheshunt	Hertfordshire	Yes
Hatfield	Hertfordshire	—
Stevenage	Hertfordshire	—
Grimsby	Humberside	Yes
Hull	Humberside	Yes
Scunthorpe	Humberside	—
Canterbury	Kent	—
Chatham	Kent	Yes
Dover	Kent	—
Folkestone/Ashford	Kent	—
Maidstone/ Sittingbourne/ Gillingham/Rochester	Kent	Yes
Accrington	Lancashire	—
Blackburn	Lancashire	—
Blackpool	Lancashire	—
Burnley	Lancashire	Yes
Lancaster	Lancashire	—
Middleton	Lancashire	Yes
Nelson	Lancashire	Yes
Ormskirk	Lancashire	—
Preston	Lancashire	Yes
Skelmersdale	Lancashire	Yes
Leicester	Leicestershire	Yes
Loughborough	Leicestershire	—
Lincoln	Lincolnshire	Yes
Barking and Dagenham BC	London	Yes
Barnet BC	London	Yes
Bexley	London	—
Brent	London	Yes
Bromley	London	—
Camden	London	—
Corporation Of London	London	—
Croydon BC	London	Yes
Ealing BC/Hounslow BC	London	—
Enfield BC	London	Yes
Greenwich BC	London	—
Hackney BC	London	Yes
Hammersmith and Fulham BC	London	—
Haringey BC	London	Yes

ClearSprings—locations where accommodation is provided or being sought

Region and town	County	Accommodation provided at 11 January 2008
Harrow BC	London	—
Havering BC	London	—
Hillingdon BC	London	—
Islington BC	London	—
Kensington and Chelsea BC	London	—
Kingston-upon-Thames BC	London	—
Lambeth BC	London	Yes
Lewisham BC	London	Yes
Merton BC	London	—
Newham BC	London	Yes
Redbridge BC	London	Yes
Richmond-upon-Thames	London	—
Southwark BC	London	Yes
Sutton BC	London	—
Tower Hamlets BC	London	—
Waltham Forest BC	London	Yes
Wandsworth BC	London	—
Westminster BC	London	—
Birkenhead	Merseyside	—
Bootle	Merseyside	—
Huyton	Merseyside	—
Knowsley	Merseyside	—
Liverpool	Merseyside	Yes
St. Helens	Merseyside	Yes
Wallasey	Merseyside	—
Norwich	Norfolk	Yes
Colwyn Bay	North Wales	—
Wrexham	North Wales	Yes
Middlesbrough	North Yorkshire	—
Thornaby	North Yorkshire	Yes
Corby	Northamptonshire	Yes
Northampton (Abington)	Northamptonshire	Yes
Ashington	Northumberland	Yes
Mansfield	Nottinghamshire	—
Nottingham	Nottinghamshire	Yes
Sutton-in-Ashby	Nottinghamshire	—
Worksop	Nottinghamshire	—
Oxford/Banbury/ Bicester	Oxfordshire	—
Shrewsbury	Shropshire	—
Telford	Shropshire	Yes
Bridgend	South Wales	Yes
Caerphilly	South Wales	—
Cardiff	South Wales	Yes
Pontypridd	South Wales	Yes
Swansea	South Wales	—
Tonteg	South Wales	Yes
Merthyr	South Wales	—
Barnsley	South Yorkshire	—
Doncaster	South Yorkshire	—
Rotherham	South Yorkshire	Yes
Sheffield	South Yorkshire	—
Burton upon Trent	Staffordshire	—
Newcastle-under-Lyme	Staffordshire	Yes
Stafford	Staffordshire	Yes
Stoke-on-Trent	Staffordshire	Yes

ClearSprings—locations where accommodation is provided or being sought

Region and town	County	Accommodation provided at 11 January 2008
Tamworth	Staffordshire	—
Ipswich	Suffolk	Yes
Guildford/Godalming	Surrey	—
Staines/Bracknell	Surrey	—
Woking/Farnborough	Surrey	—
Chichester/Arundel	Sussex	Yes
Crawley/Redhill	Sussex	—
Gateshead	Tyne and Wear	—
Jarrow	Tyne and Wear	Yes
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	Tyne and Wear	Yes
North Tyneside (Blythe)	Tyne & Wear	Yes
Sunderland	Tyne and Wear	Yes
Nuneaton	Warwickshire	—
Rugby	Warwickshire	—
Warwick	Warwickshire	—
Birmingham	West Midlands	Yes
Coventry	West Midlands	Yes
Dudley	West Midlands	Yes
Oldbury	West Midlands	Yes
Smethwick	West Midlands	Yes
Solihull	West Midlands	—
Stourbridge	West Midlands	—
Sutton Coldfield	West Midlands	—
Walsall	West Midlands	Yes
Warley	West Midlands	—
West Bromwich	West Midlands	—
Wolverhampton	West Midlands	Yes
Dewsbury	West Yorkshire	—
Halifax	West Yorkshire	—
Huddersfield	West Yorkshire	Yes
Leeds/Bradford	West Yorkshire	Yes
Pontefract/Wakefield	West Yorkshire	—
Swindon	Wiltshire	Yes

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research was conducted into the effectiveness of offender behaviour programmes before they were put into use. [180323]

Mr. Hanson: The offending behaviour programmes that have been introduced into prisons and probation are based on the best available international evidence. This has included a thorough review of UK and international programmes and their evaluations to identify the types of programmes that appear to be the most effective in reducing re-offending and tackling key aspects of offenders' thinking and behaviour. Home Office Research Study 291 published in February 2005, 'The impact of corrections on re-offending: a review of what works' summarises some of the key findings. In order to ensure rigour in the design of programmes each one has had to demonstrate a sound theoretical, empirical and evidence base as part of the process of accreditation by a panel of independent experts. There is considerable evidence to support the effectiveness of offending behaviour programmes in reducing re-offending.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether reduction of re-offending is an aim of offender behaviour programmes. [180324]

Mr. Hanson: Yes. One of the intended aims of offending behaviour programmes is to reduce re-offending. It aims to do this by contributing to the overall strategy to reduce recidivism by addressing attitudinal and behavioural factors known to be related to re-offending. There is considerable evidence to support the effectiveness of cognitive behavioural programmes in reducing re-offending.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much offender behaviour programmes cost to implement in the latest period for which figures are available. [180325]

Maria Eagle: In relation to the probation service, data are only available on the budgeted cost of delivering programmes to offenders under their supervision in the community. Probation Boards meet the cost of delivering accredited programmes through their grant as they see fit to meet their statutory duties. Probation Boards' budgeted expenditure on accredited programmes for 2007-08 is £86.5 million.

In relation to the HM Prison Service, the funding for delivery of offending behaviour programmes is part of establishment baselines. Based on an estimated average cost per programme completion and the number of completions in 2006-07, we estimate that the cost of delivering accredited offending behaviour programmes in 2006-07 to be approximately £25 million.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners participated in each type of offender behaviour programme in the latest year for which figures are available, broken down by prison establishment. [180329]

Maria Eagle: The following table sets out the number of accredited offending behaviour programmes completed by prisoners by establishment in 2006-07.

Offending behaviour programme completions by programme and establishment in 2006-07

Establishment	[1]SOTP	[2]CALM	[3]CSB	[4]CSCP	[5]ETS inc JETS	[6]HRP	[7]Chromis	[8]FOR
Acklington	52	—	—	—	62	15	—	—
Albany	66	—	20	—	62	—	—	—
Altcourse	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ashfield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ashwell	—	—	—	—	78	—	—	—
Askham Grange	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aylesbury	18	22	—	—	111	—	—	—
Bedford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Belmarsh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Birmingham	—	—	9	—	58	—	—	—
Blakenhurst	—	—	10	—	90	—	—	—
Blantyre House	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Blundeston	—	30	6	—	64	—	—	—
Brinsford	—	—	—	—	40	—	—	—
Bristol	—	17	—	—	51	—	—	—
Brixton	—	—	—	—	33	—	—	—
Brockhill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronzefield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20
Buckley Hall	—	—	—	—	53	—	—	—
Bullingdon	68	—	—	—	87	—	—	—
Bulwood Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Camp Hill	—	6	—	—	47	—	—	—
Canterbury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cardiff	—	24	—	—	70	—	—	—
Castington	—	—	—	—	36	—	—	—
Channings Wood	34	—	—	6	75	—	—	—
Chelmsford	—	—	—	—	40	—	—	—
Coldingley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cookham Wood	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dartmoor	—	28	—	—	64	—	—	—
Deerbolt	—	—	—	—	68	—	—	—
Doncaster	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dorchester	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dovegate	—	—	—	—	56	—	—	—
Dover	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Downview	—	—	—	—	40	—	—	—
Drake Hall	—	—	35	—	47	—	—	—
Durham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Establishment	[1]SOTP	[2]CALM	[3]CSB	[4]CSCP	[5]ETS inc. JETS	[6]HRP	[7]Chromis	[8]FOR
East Sutton Park	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eastwood Park	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Edmunds Hill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Elmley	25	—	—	—	65	—	—	—
Eriestoke	—	—	—	—	67	6	—	—
Everthorpe	—	—	—	—	56	—	—	—
Exeter	—	—	—	—	51	—	—	—
Featherstone	—	24	18	—	58	—	—	—
Feltham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ford	—	—	12	—	19	—	—	—
Forest Bank	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
FostonHall	—	—	—	—	55	—	—	—
Frankland	43	—	—	—	67	—	20	—
Full Sutton	38	—	—	—	46	—	—	—
Garth	—	—	—	—	102	—	—	—
Gartree	—	31	—	6	77	15	—	—
Glen Parva	—	16	—	—	65	—	—	—
Gloucester	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grendon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Glen Parva	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guys Marsh	—	—	—	—	70	—	—	—
Haverigg	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hewell Grange	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Highdown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Highpoint	—	—	23	—	79	—	—	—
Hindley	—	—	—	—	88	—	—	—
Hollesley Bay	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holloway	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	37
Holme House	—	—	—	—	45	—	—	—
Hull	75	—	—	—	123	—	—	65
Huntercombe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kingston	—	26	—	—	17	—	—	—
Kirkham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kirklevington	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lancaster Castle	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lancaster Farms	—	—	—	—	81	—	—	—
Latchmere House	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leeds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leicester	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lewes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leyhill	32	—	28	—	20	—	—	—
Lincoln	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lindholme	—	—	—	—	76	—	—	—
Littlehey	48	—	—	—	72	—	—	—
Liverpool	—	—	—	—	123	—	—	—
Long Lartin	—	21	—	6	32	—	—	—
Low Newton	—	—	—	—	37	—	—	56
Lowdham Grange	—	—	—	—	79	—	—	—
Maidstone	20	—	—	—	110	—	—	—
Manchester	16	—	—	—	49	16	—	—
Moorland Closed	—	27	—	—	63	—	—	—
Moorland Open	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—
Morton Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Hall	—	—	—	—	48	—	—	—
North Sea Camp	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northallerton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norwich	—	—	26	—	108	—	—	—
Nottingham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Onley	—	—	—	—	77	—	—	—
Parc	24	—	—	—	56	—	—	82
Parkhurst	—	24	—	7	60	—	—	—

Establishment	[1]SOTP	[2]CALM	[3]CSB	[4]CSCP	[5]ETS inc JETS	[6]HRP	[7]Chromis	[8]FOR
Pentonville	–	30	–	–	104	–	–	–
Peterborough	–	–	–	–	24	–	–	–
Portland	–	–	–	–	64	–	–	–
Prescoed	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Preston	–	–	–	–	70	–	–	–
Ranby	–	–	–	–	88	–	–	–
Reading	–	–	–	–	45	–	–	–
Risley	62	31	–	–	103	–	–	5
Rochester	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Rye Hill	40	–	–	–	69	–	–	–
Send	–	–	–	–	39	–	–	–
Shepton Mallet	41	–	3	–	29	–	–	–
Shrewsbury	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Spring Hill	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Stafford	52	–	19	–	84	–	–	–
Standford Hill	–	–	8	–	8	–	–	–
Stocken	–	25	–	–	56	–	–	–
Stoke Heath	–	–	–	–	53	–	–	–
Styal	–	–	–	–	42	–	–	6
Sudbury	–	–	18	–	18	–	–	–
Swaleside	–	30	36	8	122	–	–	–
Swansea	–	–	–	–	32	–	–	–
Swinfen Hall	52	36	35	–	104	–	–	–
The Mount	–	8	–	–	68	–	–	–
Thorn Cross	–	–	–	–	91	–	–	–
Usk	60	–	–	–	58	–	–	–
Verne	–	–	–	–	67	–	–	–
Wakefield	49	–	–	–	62	–	–	–
Wandsworth	64	–	–	–	72	–	–	–
Warren Hill	–	–	–	–	16	–	–	–
Wayland	54	–	–	–	66	–	–	–
Wealstun	–	–	–	–	49	–	–	–
Weare	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Wellingborough	–	–	–	–	93	–	–	8
Werrington	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Wetherby	–	–	–	–	38	–	–	–
Whatton	148	19	19	–	74	7	–	–
Whitemoor	–	16	–	–	43	–	–	–
Winchester	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Wolds	–	22	24	–	38	–	–	–
Woodhill	–	–	–	–	44	–	–	–
Wormwood Scrubs	–	–	–	–	57	–	–	–
Wymott	43	–	30	–	117	–	–	–
Totals	1,224	513	379	33	5,793	59	20	279

[1] SOTP—Sex Offender Treatment Programme
[2] CALM—Controlling Anger and Learning to Manage it
[3] CSB—Cognitive Skills Booster programme
[4] CSCP—Cognitive Self Change Programme
[5] ETS—Enhanced Thinking Skills including ETS for juveniles
[6] HRP—Healthy Relationships Programme
[7] Chromis—a programme for violent offenders with high levels of psychopathy
[8] FOR—A resettlement programme

Prison Service: Dismissal

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Prison Service employees have been dismissed as a result of their non-compliance with rules on *(a)* sex and *(b)* race discrimination in the last five years for which figures are available. [179733]

Mr. Hanson: According to centrally held records in the public sector Prison Service, 24 employees were dismissed as a result of their non-compliance with rules on sex discrimination and race discrimination between January 2003 and December 2007.

Prisoners Release

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance is given to prison governors on arrangements for releasing juveniles at the end of their sentences when they have no accommodation arranged. [180288]

Maria Eagle: Prison Service Order 6400 requires that, where a prisoner has no address to go to on release, the relevant housing advice or resettlement/ youth offending team worker must be informed.

Planning for a young person's resettlement, in particular the living arrangements, must begin during induction and continue throughout the custodial period. The relevant youth offending team must ensure that each young person gains access, where appropriate, to the accommodation services which local authority social services and housing departments have a duty to provide.

Prisoners Release: Foreigners

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convicted foreign national prisoners were released from prisons in England and Wales in the last 12 months. [179901]

Mr. Straw: There were 78,400 discharges from determinate sentences on completion of sentence or on licence of adult and young adult offenders in 2006 (the latest year for which data are available), of which around 7,300 (9 per cent.) were foreign nationals.

For the proportion of total prisoners who are foreign nationals, Council of Europe data on foreign national prisoners held in other major western countries reveal much higher proportions, for example in Austria (43 per cent.), Spain (33 per cent.), Germany (28 per cent.) and France (21 per cent.) than the figure for England and Wales (14 per cent.), based on 2006 population data.

The domestic figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Australasia

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* Australian and *(b)* New Zealand nationals are in prison in the UK. [179492]

Mr. Hanson: At the end of September 2007, the latest date for which figures are currently available, there were *(a)* 26 Australian and *(b)* 10 New Zealand prisoners held in all prison establishments in England and Wales.

This information is available at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/population-in-custodySep07.pdf

The following website gives the publishing schedule for Ministry of Justice statistical publications:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/moj-stats-schedule.pdf

Data for December 2007 will be published on 31 January 2008.

Comparable information for Scotland and Northern Ireland is the responsibility of the Scottish Executive and the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library copies of all correspondence between the Border and Immigration Agency and the National Offender Management Service on policy towards foreign national prisoners. [179920]

Mr. Straw: Policy towards foreign national prisoners is the subject of joint work and ongoing discussions between NOMS and BIA. The revised Prison Service Order 4630 was agreed as part of continuing policy development and detailed discussions on other matters have been the subject of the monthly liaison meetings which have taken place since April 2007. I have placed a copy of the PSO in the Library.

Disclosure of correspondence into the public domain would prejudice the effective exchange of views between both BIA and NOMS which is necessary when developing policies and procedures in respect of foreign national prisoners.

Prisons

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the estimated cost is of creating the Titan prison model, including resources to *(a)* develop, *(b)* design, *(c)* plan and *(d)* procure the prison; [176098]

(2) what the estimated annual total running cost is of a 2,500-bed Titan prison; [176099]

(3) what the estimated total running costs are of the additional prison places due to be delivered by 2014; [176101]

(4) pursuant to his statement of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 827, on prisons: Carter Review, how much of the £1.2 billion for prisons announced in his Statement is available for his Department to spend *(a)* immediately and *(b)* after March 2011; [176265]

(5) pursuant to his statement of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, on the Carter review of prisons, how much of the £1.2 billion for prisons will be available in each financial year up to 2014 for *(a)* capital construction and *(b)* resource spending; [176664]

(6) what proportion of the £1.2 billion for prisons announced in his statement of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 828, on the Carter review of prisons, has been allocated for *(a)* building new prisons and *(b)* increasing capacity in existing prisons. [176665]

Mr. Straw: I announced on 5 December 2007 a programme for building 10,500 prison places to be delivered by 2014. This was in response to Lord Carter's Review on Prisons Securing the Future. The programme includes building up to three large 'Titan' prisons, housing around 2,500 prisoners each and closing old and inefficient prisons. The cost of construction (including development and design but not land) of the Titan prisons has been estimated to be around £350 million each at 2007-08 prices.

The indicative funding profile for this programme for the CSR period 2008-09 to 2010-11 is shown in the following table. The table also includes provision for

the purchase of land for Titans and for the possible conversion of a second military camp that has been provisionally allocated to the post 2011 SR period and will be subject to the usual SR process.

£ million

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	Total
Resource	126.0	213.0	166.0	—	505.0
Capital	326.0	183.0	-10.0	—	499.0
Military camp (if required)	—	—	—	108.0	108.0
Land purchase for Titans	—	—	—	122.0	122.0
Total	452.0	396.0	156.0	230.0	1,234.0

[1] -£10 million represents funding moved into earlier years to allow faster progress on the programme

Around £700 million is estimated for the building and conversion of new places at existing prison sites. This is included in the aforementioned table. Funding does not include the construction and operating costs of the Titan prisons which are planned to open after 2011. This will also be subject to the usual SR process.

Sites have been identified for quick build units within the prison estate and are subject to the usual planning process. However, planning for the individual projects (which includes Titans), including the delivery timeframe and capital and resource requirements in each year, is being developed. Work is progressing to assess the various procurement options and associated costs to deliver Titan prisons.

The Carter Report (pages 19-20) gave estimates of a range of capital unit cost per place for the various security categories of prisoner accommodation. Currently the estimated capital cost of the programme announced on 5 December is £2.3 billion including the current CSR period and beyond.

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the certified normal accommodation was for each prison in each week since 26 January 2007. [180292]

Mr. Hanson: The following tables show the in-use CNA[1] for prisons in England and Wales on the last Friday of each month in 2007.

[1] In-use certified normal accommodation (in-use CNA), or uncrowded capacity, is the sum total of all certified accommodation in an establishment less those places not available for immediate use, for example: damaged cells, cells affected by building works. In-use CNA does not normally include cells in punishment or segregation units or health care cells or rooms in training prisons and YOIs that are not routinely used to accommodate long stay patients.

	2007					
Prison	January	February	March	April	May	June
Acklington	854	854	854	854	854	854
Albany	525	525	525	525	526	526
Altcourse	614	614	614	614	614	614
Ashfield	400	400	400	400	400	400
Ashwell	535	535	535	535	535	535
Askham Grange	126	126	126	126	126	126
Aylesbury	437	437	437	437	437	437
Bedford	325	325	325	325	325	324
Belmarsh	799	799	799	799	799	799
Birmingham	1,121	1,121	1,121	1,121	1,121	1,121
Blakenhurst	821	821	821	821	821	821
Blantyre House	122	122	122	122	122	122
Blundeston	420	420	420	420	421	421
Brinsford	473	473	473	473	473	473
Bristol	420	420	420	420	420	420
Brixton	606	606	606	606	606	606
Brockhill	170	170	170	170	170	170
Bronzefield	450	450	450	450	450	450
Buckley Hall	350	350	350	350	350	350
Bullingdon	759	759	759	759	759	759
Bullwood Hall	180	180	180	180	180	180
Camp Hill	523	523	523	523	523	523
Canterbury	196	196	196	196	196	196
Cardiff	524	524	524	524	524	524
Castington	400	400	400	400	400	400
Channings Wood	634	634	634	634	634	634
Chelmsford	468	468	468	468	539	541
Coldingley	370	370	370	370	370	370
Cookham Wood	127	127	127	127	137	137
Dartmoor	598	598	598	618	618	604
Deerbolt	453	513	444	444	444	444
Doncaster	771	771	771	771	771	771

Prison	2007 January	February	March	April	May	June
Dorchester	147	147	147	147	147	147
Dovegate	800	800	800	800	800	800
Dover	316	316	316	316	316	316
Downview	347	358	356	358	358	358
Drake Hall	315	315	315	315	315	315
Durham	591	591	591	591	591	591
East Sutton Park	98	98	98	98	98	98
Eastwood Park	326	326	326	326	326	326
Edmunds Hill	366	366	366	366	366	366
Elmley	753	753	753	753	753	753
Erlestoke	426	426	426	426	426	426
Everthorpe	642	642	642	642	602	602
Exeter	316	316	316	316	316	316
Featherstone	599	599	599	599	599	599
Feltham	764	764	764	764	764	764
Ford	541	541	541	541	541	541
Forest Bank	800	800	800	800	800	800
Foston Hall	283	283	283	283	283	283
Frankland	727	727	727	727	727	727
Full Sutton	592	592	592	592	592	592
Garth	584	584	584	584	584	584
Gartree	570	570	570	570	570	570
Glen Parva	668	668	668	668	668	668
Gloucester	225	225	225	225	225	225
Grendon	241	241	240	240	240	240
Guys Marsh	519	519	520	520	520	520
Haslar	160	160	124	124	160	160
Haverigg	558	558	558	558	558	558
Hewell Grange	187	187	187	187	187	187
Highdown	643	643	643	643	643	643
Highpoint	792	792	792	792	792	792
Hindley	431	431	507	515	515	515
Hollesley Bay	330	330	330	330	330	330
Holloway	487	487	487	487	487	487
Holme House	857	857	857	857	857	857
Hull	723	723	723	723	723	723
Huntercombe	360	360	360	360	360	360
Kennet	0	0	0	0	0	25
Kingston	194	194	194	199	199	199
Kirkham	588	588	588	588	588	590
Kirklevington	223	223	223	223	223	223
Lancaster	159	138	157	157	157	157
Lancaster Farms	480	480	480	480	480	480
Latchmere House	207	207	207	207	207	207
Leeds	678	678	678	678	678	678
Leicester	206	206	206	206	206	206
Lewes	458	458	458	458	458	458
Leyhill	512	512	512	512	512	512
Lincoln	306	306	306	314	444	444
Lindholme	982	982	982	982	982	982
Littlehey	663	663	663	663	663	663
Liverpool	1,129	1,131	1,131	1,131	1,128	1,128
Long Lartin	454	454	454	454	454	454
Low Newton	285	285	285	285	285	285
Lowdham Grange	504	504	504	640	640	640
Maidstone	559	559	559	559	559	558
Manchester	954	954	954	954	954	954
Moorland	740	740	740	740	740	740

	2007					
Prison	*January*	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*
Moorland Open	260	260	260	260	260	260
Morton Hall	392	392	392	392	392	392
Mount	704	704	704	704	704	704
New Hall	393	393	393	393	393	393
North Sea Camp	306	306	306	306	306	306
Northallerton	153	153	153	153	153	153
Norwich	535	535	535	535	535	507
Nottingham	383	383	383	383	379	379
Onley	640	640	640	640	640	640
Parc	838	838	838	838	838	838
Parkhurst	448	462	462	462	460	461
Pentonville	760	739	739	819	819	819
Peterborough	840	840	840	840	840	840
Portland	531	531	519	519	519	519
Prescoed	167	167	167	167	167	167
Preston	382	429	429	429	429	429
Ranby	912	912	912	912	912	912
Reading	190	190	190	190	190	182
Risley	1,038	1,038	1,038	1,038	1,038	1,038
Rochester	392	392	392	392	392	392
Rye Hill	600	600	600	600	600	600
Send	218	218	218	218	218	217
Shepton Mallet	165	165	165	165	165	165
Shrewsbury	181	181	181	181	181	181
Spring Hill	329	329	334	334	334	334
Stafford	676	680	680	680	680	680
Standford Hill	464	464	464	464	464	464
Stocken	595	595	595	595	595	595
Stoke Heath	574	574	574	574	574	574
Styal	442	449	449	449	449	449
Sudbury	563	563	563	563	563	563
Swaleside	756	756	756	756	756	756
Swansea	240	240	240	240	240	240
Swinfen Hall	600	600	600	600	600	600
Thorn Cross	322	322	322	322	322	322
Usk	150	150	150	150	150	150
Verne	558	558	558	558	558	558
Wakefield	748	748	748	748	748	748
Wandsworth	965	965	965	965	965	965
Warren Hill	222	222	222	222	222	222
Wayland	657	657	657	657	657	657
Wealstun	885	885	885	885	885	885
Wellingborough	636	636	636	636	636	636
Werrington	160	160	160	160	160	160
Wetherby	360	360	360	360	360	360
Whatton	719	719	698	698	698	698
Whitemoor	464	464	464	464	464	464
Winchester	378	378	378	378	378	378
Wolds	320	320	320	320	320	320
Woodhill	615	615	615	641	641	641
Wormwood Scrubs	1,173	1,173	1,173	1,173	1,173	1,173
Wymott	997	1,005	1,005	1,005	1,005	1,005

	2007					
Prison	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*
Acklington	854	882	882	882	882	882
Albany	526	526	526	526	526	526
Altcourse	614	614	794	794	794	794
Ashfield	400	400	400	400	400	400
Ashwell	535	535	535	535	535	534

	2007					
Prison	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*
Askham Grange	126	126	126	126	126	126
Aylesbury	437	437	437	437	437	437
Bedford	324	324	324	324	324	322
Belmarsh	799	799	799	799	799	799
Birmingham	1,121	1,121	1,121	1,121	1,121	1,121
Blakenhurst	821	821	821	821	821	821
Blantyre House	122	122	122	122	122	122
Blundeston	421	421	421	421	421	421
Brinsford	473	473	473	473	473	473
Bristol	420	420	420	420	420	420
Brixton	606	606	606	606	606	606
Brockhill	170	170	170	170	170	170
Bronzefield	450	450	450	450	450	450
Buckley Hall	350	350	350	350	350	350
Bullingdon	759	759	759	759	759	759
Bullwood Hall	180	180	180	180	170	170
Camp Hill	523	523	523	523	523	523
Canterbury	196	196	196	196	196	196
Cardiff	524	524	524	524	524	524
Castington	400	400	400	400	400	400
Channings Wood	634	634	664	698	698	698
Chelmsford	541	541	541	541	541	541
Coldingley	370	370	370	370	370	370
Cookham Wood	137	137	137	17	17	17
Dartmoor	619	619	619	619	619	619
Deerbolt	444	513	447	447	447	447
Doncaster	771	771	771	771	771	771
Dorchester	147	147	147	147	147	143
Dovegate	800	800	800	800	800	800
Dover	316	316	316	316	316	316
Downview	358	358	358	358	358	358
Drake Hall	315	315	315	315	315	315
Durham	591	591	591	591	591	591
East Sutton Park	98	98	98	98	98	98
Eastwood Park	326	326	326	326	326	326
Edmunds Hill	366	366	366	366	366	366
Elmley	753	753	753	753	753	753
Erlestoke	426	426	426	410	410	410
Everthorpe	603	603	603	603	603	603
Exeter	316	316	316	316	316	316
Featherstone	619	663	663	663	663	663
Feltham	764	764	762	762	762	762
Ford	541	541	541	541	541	541
Forest Bank	800	800	800	800	800	800
Foston Hall	283	283	283	283	283	283
Frankland	727	727	727	732	732	732
Full Sutton	592	592	592	600	600	600
Garth	584	629	689	741	779	812
Gartree	570	570	570	570	570	570
Glen Parva	668	668	668	668	668	668
Gloucester	225	225	225	225	225	225
Grendon	240	215	215	215	215	215
Guys Marsh	520	520	520	520	520	520
Haslar	124	124	124	123	123	141
Haverigg	558	558	558	558	622	622
Hewell Grange	187	187	187	187	187	187
Highdown	643	643	643	643	693	821

	2007					
Prison	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*
Highpoint	792	792	792	788	788	792
Hindley	515	515	515	527	539	523
Hollesley Bay	330	330	330	330	330	330
Holloway	498	498	498	498	498	498
Holme House	857	857	857	857	857	857
Hull	723	723	723	723	723	723
Huntercombe	360	360	360	360	360	360
Kennet	68	126	175	175	175	175
Kingston	199	199	199	199	199	199
Kirkham	590	590	590	590	590	590
Kirklevington	223	223	223	223	223	223
Lancaster	157	157	157	157	96	96
Lancaster Farms	480	480	480	480	480	480
Latchmere House	207	207	207	207	207	207
Leeds	678	678	678	678	678	678
Leicester	206	206	206	206	206	210
Lewes	458	458	458	458	458	458
Leyhill	512	512	512	512	512	512
Lincoln	444	436	436	436	436	436
Lindholme	982	982	982	982	1006	1042
Littlehey	663	663	663	663	663	663
Liverpool	1,128	1,142	1,160	1,160	1,160	1,160
Long Lartin	454	454	426	426	426	426
Low Newton	285	285	285	285	285	291
Lowdham Grange	640	640	640	640	640	640
Maidstone	558	451	451	451	451	451
Manchester	954	954	954	954	954	954
Moorland	740	740	740	740	740	740
Moorland Open	260	260	260	260	260	260
Morton Hall	392	392	392	392	392	392
Mount	703	703	723	747	747	747
New Hall	393	393	393	393	393	393
North Sea Camp	306	306	306	306	306	306
Northallerton	153	153	153	153	153	153
Norwich	507	527	527	447	447	447
Nottingham	379	379	379	379	379	379
Onley	640	640	640	640	640	640
Parc	838	838	838	838	838	838
Parkhurst	462	462	462	462	461	453
Pentonville	819	819	819	819	799	799
Peterborough	840	840	840	840	840	840
Portland	519	519	519	519	519	519
Prescoed	167	167	167	167	167	167
Preston	429	429	429	429	429	429
Ranby	912	912	912	912	912	912
Reading	182	182	182	182	182	182
Risley	1,038	1,050	1,050	1,046	1,046	1,050
Rochester	392	392	392	392	392	392
Rye Hill	600	600	600	600	600	600
Send	217	217	217	218	216	216
Shepton Mallet	165	165	165	165	165	165
Shrewsbury	181	181	181	181	175	175
Spring Hill	333	333	333	333	333	333
Stafford	680	680	680	680	680	680
Standford Hill	464	464	464	464	464	464
Stocken	595	595	595	635	685	715
Stoke Heath	574	574	574	516	516	516

Prison	2007 July	August	September	October	November	December
Styal	449	450	450	450	450	450
Sudbury	563	563	563	563	563	563
Swaleside	756	756	756	751	751	751
Swansea	240	240	240	240	240	240
Swinfen Hall	600	600	600	600	600	600
Thorn Cross	322	322	322	322	322	322
Usk	150	150	150	150	150	150
Verne	558	558	558	558	560	560
Wakefield	748	748	748	748	748	748
Wandsworth	965	965	965	965	965	965
Warren Hill	222	222	222	222	222	222
Wayland	657	657	657	657	657	657
Wealstun	885	885	885	885	885	885
Wellingborough	636	636	636	636	636	636
Werrington	160	160	160	160	160	160
Wetherby	360	360	360	360	360	360
Whatton	698	698	697	697	733	758
Whitemoor	464	464	464	464	464	464
Winchester	378	378	380	380	380	380
Wolds	320	320	320	320	320	320
Woodhill	641	641	641	641	641	641
Wormwood Scrubs	1,173	1,173	1,173	1,173	1,173	1,173
Wymott	1,005	1,005	1,005	1,005	1,005	1,005

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make a statement on the provision of acupuncture in prisons. [180343]

Maria Eagle: The provision of alternative or complementary therapies, such as acupuncture, in prisons in England is a matter for the primary care trust responsible for commissioning health services at the establishment concerned.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost was of providing gyms in prisons in the latest period for which figures are available. [180344]

Mr. Hanson: Since 1997 new gymnasium facilities have been provided at HMP Lancaster Farms, HMP New Hall and HMP Shrewsbury. The average cost of providing these gyms in the public sector is in the region of £2.1 million. Most provision of new gymnasium facilities since 1997 have been provided by the private sector in newly constructed prisons, for which costs are not readily available.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases of people smuggling drugs into prisons were detected in each of the last five years; and how many perpetrators in such were *(a)* prison staff, *(b)* inmates' visitors and *(c)* other people, broken down by category. [178358]

Mr. Hanson: The total number of recorded incidents of drugs/drug equipment being detected by prison staff being smuggled into prisons over the last five financial years are shown in table 1.

Table 1

	Total recorded incidents
2002-03	2,658
2003-04	2,939
2004-05	3,445
2005-06	3,551
2006-07	3,488

These figures include reported incidents of attempts by visitors and prisoners to bring drugs onto the premises. They also include other methods such as throwing drugs over the wall or use of the post.

(a) Staff who are caught smuggling drugs are reported to the local police but information about the cases is not collated centrally.

(b) A comprehensive framework is in place for dealing with visitors who seek to smuggle drugs through visits. The number of visitors suspected of involvement in drug smuggling and the number of recorded incidents involving visitors being detected with drugs are shown in table 2.

Table 2

	Visitors suspected of smuggling drugs	Visitor drug incidents[1,2]
2002-03	3,502	831
2003-04	3,598	946
2004-05	4,283	891
2005-06	5,422	850
2006-07	3,393	680

[1] May include some cases where a visitor was in possession of drugs for their own personal use rather than intending to smuggle drugs into prison.
[2] Incidents may involve more than one visitor

(c) Other recorded incidents of people bringing drugs/drug equipment into prison are split between prisoners, people throwing drugs into the prison

perimeters and other methods. Table 3 shows the recorded incidents of drugs being detected in each of these categories.

Table 3

	Entry method		
	Prisoners	*Thrown in*	*Others (typically by post)*
2002-03	122	319	1,386
2003-04	156	576	1,261
2004-05	156	793	1,605
2005-06	196	820	1,685
2006-07	179	753	1,876

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

The data are not subject to audit.

Prisons: Overcrowding

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what policies are in place to reduce overcrowding in prisons. [180123]

Mr. Straw: On 5 December in their response to Lord Carter of Coles' review of prisons the Government announced an additional 10,500 prison places. This is on top of the existing 9,500 capacity programme. Our aim is to achieve capacity of 96,000 places by 2014.

We have also established a working group chaired by Lord Justice Gage which will look at Lord Carter's proposal for a Sentencing Commission in England and Wales. Experience from other jurisdictions suggests that such an approach can mean the drivers behind the prison population can be addressed and managed in a transparent, consistent and predictable manner. The Working Group is expected to report to the Lord Chief Justice and to the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor by the summer of 2008.

Tasker Review: Freedom of Information

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 have been submitted to his Department relating to the *(a)* Tasker Inquiry and *(b)* Stuart investigations; and if he will make a statement. [180063]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service has received, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, four requests relating to the Tasker Inquiry and three requests relating to the Stuart investigations.

Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what meetings he has had with trade unions officials since 1 July 2007; on what dates; and with which trades unions. [179858]

Mr. Straw: Since I became the Secretary of State for Justice in late June 2007, I have met with trade union representatives on nine occasions regarding departmental business.

These have been with representatives from the Prison Officers Association, the Prison Governors Association, the Prison Service Joint Industrial Council, the Transport and General Workers' Union, Amicus, GMB, Unison and the Trade Union Congress.

If the hon. Member wishes to know about my time as Leader of the Commons he should let me know, please.

Young Offenders: Body Searches

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions each young offender institution has videoed the *(a)* strip searching and *(b)* restraint of children. [180516]

Mr. Hanson: The Prison Service is unable to respond to this question within the stipulated time-frame as these statistics are not collated centrally. In order to gain accurate figures, it will be necessary to consult with those young offender institutions which hold 15 to 17-year-old prisoners. This work is now under way and I will write when completed.

Young Offenders: North East Region

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children under 16 who had previously been convicted of drug-related offences in *(a)* the North East, *(b)* Teesside and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency were prosecuted for drug dealing in each of the last 10 years. [179616]

Mr. Hanson: The information is not available. The published statistics on the criminal histories of offenders do not include figures at the requested level of detail.

The most recent available figures for the criminal history of offenders, which include details for juvenile offenders (Table 6.5) and for offenders convicted of drug offences (Table 6.3), are given in "Sentencing Statistics 2005" which is available in the House of Commons Library and can be found online at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb0307.pdf

Young Offenders: Teesside

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what facilities in Teesside are available to young people who have been convicted of drug offences to help prevent them from re-offending; and if he will make a statement. [179613]

Mr. Hanson: Youth offending teams (YOTs) currently screen and assess all young offenders, including those convicted of drug offences, on their needs in relation to substance misuse and ensure they access the substance misuse services they need.

For 2006-07 Teesside YOTs carried out 1155 screenings of those convicted of drug offences, with 230 assessments and referred over 200 young offenders to substance misuse interventions. In this area the Local Children

and Young Peoples Partnerships are required to provide a range of substance misuse treatment services including psychosocial interventions, work with the families and pharmacological interventions.

Eligible young offenders in Teesside can also access Resettlement and Aftercare Provision (RAP) attached to YOTs which engages young people with substance misuse problems. The core RAP provision provides up to 25 hours of planned support and activities each week including ongoing access to substance misuse and mental health treatment, support to access accommodation, education, training and employment as well as peer and family support work.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 21 January 2008

HEALTH

Ambulance Services: South Lakeland

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many ambulances have broken down or required repair while on service in South Lakeland in each of the last five years. [180582]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally. The Department has not issued guidance on the operational life of ambulances, as it is a local issue for each trust based on the supplier they decide on.

Barnet Hospital: Psychiatry

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the new building for psychiatric services provision at Barnet hospital; and if he will make a statement. [178167]

Mr. Bradshaw: The provision of psychiatric services in Barnet is a matter for the local national health service.

However, we have been informed that the Barnet psychiatric unit is projected to be completed in February 2008, with services being provided from the site by April 2008.

Breast Cancer

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the patient experience survey for breast cancer will seek information on the experience of patients with metastatic breast cancer. [177322]

Ann Keen: The patient experience survey will cover patients with all cancers, including metastatic breast cancer. An expert group will be set up in the first half of 2008 to design the technical specifications of the National Health Service Cancer Patient Experience Survey programme and a national contract will then be let for the collection, management and analysis of cancer patient experience surveys in 2008-09 with first results expected in 2009-10.

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to improve the care and experience of patients with metastatic breast cancer. [177323]

Ann Keen: The Cancer Reform Strategy sets out a series of actions to improve the care and experience of all cancer patients, including those with secondary breast cancer.

Whether patients are living with or beyond cancer, high quality information and support will be available, tailored to the patient's personal needs. Action will be taken to inform and empower patients so that they can play as active a role in decisions about their treatment as they wish. Priority will be given to ensuring there is adequate provision of clinical nurse specialists, and effective systems will be in place so that care is seamless from a patient's perspective. There should be adequate provision of psychological support for patients, their families and carers, and a new national cancer survivorship initiative will be established to improve the ongoing support available to people who have been treated for a cancer. This initiative will include patients who are living with progressive disease and may be receiving treatment but are not in the terminal phase of illness.

In addition, to improve the care and experience of all cancer patients, we need to collect good quality information on cancer services and outcomes, which can be analysed and published in such a way that is useful to patients, commissioners, service providers and other interested parties. To co-ordinate this, a national cancer intelligence network (NCIN) will be developed, building, maintaining and quality assuring a new national repository of cancer data. One of the early products expected from the NCIN will be an evaluation of services for secondary cancer patients in specific tumour areas, including breast cancer.

Cardiovascular System: Health Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to ensure that national guidance on cardiovascular disease risk assessment and management, with particular reference to the Joint British Societies guidelines (JBS2) on cardiovascular disease prevention in clinical practice, is implemented at a primary care level. [177506]

Ann Keen: The Joint British Societies Guidelines on cardiovascular disease prevention in clinical practice have not been adopted by the Department of Health as national policy. This was made clear in a letter from Professor Roger Boyle, the National Clinical Director for Heart Disease and Stroke sent to the national health service in November 2006. A copy of this letter has been placed in the Library.

Cardiovascular System: Screening

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what progress has been made by the Department of Health Vascular Programme Board in reviewing recommendations from the National Screening Committee on vascular risk assessment; and when the results of the review will be published; [177416]

(2) whether modelling of the economic consequences of different approaches to risk factor assessment and management has been undertaken and the options and the implications for NHS implementation considered as recommended by Sir Muir Gray and the National Screening Committee; [177418]

(3) what progress has been made in the Department's consideration of a more integrated approach to vascular risk assessment and management since the publication of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's draft guidance on lipid modification. [177419]

Ann Keen: As announced by the Prime Minister in his speech about the national health service on 7 January, the Department will in the next few months bring forward proposals for a screening programme in the NHS to assess people for risk of vascular disease, including heart disease, stroke, kidney disease and diabetes. This is a complex area, which requires a critical and systematic review of the evidence for a vascular risk assessment. The impetus for this work came in part from the National Screening Committee's (NSC) recommendations, as well as from the chief medical officer's department in the Department of Health. When the current phase of analysis and modelling yields its results, we intend to use it as part of our consultation with stakeholders on the development of these proposals. The work of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on lipid modification is of considerable relevance to our plans for a wider programme of vascular risk assessment and we expect the two to be wholly complementary.

Cervical Cancer: Screening

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the process of liquid based cytology has now been implemented by all 142 laboratories that process cervical screening. [177415]

Ann Keen: As of November 2007, 88 per cent. of laboratories that process cervical screening samples in England had converted to liquid based cytology (LBC).

All primary care trusts have indicated that they will have introduced LBC by October 2008, in line with National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence and departmental guidance.

The number of inadequate tests has fallen from 9 per cent. in 2004-05 to 4.7 per cent. in 2006-07 as a direct result of the continued roll-out of LBC.

Clostridium

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of organic probiotics in tablet form in reducing the risk of developing *Clostridium difficile*. [177517]

Ann Keen: There is currently insufficient clinical evidence to support the use of probiotics in any form for the prevention of *Clostridium difficile* infection.

Community Care: MRSA

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has commissioned or funded on home-based care for patients with *(a)* MRSA and *(b)* clostridium difficile. [177633]

Ann Keen: The Department of Health has not commissioned or supported any research on home based care for patient with methicillin resistant "Staphylococcus aureus" (MRSA) or "Clostridium difficile" to date.

However, we know that some national health service organisations are investigating the options for more home based care in relation to patients with MRSA.

Confectionery

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what legislation governs the sale of confectionery that contains alcohol. [179191]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

In addition to the legislation covering the sale of goods and foodstuffs generally, there is also specific legislation under article 14 of Regulation (EC) 178/2002 which requires that the confectionery should not be unsafe, i.e. injurious to health or unfit for human consumption.

Furthermore, section 191 of the Licensing Act 2003 defines 'alcohol' for licensing purposes and includes a provision setting the maximum concentration of alcohol that may be sold in liqueur confectionery without an authorisation under the Act. This definition also applies in relation to offences of selling alcohol to minors (section 147), the consumption of alcohol by minors (section 150), delivering alcohol to minors (section 151), sending a child to obtain alcohol (section 152) and unsupervised alcohol sales by children (section 153). Additionally, section 148 of the 2003 Act creates offences of selling or supplying liqueur confectionery to children under 16.

Crimes of Violence: Mental Health Services

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if his Department will undertake research on whether there is a relationship between numbers of violent attacks on patients and staff in mental health wards and numbers of available beds on mental health wards. [178007]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department is not aware of evidence to suggest such a relationship and is not convinced that commissioning such research would be an effective use of resources.

Dental Services: Leicester

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to increase the number of NHS dentists in Leicester. [177934]

Ann Keen: The dental reforms implemented in 2006 gave PCTs, for the first time, the responsibility for providing or commissioning dental services in their area. It is for PCTs to assess local needs, review current service provision and develop services to meet local needs. This information can therefore be obtained directly through the Leicester City Primary Care Trust.

Numbers of national health service dentists at primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) level as at 31 March 1997 to 2006 are available in Annex E of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006".

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements. This report, published on 23 August 2006, is available in the Library and is available also at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

The numbers of NHS dentists at PCT and SHA level as at 30 June, 30 September, 31 December 2006 and 31 March 2007 are available in Table E1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07" report. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006.

This report, published on 23 August 2007, is available in the Library and is also available at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

The inclusion of dentists on trust led contracts in the data collection following the 2006 reforms means that data collected since April 2006 cannot be directly compared with data collected under the previous system.

The methodology and frequency for reporting work force information are currently being reviewed. The purpose of the review is to ensure that, following experience of the first year of the new dental contract, figures provide an appropriate measure of the work force, given the way that the work force reporting system is being used by PCTs. An update on the review will be provided in the quarter 2 publication, due to be published in February 2008.

Both reports have been published by the Information Centre for health and social care.

Departmental Christmas Cards

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* postage of Christmas cards in 2007. [176920]

Mr. Bradshaw: The amount the Department spent on purchasing Christmas cards for 2007 (inclusive of VAT) was £4,478.27.

All expenditure incurred in the purchase and postage of official Christmas cards is made in accordance with the Department's guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in government accounting.

Separate figures for postage costs are not available, as some cards would have been included with other correspondence or would have been hand-delivered. The vast majority of those that were not included with correspondence were sent using second-class post.

Departmental Contracts

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* objective and *(b)* value was of each contract placed with (i) Deloitte & Touche, (ii) Ernst & Young, (iii) KPMG, (iv) PricewaterhouseCoopers and (v) PA Consulting by his Department and its agencies in each year since 2004-05. [179025]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect information on consultants in the format requested. To do so would attract disproportionate cost.

A new system will be introduced in April 2008 called SHOWA, which will be able to gather such information for the Department.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 4 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1118W, on departmental public expenditure, how much *(a)* near cash, *(b)* non cash and *(c)* capital expenditure was moved from each year; and to which year it was moved in the reprofiling of the Department's budgets. [178012]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1867W to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban).

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to paragraph 6.2 of his Department's resource accounts for 2006-07, for what reason the setting up of individual budget pilots was delayed; and by how long. [178272]

Mr. Bradshaw: The individual budgets underspend reported in the Department's resource accounts was not due to any delay in setting up the pilots as mistakenly stated. Unspent funds in 2006-07 were carried forward for use to 2007-08.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to paragraph 12, page 33 of his Department's resource accounts for 2006-07, which risks were *(a)* added to and *(b)* removed from his Department's high-level risk register in 2006-07. [178276]

Mr. Bradshaw: The "Department of Health Departmental Report 2007" contains examples of key risk areas included on the Department's risk register during 2006-07. A copy of the report is available in the Library.

The Department's risk register is a live document which is continuously updated and informs advice to Ministers from senior officials in the Department, and discussions between the Department and top management in the national health service and social care about key issues in policy, resourcing and service management and development. The risk register is not a public document.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to paragraph 10, page 60 of his Department's resource accounts for 2006-07, if he will break down the other non-cash items charged to operating expenditure. [178283]

Mr. Bradshaw: Other non-cash expenditure of £5,548,000 credited to operating expenditure can be analysed as follows;

credit of £5,750,000 in respect of an investment in Partnerships for Health previously charged to operating expenditure in 2005-06;

credit of £37,000 in respect of additional staff loans being brought onto the Department's balance sheet; and

charge of £238,000 in respect of consolidated fund extra receipts receivable incorrectly included in the 2005-06 accounts and amended in 2006-07.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to paragraph 10, page 60 of his Department's resource accounts for 2006-07, what stock items his Department was required to write-off; what bad debt expenses occurred; and what the value of each item was in each category. [178284]

Mr. Bradshaw: The stock write-off and bad debt expenses of £3,728,000 can be analysed as follows;

£2,096,000 stock write off is in respect of childhood vaccines that had date expired or were damaged and unusable.

£1,515,000 write-off of development costs for seven national decontamination of surgical instruments schemes

99 minor claims totalling £117,000 have been abandoned on value for money grounds.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the publication of the NHS in England's Operating Framework for 2008-09, how much of the addition to his Department's baseline expenditure in 2008-09, set out on page 207 of the 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review, has not been allocated to primary care trusts, broken down into resource and capital resources. [178291]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows the current disposition of additional funds for 2008-09.

Increases in national health service funding in 2008-09

£ billion

	Total	Allocated to primary care trusts (PCTs)
Total funding growth	6.2	
Capital[1]	0.4	0
Revenue[2]	5.8	3.8

[1] We do not allocate capital to PCTs.
[2] Additional elements of revenue will be allocated to NHS bodies but budgets and allocation mechanisms are not yet finalised.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much and what proportion of its waste his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [174422]

Mr. Bradshaw: On 12 June 2006, the Prime Minister and my right hon. Friend the then Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Fisheries (David Miliband) announced revised sustainable operations targets for the Government estate. They focus on key areas such as carbon neutrality and emissions, energy efficiency, waste and water consumption.

The 2006 estate targets include:

Recycling

Departments to increase their recycling figures to 40 per cent. of their waste arisings by 2010 and to 75 per cent. of their waste by 2020.

These targets will apply for the reporting period April 2006 to March 2007 onwards.

Previous Government targets that applied to the Government estate were launched in March 2004 but have since been superseded by the new targets.

The Department has consistently exceeded the targets. Our performance over the past five years is as follows:

	Waste arisings (tonnes)	Proportion recycled (percentage)
2001-02	n/a	n/a
2002-03	908.69	79
2003-04	918.95	65
2004-05	1,152.76	68
2005-06	635.48	85

All figures exclude information technology (some is refurbished and resold; the rest is dismantled and disposed of in accordance with legislation)

Figures are not directly comparable from one year to another. Staff have moved from buildings where waste collected by departmental contractors to buildings managed by other Government Department (who include our staff in their returns). In addition, in some buildings waste streams have been added to what was previously collected under the departmental contract.

Figures for earlier years are less reliable than more recent figures.

Figures include the main departmental London estate, and departmental agencies.

The 2006 report is available at: www.sd-commission.org.uk/sdig2006/ and the 6th annual report is due to be published in spring 2008.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to paragraph 11, page 33 of his Department's resource accounts for 2006-07, to what extent each of his Department's five assurance standards were met in 2006-07, broken down by directorate. [178275]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Statement of Internal Control sets out how the Department has met the assurance standards and the control issues identified.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to paragraph 33, page 36 of his Department's resource accounts for 2006-07, what the 199 significant control issues were, broken down by reporting trust. [178280]

Mr. Bradshaw: The 199 significant control issues reported by national health service trusts and primary care trusts in their Statements of Internal Control for 2006-07, and referred to in the Department's resource accounts for 2006-07, a copy of their statements has been placed in the Library.

Family Practitioner Services: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in arrangements for GPs in Barnet to make direct referrals for diagnostic services; and if he will make a statement. [178165]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally.

It is for local health communities to work together to decide the best setting to deliver diagnostic services for their patients. However, direct access to diagnostics from primary care can help with delivery of the 18 weeks target by improving the quality of referrals to secondary care by reducing the number of unnecessary referrals to secondary care outpatient clinics, and

removing unnecessary steps from the patient pathway. A number of initiatives are underway to support direct access diagnostics.

The payment by results for 2008-09 contains a number of indicative tariffs to support unbundling of services, for example for imaging scans. Unbundling diagnostics provides incentives for primary care trusts to commission diagnostics via direct access prior to referral.

The 18 weeks team have been working with clinical colleagues to develop commissioning pathways to support commissioners in challenging existing practice and transform services. The pathways, developed in conjunction with clinical colleagues, are based on best practice and include direct access diagnostics where this is appropriate.

Fractures

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the clinical efficacy of fracture liaison services to ensure patient concordance with medicines regimens which help prevent secondary fracture. [179181]

Ann Keen: We have made no assessment of the clinical efficacy of fracture liaison services.

Gastrointestinal System: Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients with each type of gastroenterological condition were seen by a consultant within 18 weeks of referral in the latest period for which figures are available. [178047]

Ann Keen: Referral to treatment data are not collected at a procedure level. The following table shows October 2007 referral to treatment data for the treatment function gastroenterology.

Referral to treatment data October 2007

				Completed within 18 weeks	
Treatment function	*Pathway type*	*Total number of completed pathways in October*	*Total with known referral date*	*Number of pathways*	*Percentage of pathways*
Gastroenterology	Admitted	10,881	7,905	6,699	85
	Non-admitted	16,816	15,581	11,206	72

Notes:
1. "Admitted patients" those admitted to hospital for definitive treatment, usually an operation.
2. "Non-admitted patients" those treated or otherwise without requiring admission e.g. those treated as out-patients.

Health Services: Overseas Visitors

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he will publish his review of the rules governing access to the NHS by foreign nationals. [174315]

Dawn Primarolo: On 7 March 2007 the Home Office published Enforcing the rules: A Strategy to ensure and enforce compliance with our immigration laws. The DH is working with the Home Office on this review.

When the review is completed, the Home Office will be holding a public consultation in spring 2008.

Health Services: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which organisations were consulted on screening for *(a)* heart disease, *(b)* kidney disease, *(c)* stroke and *(d)* diabetes prior to the Prime Minister's announcement of a new screening programme for these conditions on 8 January 2008. [178255]

Ann Keen: When proposals for a vascular screening programme have been developed further the Department intends to consult with various stakeholders including the National Screening Committee, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and a number of interested groups such as leading voluntary groups.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of *(a)* the number of additional medical personnel, *(b)* the quantity of additional scanning equipment and *(c)* the increased analysis laboratory capacity required to deliver his Department's screening programme for (i) heart disease, (ii) kidney disease, (iii) stroke and (iv) diabetes. [178257]

Ann Keen: These assessments form part of the modelling work on the clinical and cost-effectiveness of a systematic, population-wide vascular risk assessment and management programme that is currently being carried out by the Department's analysts.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of an individual screening for *(a)* heart disease, *(b)* kidney disease, *(c)* stroke and *(d)* diabetes. [178258]

Ann Keen: There is a departmental project currently under way to assess costs and benefits of an integrated, systematic population-wide vascular risk screening programme.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department plans to spend in each financial year until 2010-11 on advertising and education campaigns to encourage people to take up the offer of screening for *(a)* heart disease, *(b)* kidney disease, *(c)* stroke and *(d)* diabetes. [178260]

Ann Keen: The exact nature of a vascular risk assessment and management programme is still the subject of developmental work. It would be premature at this stage to set out specific spending figures on advertising and education campaigns.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the likely take-up of *(a)* universal and *(b)* targeted screening programme for (i) heart disease, (ii) kidney disease, (iii) stroke and (iv) diabetes. [178261]

Ann Keen: Take-up rates for a new service are, by their nature, unpredictable and will depend on the details of what is offered to whom, which will be worked out in part in discussions with stakeholders. However, a range of assumptions about likely take-up levels of a vascular risk assessment programme will be modelled into the analytical work being undertaken by the Department. Assumptions about likely take-up will also form part of the discussions we will have with stakeholders about the development of the practical aspects of the programme.

HealthSpace

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have registered with HealthSpace in each year since it was established. [179129]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is not held in the form requested. As at 10 January 2008, there were some 26,300 HealthSpace accounts.

Hospital Treatment Target

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what progress is being made towards the 18 week hospital treatment target in Hendon; [178064]

(2) what progress has been made in meeting the 18 week hospital treatment target for patients in the Barnet primary care trust area; and if he will make a statement. [179014]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held centrally. However, referral to treatment (RTT) times for admitted pathways (RTT times for patients whose 18 week clock stopped during the month with an inpatient/day case admission), and for non-admitted pathways (RTT times for patients whose 18 week clock stopped during the month for reasons other than an inpatient/day case admission) in the Barnet primary care trust area from January 2007 to October 2007 can be found in the following table.

By December 2008, no one should have to wait more than 18 weeks from the time they are referred by their general practitioner (GP) to the start of their treatment unless it is clinically appropriate to do so or they choose to wait.

The national health service began measuring waits for GP referral to start of consultant led treatment from January 2007. This allows the Department and the NHS to monitor and track progress towards the maximum 18 week wait.

RTT data published on 10 January 2008 show that in October 2007, 60 per cent. of admitted patients waited no more than 18 weeks for their treatment following the initial referral by their GP—an improvement on snapshot figures released in December 2006, which showed that 35 per cent. of patients received treatment within 18 weeks. The figure for non-admitted patients for October was 77 per cent.

Referral to treatment data for Barnet PCT

	January 2007	*February 2007*	*March 2007*	*April 2007*	*May 2007*	*June 2007*	*July 2007*	*August 2007*	*September 2007*	*October 2007*
Admitted pathways										
Percentage of pathways completed within 18 weeks	35	34	35	35	43	36	36	38	42	54
Data completeness	—	—	48	51	47	41	36	75	527	70
Non-admitted pathways										
Percentage of pathways completed within 18 weeks	60	88	69	68	68	68	66	65	66	62
Data completeness	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	69	57	52

Source:
Monthly Referral To Treatment Data Collection.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the cost to the NHS of collecting figures for *(a)* inpatient and *(b)* outpatient waiting times in 2007-08. [175571]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are no figures available on the monetary cost of collecting figures on waiting times. However, the review of central returns process estimates the burden in terms of person years. The current estimated burden for providing monthly and quarterly inpatient and outpatient waiting times figures is 10.8 person years in total, 6.6 years for outpatients and 4.2 years for inpatients.

Inflammatory Bowel Disease: Drugs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the drug budget for the treatment of inflammatory bowel conditions is in *(a)* England and *(b)* each strategic health authority area in 2007-08. [178036]

Ann Keen: Primary care and national health service trust drugs budgets are not determined centrally and therefore there are no drugs budgets for the treatment of inflammatory bowel conditions centrally. Trusts are responsible for setting their own budgets, decisions on the level of funding will depend on local priorities.

Learning Disability: Health Services

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve inpatient health care services for people with learning difficulties, with particular reference to Wirral West constituency; and if he will make a statement. [179160]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department recognises that people with learning disabilities or mental health problems have faced significant physical health inequalities. "Promoting Equality", published in March 2007, set out the Department's action plan to tackle the inequalities experienced by people with learning disabilities in accessing primary care.

Since its publication the Department has:

developed and published a framework to support primary care trusts (PCTs) in commissioning primary care services for people with learning disabilities, including annual health checks;

developed a preferred framework for health checks, which the valuing people support team will be promoting at regional events this autumn; and

published guidance on the commissioning of specialist learning disability health services.

The Department has worked with the Disability Rights Commission to take forward the actions outlined in "Promoting Equality" and will continue to work with the new Commission for Equalities and Human Rights.

Guidance on the commissioning of specialist learning disability health services was published in October 2007 by the Department. To support the dissemination of the guidance and address the issues raised by the Healthcare Commission audit, the valuing people support team within the Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP), in conjunction with the Healthcare Commission, have planned three events across the country.

The events will be held in February and March and are aimed primarily at commissioners and providers. The events will cover the roll-out of the guidance and how it can be used to help respond to the issues raised by the audit. The events are intended to provide commissioners and providers with the necessary information to address any concerns in their locality.

The North West strategic health authority reports that Wirral PCT has recently published a five-year strategy identifying services for people with learning disabilities as a priority. An additional £0.5 million will be invested over the period of the strategy. Since 1999, the Wirral PCT and the Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust have invested in the refurbishment and new build of two assessment and treatment units, with one further new unit scheduled to be completed in November 2009.

A number of initiatives are under way; for example, close working between inpatient units and specialist community services and primary care services to ensure a seamless service for people with learning disabilities.

Local services are benchmarked against the Healthcare Commission recommendations following inquiries into services at the Cornwall Partnership NHS trust and Sutton and Merton PCT. An action plan is being implemented to ensure high quality services for people with learning disabilities.

Medical Treatments: Waiting Lists

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government has taken to reduce referral to treatment waiting times since 1997. [179567]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 17 January 2008]*: This Government have taken a variety of steps to reduce referral to treatment (RTT) times, underpinned by record levels of investment and delivered through the hard work of national health service staff. Initially focused on reducing waits for individual stages of treatment, these include:

delivering a pledge to reduce the waiting list by 100,000. The waiting list is now at its lowest level since records began;

reducing the number of patients waiting over 13 weeks for a first out-patient appointment following general practitioner referral from over 338,000 in 1997 to less than 100 at the end of November 2007;

reducing over six month in-patient waits from over 283,000 in 1997 to 77 at the end of November 2007; and

introducing a diagnostic waiting time data collection, which has seen a reduction in the average waiting time from 6.8 weeks in April 2006 to 2.9 weeks at the end of November 2007.

These improvements have laid a solid base on which to reduce RTT times for all consultant-led elective care to a maximum of 18 weeks by December 2008. Latest data show that this pledge is already being delivered to over half of all admitted patients (patients who require admission to hospital for treatment) and over three quarters of non-admitted patients.

Mental Health Services: Greater London

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust's plans for foundation trust status. [178071]

Mr. Bradshaw: Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health National Health Service Trust's public consultation for NHS foundation trust (NHSFT) status is due to be completed on 16 January 2008. We are informed that the trust will then discuss the timescale for continuing their application for NHSFT status with NHS London.

Midwives: Manpower

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of the fertility rate projections published by the Office for National Statistics on 23 October 2007 on *(a)* future workforce requirements for midwifery and *(b)* the number of places provided for student midwives in the future. [177977]

Ann Keen: Local national health service organisations are responsible for the development of maternity services, ensuring that they meet the future needs of their local population and that there are sufficient staff, with the right skills.

The 2007-08 Operating Framework requires all NHS organisations to undertake a review of their maternity services, which included primary care trusts (PCTs) assessing the work force capacity required to deliver 'Maternity Matters'. We have built on this requirement within the Operating Framework 2008-09, which states

"that PCTs should aim to ensure that sufficient numbers of maternity staff and neo-natal teams are in place to meet local needs".

Local plans will need to consider a range of issues, including the projected number of births in their area to determine the work force capacity required to support the increased number of births and the implementation of 'Maternity Matters'.

NHS: Administration

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government has taken to improve record-keeping systems in the NHS since 1997. [179568]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* The national health service information governance toolkit, established in 2003, is a web-based resource developed by the Department, which enables NHS organisations to measure their compliance with a range of information governance requirements and best practice, including standards in records management. In this respect it is underpinned by the Department's best practice guidance – "Records Management: NHS Code of Practice", published in April 2006, and supports the Healthcare Commission's NHS Standards for Better Health, many of which require quality and integrity of record-keeping systems.

Those bodies responsible for external monitoring of NHS performance, for example strategic health authorities and the Healthcare Commission, play a key role in ensuring that effective systems are in place to ensure conformity with the relevant requirements and standards.

NHS: Debts

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he intends to write off the debt of trusts in the financially challenged trust regime. [174834]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are no plans to write off the debts of the organisations within the financially challenged trust regime.

NHS: Manpower

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what dates, in each of the last five years, the NHS hospital and community health services non-medical workforce census was published; and on what date this year's publication is expected to be published. [177370]

Ann Keen: The national health service hospital and community health services non-medical work force census results are scheduled for publication in March. The publication date will be confirmed in February.

The 2006 census results were published on 26 April 2007, 2005 results on 24 April 2006, 2004 results on 22 March 2005, 2003 results on 19 March 2004 and 2002 results on 24 June 2003.

Obesity

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in his Department worked on the prevention and management of obesity in each of the last five financial years for which figures are available, broken down by payband. [179120]

Dawn Primarolo: Obesity is a complex, multi-factoral problem. Given the complexity and scale of the problem and the requirement for comprehensive action, the Department's obesity, nutrition and physical activity teams have worked jointly with a large number of different partners, including Government at central and local level and external stakeholders such as the commercial and voluntary sectors, on the prevention and management of obesity.

Obesity: North West Region

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what studies his Department has commissioned into child obesity levels in the North West and their implications for the future health of people in the region. [179159]

Dawn Primarolo: The prevalence of childhood obesity is measured in the North West through the National Child Measurement Programme. This is a national programme through which the height and weight of children in reception (four and five-year-olds) and year 6 (10 and 11-year-olds) throughout the country are measured. This data is used to inform local planning and commissioning of services for children as well as providing population-level surveillance data to allow analysis of trends in growth patterns and obesity.

Assessment of the potential health impact will be made through a range of national studies. In particular, the Department has established the National Child Measurement Programme (which will report North West figures in 2008) as well as the Health Survey for England to measure obesity levels throughout England.

The North West strategic health authority reports that there are a number of actions being taken forward locally to help reduce overweight and obesity in the North West. This includes the development of two e-learning modules to provide flexible learning for front-line primary care staff in the region to enable them to support patients to reduce their levels of weight and obesity. The aim of these are to ensure that important messages about diet, physical activity and behavioural changes are consistent, high quality and that interventions are based in primary care settings across the North West.

Osteoporosis

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to improve the *(a)* level, *(b)* quality and *(c)* accessibility of information and support offered to people with osteoporosis in the last 12 months. [179576]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* We have taken no specific steps in the last 12 months to improve the level, quality or accessibility to information and support offered to those living with osteoporosis.

Osteoporosis: Stockport

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the *(a)* level, *(b)* quality and *(c)* accessibility of information and support offered to people with osteoporosis in (i) the Stockport Primary Care Trust area and (ii) England; [179574]

(2) what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of provision of treatment for osteoporosis in *(a)* the Stockport Primary Care Trust area and *(b)* England. [179575]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* We have made no assessment of the level, quality and accessibility of information and support, or the effectiveness of the provision of treatment, for those people living with osteoporosis in the Stockport primary care trust area, or in England.

Oxygen: Medical Equipment

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS patients are dependent upon oxygen cylinders; and how many were so dependent in each of the last three years. [179971]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* Prior to the introduction of the new home oxygen service on 1 February 2006, patients received their oxygen through pharmacies and oxygen concentrator suppliers. Patient data prior to the introduction of the new service in 2006 are not held centrally.

The full transition to the new service was completed in November 2006. During transition the pharmacies continued to supply patients, therefore records from this period do not accurately reflect patient numbers. The first accurate patient data are available from January 2007 onwards. These data reflect the total number of patients receiving oxygen at home.

	January 2007	*January 2008*
Total number of patients in England	74,000	82,000
Total number of patients in Wales	7,000	7,000

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which companies supply oxygen cylinders and oxygen to the NHS; and what minimum standards of service are required of them. [179974]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* The current suppliers to the Home Oxygen Service are Air Products, Air Liquide and BOC. Air Liquide acquired Linde UK Gas on 31 May 2007, and Allied Respiratory on 30 September 2007, who were previous additional oxygen suppliers.

With the introduction of the new Home Oxygen Service on 1 February 2006, the service contract requires the suppliers to meet specific response times for each oxygen service provided under the contract.

These are:

emergency or urgent supply of oxygen to be delivered within four hours of receipt of an order from a healthcare professional;

an order supporting the discharge of a patient from hospital to be delivered on the day following receipt of the order or on a date specified by the healthcare professional in the order; and

an order for short burst oxygen therapy, long-term oxygen therapy, or an ambulatory oxygen service to be provided within three working days of receipt of an order either from a healthcare professional or from the patient directly.

Each supplier must meet these service requirements under the terms of the contract and delivery times are a key indicator used in monitoring supplier performance.

Patient Choice Schemes: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of Barnet patients' appointments were made through the choose and book system in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 to date; and if he will make a statement. [179015]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number and percentage of Barnet primary care trust's general practitioner (GP) referrals to first out-patient appointments booked through the choose and book system was 13,634 (20 per cent.) in 2006-07 and 14,364 (25 per cent.) in the first nine months of 2007-08 (April to the end of December). This compares with national averages of 27 per cent. in 2006-07 and 39 per cent. in 2007-08 to date.

Patients: Television

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average charge made to hospital patients to access personal television facilities; and what steps hospitals are taking to ensure that use of such facilities does not have an adverse effect on other patients. [179157]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has not estimated the average charge to patients to access personal television services in hospitals.

The service providers set their own charges. The Department is not party to the contracts which exist between the service providers and the individual national health service trusts. If patients do not wish to or are unable to afford the cost of the bedside television, they can still watch the free to view television in the hospital day room or communal areas.

It is a matter for each individual trust and the service providers to ensure that the bedside systems are operated with minimum disruption to other patients. Each bedside system is equipped with personal headphones to ensure that noise from the television is kept to a minimum and the screens can be turned off when not in use.

Primary Care Trusts and NHS Reconfigurations

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he has asked primary care trusts to inform him of consultations and formal reviews which they hold into the future provision of services; [177201]

(2) if he will place in the Library reconfiguration returns from the NHS from the last 12 months. [177202]

Ann Keen: Proposals for the reconfiguration of services are a matter for the national health service locally, working in conjunction with clinicians, patients and other stakeholders.

Primary care trusts do not inform the Secretary of State of the outcomes of consultations and formal reviews which they have held into the future provision of services. Consequently, no returns relating to local consultations have been placed in the Library.

Psychological Therapist: Training

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his estimate is of the average time taken to train a psychological therapist in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the average cost was of such training. [177239]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information is not available centrally in the format requested. Psychological therapy encompasses a number of different disciplines and the associated training varies in time and cost.

Sheep Meat: Safety

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many successful prosecutions there have been in the UK over the last 10 years for the preparation, marketing or selling of prepared sheep meat known as smokies; and what sentences or penalty was imposed in each case. [179623]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on this type of enforcement action undertaken by local authorities is not held centrally.

Smoking: Health Services

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what each primary care trust's budget for smoking cessation services was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [175574]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table shows primary care trust (PCT) stop smoking services allocations from the Department's central budget programme which were included alongside their general revenue allocations for the last five years between 2003-04 and 2007-08.

The 'Choosing Health' White Paper funding separately identified in 2006-07 and 2007-08 PCT revenue allocations to support implementation of various public health initiatives included an additional £5 million each year for PCT stop smoking services. PCTs were informed of their shares of the total White Paper funding rather than their allocations for each initiative.

PCT allocations for stop smoking services between 2003-04 and 2007-08

£000

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	270	303	336	336	336
Barking and Dagenham PCT	163	183	203	203	203
Barnet PCT	254	285	316	316	316
Barnsley PCT	215	242	268	268	268
Bassetlaw PCT	88	98	109	109	109
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	128	143	159	159	159
Bedfordshire PCT	284	319	354	354	354
Berkshire East PCT	273	306	340	340	340
Berkshire West PCT	309	347	385	385	385
Bexley Care Trust	163	183	203	203	203
Birmingham East and North PCT	362	406	450	450	450
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	142	159	176	176	176
Blackpool PCT	143	160	178	178	178
Bolton PCT	238	267	296	296	296
Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT	269	302	335	335	335
Bradford And Airedale Teaching PCT	420	471	523	523	523
Brent Teaching PCT	269	301	334	334	334
Brighton and Hove City PCT	224	252	279	279	279
Bristol PCT	333	373	414	414	414
Bromley PCT	228	256	284	284	284
Buckinghamshire PCT	336	378	419	419	419
Bury PCT	149	168	186	186	186
Calderdale PCT	160	180	199	199	199
Cambridgeshire PCT	380	427	473	473	473
Camden PCT	219	246	273	273	273
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	322	361	400	400	400
Central Lancashire PCT	354	397	440	440	440

PCT allocations for stop smoking services between 2003-04 and 2007-08

£000

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	255	286	317	317	317
Cornwall and Isles Of Scilly PCT	409	459	509	509	509
County Durham PCT	469	526	583	583	583
Coventry Teaching PCT	280	314	348	348	348
Croydon PCT	269	302	335	335	335
Cumbria Teaching PCT	403	452	501	501	501
Darlington PCT	82	92	102	102	102
Derby City PCT	211	237	263	263	263
Derbyshire County PCT	547	614	681	681	681
Devon PCT	545	611	678	678	678
Doncaster PCT	267	300	332	332	332
Dorset PCT	297	333	369	369	369
Dudley PCT	248	278	309	309	309
Ealing PCT	277	311	345	345	345
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	392	440	488	488	488
East Lancashire Teaching PCT	347	385	427	427	427
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	214	240	266	266	266
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	261	293	325	325	325
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	590	662	733	733	733
Enfield PCT	223	251	278	278	278
Gateshead PCT	189	212	235	235	235
Gloucestershire PCT	424	476	528	528	528
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	189	212	235	235	235
Greenwich Teaching PCT	205	230	255	255	255
Halton and St Helens PCT	289	324	359	359	359
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	156	175	194	194	194
Hampshire PCT	876	982	1,089	1,089	1,089
Haringey Teaching PCT	226	253	281	281	281
Harrow PCT	154	173	192	192	192
Hartlepool PCT	86	97	107	107	107
Hastings and Rother PCT	159	179	198	198	198
Havering PCT	194	217	241	241	241
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	280	314	349	349	349
Herefordshire PCT	135	151	167	167	167
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	191	215	238	238	238
Hillingdon PCT	189	212	235	235	235
Hounslow PCT	192	215	238	238	238
Hull Teaching PCT	241	270	299	299	299
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	120	135	149	149	149
Islington PCT	204	229	254	254	254
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	157	176	195	195	195
Kingston PCT	120	134	149	149	149
Kirklees PCT	311	349	387	387	387
Knowsley PCT	172	193	214	214	214
Lambeth PCT	277	311	344	344	344
Leeds PCT	592	664	736	736	736
Leicester City PCT	259	290	322	322	322
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	427	479	531	531	531
Lewisham PCT	239	268	297	297	297
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	524	588	652	652	652
Liverpool PCT	499	560	621	621	621
Luton PCT	151	169	187	187	187
Manchester PCT	456	511	567	567	567
Medway PCT	198	222	246	246	246
Mid Essex PCT	238	267	296	296	296
Middlesbrough PCT	141	158	176	176	176
Milton Keynes PCT	155	174	193	193	193
Newcastle PCT	242	271	300	300	300
Newham PCT	276	310	343	343	343
Norfolk PCT	540	606	672	672	672
North East Essex PCT	257	288	319	319	319

PCT allocations for stop smoking services between 2003-04 and 2007-08

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	£000 2007-08
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	136	153	169	169	169
North Lancashire Teaching PCT	268	301	333	333	333
North Lincolnshire PCT	122	137	151	151	151
North Somerset PCT	148	165	183	183	183
North Staffordshire PCT	163	183	203	203	203
North Tees Teaching PCT	148	166	184	184	184
North Tyneside PCT	177	199	221	221	221
North Yorkshire and York PCT	546	613	679	679	679
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	471	529	586	586	586
Northumberland Care Trust	253	284	314	314	314
Nottingham City PCT	255	286	317	317	317
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	497	558	618	618	618
Oldham PCT	207	232	258	258	258
Oxfordshire PCT	411	461	511	511	511
Peterborough PCT	122	137	151	151	151
Plymouth Teaching PCT	203	228	252	252	252
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	152	171	189	189	189
Redbridge PCT	181	203	225	231	231
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	121	136	151	151	151
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	125	140	155	155	155
Rotherham PCT	214	240	266	266	266
Salford PCT	224	251	279	279	279
Sandwell PCT	286	321	355	355	355
Sefton PCT	250	280	311	311	311
Sheffield PCT	454	510	565	565	565
Shropshire County PCT	211	236	262	262	262
Solihull Care Trust	150	169	187	187	187
Somerset PCT	387	434	481	481	481
South Birmingham PCT	294	330	366	366	366
South East Essex PCT	261	293	325	325	325
South Gloucestershire PCT	158	177	196	196	196
South Staffordshire PCT	421	472	523	523	523
South Tyneside PCT	150	168	186	186	186
South West Essex PCT	305	342	379	379	379
Southampton City PCT	195	219	243	243	243
Southwark PCT	253	284	315	315	315
Stockport PCT	223	250	278	278	278
Stoke on Trent PCT	239	269	298	298	298
Suffolk PCT	417	468	519	519	519
Sunderland Teaching PCT	266	299	331	331	331
Surrey PCT	738	828	918	918	918
Sutton and Merton PCT	279	313	347	347	347
Swindon PCT	140	157	174	174	174
Tameside and Glossop PCT	202	226	251	251	251
Telford and Wrekin PCT	125	140	155	155	155
Torbay Care Trust	122	137	152	152	152
Tower Hamlets PCT	239	269	298	298	298
Trafford PCT	166	187	207	207	207
Wakefield District PCT	289	324	360	360	360
Walsall Teaching PCT	232	260	288	288	288
Waltham Forest PCT	212	238	264	258	258
Wandsworth PCT	219	246	273	273	273
Warrington PCT	150	168	186	186	186
Warwickshire PCT	371	416	461	461	461
West Essex PCT	195	219	242	242	242
West Hertfordshire PCT	388	436	483	483	483
West Kent PCT	468	525	582	582	582
West Sussex PCT	595	668	741	741	741
Western Cheshire PCT	192	216	239	239	239
Westminster PCT	181	204	226	226	226
Wiltshire PCT	305	343	380	380	380

PCT allocations for stop smoking services between 2003-04 and 2007-08

£000

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Wirral PCT	296	332	368	368	368
Wolverhampton City PCT	224	251	278	278	278
Worcestershire PCT	401	450	499	499	499
England	41,000	46,000	51,000	51,000	51,000

Note:
These allocations were made to 303 PCTs but are shown for the 152 PCTs which were formed on 1 October 2006.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department will publish the 10 Downing Street Delivery Unit report on academies; and if he will make a statement. [166468]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to my reply to his questions 165167, 165168 and 165169 on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 624W.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) whether he plans to make a statement on the conclusions of the Delivery Unit Report on academies; [169832]

(2) if he will list the *(a)* officials, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* Ministers who attended the Academies Seminar on 1 November 2007. [169833]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to my reply to his questions 165167, 165168 and 165169 on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 624W. No special advisers attended the seminar referred to.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will publish the outcome of the review of academies which concluded on 4 January 2008. [177827]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to my reply to his questions 165167, 165168 and 165169 on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 624W.

Academies: Curriculum

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many academies do not follow national curriculum programmes of study in *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics, *(c)* science and *(d)* ICT; and if he will make a statement. [172106]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect the information requested.

Academies: Finance

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding was contributed to the academy programme by *(a)* companies and *(b)* other bodies, including non-profit-making organisations, in each year since the inception of the programme. [178993]

Jim Knight: Information on sponsors' contributions received to date towards academies' capital costs is given in the following table. In noting the contributions, which are made to academy trusts, the Department does not differentiate between those made by companies and those made by named individuals or other types of organisations, because evidence received from trusts does not identify the sponsor involved and many academies have more than one sponsor.

There may be some payments that have been made but are not recorded in the table as the relevant trusts have yet to submit evidence to the Department that sponsorship has been paid and used to meet capital costs.

We have now changed the sponsorship model and sponsors will now, in most cases, establish an endowment fund rather than contributing to capital costs. Detailed monitoring of such contributions will commence at the end of February 2008, in respect of contributions made in the first half of the 2007-08 academic year.

Academies may also receive other donations apart from sponsorship. The Department does not collect details of these, but they are recorded in academies' published accounts.

	Confirmed capital contribution from sponsors (£000)
2001-02	1,160
2002-03	2,958
2003-04	4,961
2004-05	12,091
2005-06	12,339
2006-07	15,723
Up to 31 December 2007	14,685
Total	63,917

Academies: Fire Extinguishers

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make it a requirement for academy schools to be fitted with fire sprinkler systems in accordance with the guidance in Building Bulletin 100: Design for Fire Safety in Schools; and if he will make a statement. [179284]

Jim Knight: It is our expectation that all academies will now be designed to incorporate sprinklers. This is not a compulsory measure, but to demonstrate that sprinklers are not needed, the academy trust will need to be able to demonstrate that its buildings are low risk and that incorporation of sprinklers would not represent good value for money. For academies in the

Building Schools for the Future programme the decision to install sprinklers will be shared between the academy trust and the relevant local authority.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many academy schools have been fitted with fire sprinkler systems in accordance with the guidance in Building Bulletin 100: Design for Fire Safety in Schools. [179285]

Jim Knight: This information is not immediately available to the Department. However, we intend to gather the information and once this exercise is complete, I will write to the hon. Member.

Academies: Free School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in which academies the proportion of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals is *(a)* higher and *(b)* lower than the corresponding proportion in the local school catchment area; and if he will make a statement. [176723]

Jim Knight: The annual School Census for January 2007 shows that of the 46 academies then open, 10—including four former city technology colleges (CTCs)—had a lower proportion of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals than the proportion living in the local authority area:

St Paul's Academy, Greenwich;
Burlington Danes Academy, Hammersmith and Fulham;
Habedashers' Aske's Hatcham Academy (former CTC);
Sandwell Academy, Sandwell;
Walsall Academy, Walsall;
Salford City Academy, Salford;
Dixons City Academy (former CTC), Bradford;
The Kings Academy, Middlesbrough;
Macmillan Academy (former CTC), Middlesbrough; and
Landau Forte College (former CTC), Derby.

The 36 academies with a higher proportion of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals than the proportion living in the local authority area are

Mossbourne Community Academy, Hackney;
Petchey Academy, Hackney;
Lambeth Academy, Lambeth;
Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy, Lewisham;
City of London Academy, Southwark;
the Academy at Peckham, Southwark;
Harris Academy, Bermondsey, Southwark;
Harris Girls' Academy, East Dulwich, Southwark;
Paddington Academy, Westminster;
Westminster Academy, Westminster;
London Academy, Barnet;
Business Academy, Bexley;
Capital City Academy, Brent;
West London Academy, Ealing;
Greig City Academy, Haringey;
Stockley Academy, Hillingdon;
Harefield Academy, Hillingdon;
Harris Academy, Merton;
St Mark's Church of England Academy, Merton;
Walthamstow Academy, Waltham Forest;
Grace Academy, Solihull;
the Academy of St Francis of Assisi, Liverpool;
North Liverpool Academy, Liverpool;
Manchester Academy, Manchester;
Barnsley Academy, Barnsley;
Trinity Academy, Doncaster;
Sheffield Park Academy, Sheffield;
Sheffield Springs Academy, Sheffield;
David Young Community Academy, Leeds;
the City Academy Bristol, City of Bristol;
Unity City Academy, Middlesbrough;
John Madejski Academy, Reading;
Gateway Academy, Thurrock;
Marlowe Academy, Kent;
Djanogly City Academy, City of Nottingham; and
Northampton Academy, Northamptonshire.

Details of the number and proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals in each academy and their local authorities are given in the following table.

			Academies		*Local authority*	
Predecessor academy	*Year open*	*Local authority*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Number known to be eligible for free meals*	*Percentage known to be eligible for free meals*
St. Pauls Academy	2005	Greenwich	179	25.6	4,050	28.1
Mossbourne Community Academy	2004	Hackney	249	40.6	2,460	37.3
Petchey Academy	2006	Hackney	86	47.8	2,460	37.3
Burlington Danes Academy	2006	Hammersmith and Fulham	166	20.6	1,520	25.3
Lambeth Academy	2004	Lambeth	229	43.0	3,060	37.4
Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College[1]	2005	Lewisham	181	17.5	2,860	25.7
Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy	2005	Lewisham	321	44.1	2,860	25.7
City of London Academy	2003	Southwark	273	36.5	2,660	31.9

			Academies		Local authority	
Predecessor academy	*Year open*	*Local authority*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Number known to be eligible for free meals*	*Percentage known to be eligible for free meals*
The Academy at Peckham	2003	Southwark	530	50.8	2,660	31.9
Harris Academy, Bermondsey	2006	Southwark	532	60.6	2,660	31.9
Harris Girls' Academy, East Dulwich	2006	Southwark	312	40.6	2,660	31.9
Paddington Academy	2006	Westminster	428	54.7	1990	29.7
Westminster Academy	2006	Westminster	304	40.7	1990	29.7
London Academy	2004	Barnet	432	43.0	2,920	15.0
The Business Academy, Bexley	2002	Bexley	543	39.2	1,500	8.1
Capital City Academy	2003	Brent	313	34.9	3,750	22.6
West London Academy	2003	Ealing	439	40.6	3,930	25.6
Greig City Academy	2002	Haringey	251	37.4	4,010	33.8
Stockley Academy	2004	Hillingdon	274	40.8	2,880	16.8
The Harefield Academy	2005	Hillingdon	88	17.4	2,880	16.8
Harris Academy, Merton	2006	Merton	195	30.0	880	12.2
St Marks Church of England Academy	2006	Merton	194	27.1	880	12.2
Walthamstow Academy	2006	Waltham Forest	214	31.7	3,270	24.7
Sandwell Academy	2006	Sandwell	26	14.4	4,020	20.3
Grace Academy	2006	Solihull	319	29.6	1,440	10.1
Walsall Academy	2003	Walsall	82	12.0	3,480	16.8
The Academy of St Francis of Assisi	2005	Liverpool	312	47.2	8,430	27.8
North Liverpool Academy	2006	Liverpool	406	41.1	8,430	27.8
Manchester Academy	2003	Manchester	399	51.2	8,930	38.6
Salford City Academy	2005	Salford	105	18.0	2,650	23.3
The Barnsley Academy	2006	Barnsley	159	37.5	2,150	16.2
Trinity Academy	2005	Doncaster	176	16.4	2,780	13.8
Sheffield Park Academy	2006	Sheffield	385	36.3	4,170	14.3
Sheffield Springs Academy	2006	Sheffield	342	34.9	4,170	14.3
Dixons City Academy[1]	2005	Bradford	59	7.2	8,070	23.7
David Young Community Academy	2006	Leeds	371	42.1	7,450	16.0
The City Academy, Bristol	2003	Bristol, City of	381	39.7	2,600	17.1
Unity City Academy	2002	Middlesbrough	466	45.0	1,750	31.8
The King's Academy	2003	Middlesbrough	293	25.8	1,750	31.8
Macmillan Academy[1]	2005	Middlesbrough	293	25.8	1,750	31.8
Landau Forte College[1]	2006	Derby	88	11.2	2,450	15.6
John Madejski Academy	2006	Reading	150	30.4	630	11.4
The Gateway Academy	2006	Thurrock	296	36.2	860	10.7
The Marlowe Academy	2005	Kent	187	31.5	7,790	7.9
Djanogly City Academy, Nottingham	2003	Nottingham	446	32.7	3,750	27.9
Northampton Academy	2004	Northamptonshire	193	16.3	2,510	5.5

[1] Former CTC.

Academies: Sponsorship

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what obligations are placed on new sponsors of academy schools; and if he will make a statement. [166106]

Jim Knight: When setting up an academy, the Department places requirements on the academy trust set up by the sponsor, rather than the sponsors themselves. The requirements are set out in the Funding Agreement and Deed of Gift. Copies of the model Funding Agreement and Deed of Gift have been placed in the House Library.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will list the public-sector *(a)* sponsors and *(b)* co-sponsors of academies in each quarter since 1 January 2002. [172501]

Jim Knight: The names of public-sector sponsors and co-sponsors for open academies are shown in the following table. Information relates to the quarter in which each academy was opened.

Academy name	*Opening date*	*Sponsor*	*Co-sponsor*	*Opening quarter*
City of London Southward Academy	September 2003	Corporation of London	—	3rd quarter
Macmillan Academy	September 2005	Macmillan CTC	—	3rd quarter
Dixons City Academy	September 2005	Dixons CTC	—	3rd quarter
Madeley Academy	April 2007	Thomas Telford School (CTC)	—	2nd quarter
John Cabot Academy	September 2007	John Cabot CTC Trust	—	3rd Quarter
The Bristol Brunel Academy	September 2007	John Cabot Academy	—	3rd quarter
Marsh Academy	September 2007	Microsoft and Tonbridge School	Kent CC	3rd quarter
Leigh Technology Academy	September 2007	Leigh CTC	—	3rd quarter
Harris City Academy, Crystal Palace	September 2007	CTC Trust/Harris Federation of South London Schools Trust	—	3rd quarter
Cornwallis (name TBC), South Maidstone Federation	September 2007	Cornwallis Online Learning	Kent CC	3rd quarter
New Line Learning Academy	September 2007	Cornwallis Online Learning	Kent CC	3rd quarter

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* public sector bodies and *(b)* local authorities (i) sponsored and (ii) co-sponsored academies prior to 1 May 2007; and if he will make a statement. [173241]

Jim Knight: Prior to 1 May 2007 Funding Agreements had been signed for academies where the Royal borough of Kensington and Chelsea and Kent county council were co-sponsors, and where the Corporation of London was the lead sponsor. In addition to these, Funding Agreements had been signed where the following public sector bodies are acting as lead sponsors of academies:

Macmillan City Technology College;

Dixons City Technology College;

Thomas Telford School;

John Cabot City Technology College;

Leigh City Technology College;

Harris City Technology College; and

Brooke Weston City Technology College.

Academies: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what powers are available to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* local authorities to deal with underperforming academies; and if he will make a statement. [163564]

Jim Knight: A range of possible measures available to the Department to deal with underperforming academies, similar to the range of interventions are available for dealing with other underperforming state-funded schools. These range from providing support through School Improvement Partners and Educational Advisers to powers vested in the Secretary of State, which include the power to close an academy in the unlikely event that other interventions have not worked.

Academies are independent schools, and local authorities have no powers of intervention relating to an Academy's performance. However, each academy has at least one local authority representative on its governing body.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what comparative assessment he has made of the comparative effectiveness of academies and fresh start schools in improving academic comparative performance. [166107]

Jim Knight: The February 2007 National Audit Office report on the academies programme found that for three main measures of GCSE performance in 2006, academy pupils gained on average better results than fresh start schools. The percentage of pupils in academies with five or more grades A*-C was 40 per cent. in comparison to 35 per cent. in fresh start schools; the percentage in academies with five or more grades A*-G was 80 per cent. in comparison to 79 per cent., and the percentage with five or more grades A*-C including English and maths was 22 per cent. in comparison to 17 per cent. in fresh start schools.

Assessments

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether any examination dates were set for students after they had finished term and left school in 2007. [180645]

Jim Knight: The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) is responsible for setting the timetable for GCSE and A level examinations and does this after consulting on a provisional timetable a year in advance of when the examinations are taken. In the 2007 summer examination series, the final date for GCSE examinations was 27 June, the final date for GCE examinations was 28 June and for the final date for AEA examinations

was 29 June. Across England local authorities (and independent schools) set term dates in full knowledge of these dates and typically finish summer term in mid-July.

Assessments: Standards

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will bring forward proposals to establish an independent regulator of examination standards. [180646]

Jim Knight: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced on 26 September 2007 his intention to establish an independent regulator of examinations and tests. On 17 December my Department, with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, published the consultation paper "Confidence in Standards: Regulating and developing qualifications and assessment" (Cm 7281), which sets out the detail of our proposals. Copies of the consultation paper are available in the House Library.

We are consulting on these proposals until 10 March 2008 and will bring forward legislation to establish the new regulator at the earliest opportunity.

Biometrics: Fingerprints

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will commission a review of the academic literature on the reversibility of biometric templates to recreate fingerprints. [177868]

Jim Knight: The Department has no plans to commission a review of the academic literature on the reversibility of biometric templates to recreate fingerprints. The British Educational Communications and Technology Agency is responsible for monitoring this and other aspects of technology in schools and will take appropriate action as it considers necessary. BECTA published guidance on the use of biometric technology in July 2007.

Buildings Schools for the Future Programme: Sustainable Development

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps have been taken to ensure that developments under the Building Schools for the Future programme have the lowest possible environmental impact. [179587]

Jim Knight: The Department recently introduced new standards for carbon emissions from new school buildings. The Children's Plan contains a new requirement for all new build schools to reduce carbon emissions by at least 60 per cent. It also includes our longer-term ambition for all new school buildings to be zero carbon by 2016 and we are now appointing a taskforce to advise on how this can be achieved.

These targets for carbon emission complement our requirements for environmental assessments using BREEAM, the Building Research Establishments Environmental Assessment Methodology, which we have adapted for schools. Since 2005 it has been our requirement that major school building projects achieve a minimum BREEAM rating of 'very good'.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 212-14W, on education maintenance allowance, what the reasons were for the increase in the administration costs of the education maintenance allowance between 2003-04 and 2004-05. [180458]

Jim Knight: The education maintenance allowance (EMA) was piloted in England from 1999, and launched nationally from September 2004. The administration costs increased as the scheme became available across the country from that date.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Copeland

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils within Copeland have been eligible to receive education maintenance allowance over the last three years; [175942]

(2) how many pupils were eligible in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland to receive education maintenance allowance at (i) £30, (ii) £20 and (iii) £10 over the last three years. [175991]

Jim Knight: These are matters for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) which operates the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and holds the information about take-up and payments made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the council's chief executive, will write to the hon. Gentleman with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 8 January 2008:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Questions that asked:

"How many pupils within Copeland have been eligible to receive education maintenance allowance over the past three years"; and

"How many pupils were eligible in (a) Cumbria and (b) Copeland to receive education maintenance allowance at (i) £30, (ii) £20 and (iii) £10 over the last three years."

Information on the number of young people who have applied, enrolled and received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available at Local Authority Level, but not at constituency level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

To be eligible for an EMA a young person must be aged 16-19 and be in full-time learning or following a valid Entry to Employment Programme led Apprenticeship (at least 16 guided learning hours per week). Applications are income assessed, based on the learner's total household income, with the maximum income to be eligible in 2007-08 of £30,810.

In the first year of national roll out (2004/05) EMA was available to all 16 year olds across England and to 17 and 18 year olds in former pilot areas (as Cumbria was not a pilot area this did not apply to them). In 2005/06 EMA roll out continued and EMA was available to all 16 and 17 year olds nationally. In 2006/07 EMA is available to all 16, 17 and 18 year olds nationally.

The following table shows the percentage of young people receiving EMA in Cumbria Local Authority area during each academic year since national roll out. The reasons why young people did not receive EMA may be that: they were not eligible, they did not apply, or they were in employment, NEET, etc.

Percentage of population cohort receiving EMA in each academic year—Cumbria

	Percentage
2004-05 (16-year-olds only)	33
2005-06 (16 and 17-year-olds)	27
2006-07 (16, 17 and 18-year-olds)	23

Percentage of population cohort receiving EMA in each academic year—Cumbria

	Percentage
2006-07[1] (16, 17 and 18-year-olds)	29

[1] To end December.

The following table shows EMA take-up data split by payment band for Cumbria Local Authority area during each academic year since national roll out.

Take-up of EMA in each academic year—Cumbria local authority

	Band						
	£30		£20		£10		Total
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	
2004-05	1,587	74	238	11	329	15	2,154
2005-06	2,845	76	445	12	458	12	3,748
2006-07	3,724	79	504	11	491	10	4,719
2007-08[1]	3,494	79	468	11	439	10	4,401

[1] To end December.

I hope you find this information useful. EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07 and to date in 2007/08 is now also available on the LSC website, at the following address:

http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/Data/statistics/learner/EMA_take_up.htm

Education Maintenance Allowance: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many young people in the Peterborough constituency received the education maintenance allowance in the last year for which figures are available. [174520]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), which operates the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold the information about take-up and payments made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the council's chief executive, will write to the hon. Gentleman with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 19 December 2007:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question that asked:

"How many young people in Peterborough constituency received education maintenance grants in the last year for which figures are available."

Information on the number of young people who have applied, enrolled and received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available at Local Authority Level, but not at constituency level.

EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year. EMA take-up for City of Peterborough Local Authority area is as follows:

2006/07 2,017

I hope you find this information useful. EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07 and to date in 2007/08 is now also available on the LSC website at the following address:

http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/Data/statistics/learner/EMA_take_up.htm

Further Education: Essex

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of young people in *(a)* the Colchester constituency and *(b)* Essex County Council area remained in full-time education in the year after they ended compulsory schooling in each year since 1997. [180361]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the proportion of all academic age 16-year-olds participating in full-time education in Essex local authority in each year since 1997. These figures are not currently available at parliamentary constituency level.

Participation of 16-year-olds in education and training is published in the Statistical First Release: Participation in Education, Training and Employment by 16 to 18-year-olds in England: 2005 and 2006 and Participation in Education and Training by 16 and 17-year-olds in each local area in England: 2004 and 2005. See the following link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000734/index.shtml

Participation of 16-year-olds in full-time education, Essex

										Percentage
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 (a)	2001 (b)	2002	2003	2004	2005
Essex[1]	71	72	71	70	68	69	71	70	72	74
Essex[1]		71	72	70	67	70	72	71	73	75
Southend-on-Sea		78	79	76	77	65	74	67	74	74
Thurrock		64	60	64	61	64	64	67	66	72
England	70	70	72	71	71	71	72	72	73	76

[1] The two figures for Essex are for (i) Essex county council and (ii) Essex unitary authority (UA). The former contains Essex UA, Southend-on-Sea UA and Thurrock UA. Figures for these UAs are not available for 1997.

Notes:

1. Learner in Special Designated Institutes (SDIs) and External Institutes (EIs) have been included from 2002 onwards.
2. For 2001 onwards, information for pupils in maintained schools, CTCs and academies is included by the pupil's residence, rather than the address of the school. The table 2001 (a) provides the figures on the old basis, 2001 (b) on the new basis.

Further Education: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of young people in *(a)* the Tamworth constituency and *(b)* Staffordshire County Council area remained in full-time education in the year after they ended compulsory schooling in each year since 1997. [179421]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the proportion of all academic age 16-year-olds participating in full-time education in Staffordshire local authority in each year since 1997. These figures are not currently available at parliamentary constituency level.

Participation of 16-year-olds in education and training is published in the Statistical First Release: Participation in Education, Training and Employment by 16-18 Year Olds in England: 2005 and 2006 and Participation in Education and Training by 16 and 17 Year Olds in each Local Area in England: 2004 and 2005, please see the following link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000734/index.shtml

Table 1: Participation of 16-year-olds in full-time education, Staffordshire

Percentage

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001 (a)*	*2001 (b)*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Staffordshire[1]	64	65	67	67	67	68	67	70	71	72
Staffordshire[1]	68	69	70	68	69	70	69	72	73	74
Stoke-on-Trent	50	52	58	61	59	60	59	62	64	67
England	70	70	72	71	71	71	72	72	73	76

[1] The two figures for Staffordshire are for (a) Staffordshire county council and (b) Staffordshire unitary authority (UA). The former contains both Staffordshire UA and Stoke-on-Trent UA.

Notes:

1. Learners in special designated institutes (SDIs) and external institutes (EIs) have been included from 2002 onwards.
2. For 2001 onwards, information for pupils in maintained schools, CTCs and academies is included by the pupil's residence, rather than the address of the school. The table 2001 (b) provides the figures on the new basis, 2001 (a) on the old basis.

GCE A-Level

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on the promotion of A-levels to students at schools. [179822]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* All young people should receive high-quality information, advice and guidance on learning and careers options from their schools and from other learning providers, and from the Connexions service so that they can make informed choices. We expect this advice to promote the proven benefits of further education and training. However, it is important that information, advice and guidance are impartial, reflecting needs of the learner, not of the institution providing the advice.

It is not the Department's policy to promote one learning route over another. Our interest in ensuring that each learner is helped into education and training that is the best for that individual and which is most likely to sustain their participation in learning and lead to the highest level of attainment. For many learners A-levels are the most appropriate way forward; for others, different routes will be appropriate.

GCE A-Level: Standards

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children in the top 5 per cent. in Key Stage Two tests achieved three A grades at A-level in each of the last three years. [175719]

Jim Knight: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils achieved five A* to C GCSEs *(a)* including mathematics and English and *(b)* excluding mathematics and English in (i) the 10 per cent. most deprived neighbourhoods and (ii) the 10 per cent. least deprived neighbourhoods in each year since 1995; and if he will make a statement. [177627]

Jim Knight: The information for the past two years can be found in the Library or on table 21 at the following links:

2005/06: http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000702/index.shtml

2006/07: http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000768/index.shtml

The information for other years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of secondary schools had 50 per cent. or more pupils failing to secure five A* to C grades in GCSEs *(a)*

including English and mathematics and *(b)* excluding English and mathematics in each year since 1990; and if he will make a statement. [177628]

Jim Knight: Information for the last four years is in the Library.

Information for further years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Standards

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what target his Department has set for the percentage of pupils attaining five passes at grade A* to C GCSE including English and mathematics. [179305]

Jim Knight: As part of the 2007 comprehensive spending review (CSR), a new set of public service agreements and national targets was announced in October 2007. From 2009 onwards there is a dual focus on ensuring that pupils reach the levels expected for their age in both English and mathematics (threshold targets) and improving the rates of progress made by pupils from five to 16 (new progression targets) with increased attention to achieving faster progress for underachieving groups such as children in care and ethnic-minority pupils.

The key stage 4 threshold target is for 53 per cent. of pupils to achieve 5A*-C GCSEs (and equivalent), including GCSEs in both English and maths by 2011.

The progression targets will be a major factor in helping all pupils—regardless of their background and circumstances—to realise their potential in English and mathematics in particular. By 2011 we want to see a 15 percentage point improvement in the number of pupils making two levels of progress in English and a 13 percentage point improvement in those making two levels of progress in mathematics between key stage 3 and key stage 4.

We have also made the commitment that, by 2012, no secondary school should have fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils achieving five GCSEs at grade A*-C including English and mathematics. This children's plan, launched last month, also sets out the ambition that, by 2020, at least 90 per cent. of young people should achieve the equivalent of five higher GCSEs at age 19.

Gifted Children: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in *(a)* Tamworth constituency and *(b)* Staffordshire County Council area have been identified as gifted and talented since 2001. [179499]

Jim Knight: The available information is given in the tables. Information on gifted and talented pupils was collected for the first time via the school census in 2006.

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1], number and percentage of gifted and talented pupils[2], position as at summer each year 2006 and 2007, Tamworth parliamentary constituency and Staffordshire local authority

2006

	Tamworth parliamentary constituency			*Staffordshire local authority*			*England*[5]		
	Number of pupils[3]	*Number of gifted and talented pupils*[3]	*Percentage of gifted and talented pupils*[4]	*Number of pupils*[3]	*Number of gifted and talented pupils*[3]	*Percentage of gifted and talented pupils*[4]	*Number of pupils*[3]	*Number of gifted and talented pupils*[3]	*Percentage of gifted and talented pupils*[4]
Maintained primary schools	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Maintained secondary schools[5]	5,878	395	6.7	60,645	4,697	7.7	3,294,710	373,160	11.3
Total	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

2007

	Tamworth parliamentary constituency			*Staffordshire local authority*			*England*[5]		
	Number of pupils[3]	*Number of gifted and talented pupils*[3]	*Percentage of gifted and talented pupils*[4]	*Number of pupils*[3]	*Number of gifted and talented pupils*[3]	*Percentage of gifted and talented pupils*[4]	*Number of pupils*[3]	*Number of gifted and talented pupils*[3]	*Percentage of gifted and talented pupils*[4]
Maintained primary schools	7,740	223	2.9	62,845	1,522	2.4	4,137,620	302,850	7.3
Maintained secondary schools[5]	5,677	480	8.5	59,671	5,629	9.4	3,256,370	425,830	13.1
Total	13,417	703	5.2	122,516	7,151	5.8	7,393,990	728,680	9.9

n/a = Not available.
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes pupils with sole and dual (main) registration.
[3] National figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[4] The number of gifted and talented pupils expressed as a percentage of the total number of pupils.
[5] Excludes city technology colleges and academies.
Source:
School Census.

Home Education

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the term, "education otherwise than at school" is taken by his Department to include elective home education. [179001]

Jim Knight: Yes: this is explained in the guidelines for local authorities on monitoring elective home education that were published in November 2007. A copy of the guidelines has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to meet Education Otherwise and other home education organisations. [179960]

Jim Knight: I have no plans to meet Education Otherwise and other home education organisations. My officials are in regular contact with them.

Languages: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many mainstream secondary schools did not enter students for a GCSE in a modern language in each of the last three years. [177817]

Jim Knight: The numbers of maintained mainstream schools with no students entered for a GCSE in a modern language in each of the last three years are as follows:

	Number
2006/07	27
2005/06	27
2004/05	38

The 2004/05 figure relates to French, German or Spanish only.

Languages: Primary Education

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many primary schools in each London borough teach a modern foreign language; [179546]

(2) which modern foreign languages are taught in primary schools in London. [179547]

Jim Knight: The table details the proportion of primary schools in each London borough which reported in autumn 2006 that they were teaching languages in class time. The data were obtained from ongoing research commissioned by the Department, which estimated the proportion of schools teaching languages in class time. The figures are based on a representative sample of maintained primary schools and the survey achieved a 48 per cent. response rate nationally.

The major languages taught in primary schools in London were French, German, Italian and Spanish. Other languages taught in a small number of schools included Chinese, Japanese, Urdu, Panjabi, Hebrew, Turkish, Albanian and Bengali.

London LAs	*Percentage of responding primary schools teaching languages in class time*
Camden	100.00
Greenwich	78.57
Hackney	77.78
Hammersmith and Fulham	83.33
Islington	100.00
Kensington and Chelsea	83.33
Lambeth	81.25
Lewisham	50.00
Southwark	78.57
Tower Hamlets	25.00
Wandsworth	93.75
Westminster	100.00
Barking and Dagenham	100.00
Barnet	66.67
Bexley	100.00
Brent	71.43
Bromley	86.67
Croydon	63.16
Ealing	72.22
Enfield	86.67
Haringey	71.43
Harrow	100.00
Havering	86.67
Hillingdon	76.92
Hounslow	84.62
Kingston on Thames	66.67
Merton	91.67
Newham	90.91
Redbridge	57.14
Richmond upon Thames	100.00
Sutton	90.91
Waltham Forest	36.36

Mandarin: Primary Education

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to promote the teaching of Mandarin in primary schools. [179630]

Jim Knight: The Children's Plan, published in December 2007, confirmed that the primary curriculum will be reviewed, including introducing languages as a compulsory subject. This takes forward the recommendation in Lord Dearing's Languages Review that languages should become a compulsory part of the primary curriculum, and builds on the existing entitlement for all Key Stage 2 pupils to learn a language in class time by 2010.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he will respond to the letter of 29 November from the hon. Member for Isle of Wight on changes to the school system on the Isle of Wight. [176827]

Jim Knight: A reply to this letter was provided by Lord Adonis on 20 December 2007.

Private Education: Academic Year

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what basis he decided on the figures of *(a)* 28 weeks of education in an academic year and *(b)* 12.5 hours of education in a week in seeking to define an independent academic institution. [178994]

Jim Knight: We want an 'independent educational institution' to be one that provides the main part of a child's education. As 28 weeks' education per year and 12.5 hours' education per week together constitute more than half a school year and more than half a typical school week for primary age children, these institutions will provide the main part of their pupils' education.

Pupils: Accidents

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were taken to hospitals owing to accidents within schools in Tamworth constituency in each of the last five years. [179392]

Jim Knight: The Health and Safety Executive has provided details, as requested, in the following table:

Injuries to students in schools in the local authority of Tamworth, reported to HSE, 2002/03 to 2006/07[1]

	Non-fatal injuries
2002/03	4
2003/04	
2004/05	1
2005/06	5
2006/07[1]	7

[1] Provisional.

Notes:

1. Injuries are reported and defined under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 1995. The information available under RIDDOR 95 includes two categories of severity for members of the public (the category under which students are recorded): fatal injuries and non-fatal injuries that cause a person to be taken from the site of the accident to hospital. Across the period shown there are no recorded fatal injuries to students in Tamworth reported to HSE under RIDDOR.
2. Identified using Standard Occupational Classification 2000 (SOC2000) code 0002 'Student'.
3. Identified using Standard Industrial Classification 1992 (SIC92) codes 80100 'Primary education', 80200 'Secondary education' and 80210 'General secondary education'.
4. The annual basis is the planning year from 1 April to 31 March.

Pupils: Data Protection

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to prevent school staff removing unencrypted sensitive pupil data from school premises. [178044]

Jim Knight: The British Educational Communications and Technology Agency is responsible for producing and publishing guidance for schools on how to ensure the security of their IT systems. BECTA's latest guidance was published in September 2007 and is available on its website. This guidance includes information for schools on monitoring the physical security of ICT equipment, data security and the security of pupil information and data.

Pupils: Drugs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were stopped on school premises for being in possession of *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* drugs in the most recent year for which figures are available. [179406]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Information on the number of exclusions (permanent and fixed period) from schools by reason for exclusion (which includes the category 'drug and alcohol related') has been placed in the Library.

Pupils: English Language

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children with English as a second language there were in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each English local authority in (i) 1997, (ii) 2001, (iii) 2005, (iv) 2006 and (v) 2007. [179954]

Jim Knight: The available information shows the number of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English. Figures for the years requested have been placed in the Library. Data for the earlier years (1997 and 2001) have been included in the workbook but as the information is not directly comparable owing to a change in the coding framework, it has not been amalgamated into the time series.

The information is published annually in Schools and Pupils in England: January 2007 (Final). The latest figures relate to 2007 and are available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000744/index.shtml

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding was available to support pupils with English as a second language in each English local authority area in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2005, *(d)* 2006 and *(e)* 2007 in 2005-06 prices; how much has been made available for 2008; and if he will make a statement. [179965]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect this information. It is a matter for each local authority to determine locally the level of funding for each of its services in the light of local circumstances.

School Leaving

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of imposing sanctions on young people to keep them in education and training; and if he will make a statement. [163759]

Jim Knight: Without compulsion, there is a risk that young people with lower aspirations, who may come from families and communities which have a poor experience of education and training, are missed as participation increases, and this group will become more marginalised. That is why we believe that to galvanise the system to provide better for this group we

must go further, and a different approach is needed. The experience of other countries suggests that if this policy is to have the impact we want, we need to be clear that it can be enforced if necessary. For example, Western Australia raised the participation age from 15 to 16 and has seen the participation rate at 16 rise from 80 per cent. to 98 per cent. The Netherlands has recently changed the law too, and we will look to learn from its experience. Under plans to raise the participation age, sanctions will only be used as a last resort and the focus will be on ensuring there is the right provision and the right support for young people to participate in education and training post-16.

School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether schools may spend profits on their school meal services in other areas of school expenditure; and if he will make a statement. [163319]

Jim Knight: Schools may spend all their income, whether from the Dedicated Schools Grant or other sources, including profit on school meals where the service is not contracted out, on expenditure for the purposes of the school or pupils in other maintained schools. Local Management of Schools means that schools are expected to budget within their resources however they are derived, and to manage their own expenditure in the way that best fits the priorities and local needs of the school.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which *(a)* academies and *(b)* other schools use their powers to admit up to 10 per cent. of children on the basis of aptitude. [164018]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect this information.

Schools: Armed Forces

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many of the recommendations relating to his Department contained in the Defence Committee report "Educating Service Children" (HC (2005-06) 1054), have been implemented; and if he will make a statement. [180359]

Jim Knight: The Defence Committee recommendations for the then DfES that have been implemented are as follows.

We have included an indicator in the January 2008 school census which will facilitate research into service children's outcomes;

We are working closely with the devolved Administrations on the MOD's new cross border forum discussing provision for service children across the whole UK, particularly provision for those with statements of special educational needs (SEN) who move between countries within the UK;

To improve the transfer of pupil records when they move school, we have continued to publicise the statutory "15 school day rule" to ensure that all schools are aware of their responsibilities;

We are working with a group of heads of schools which have high mobility due to large numbers of service children, to develop best practice guidance to help schools deal with the difficulties mobility causes, and to ease the impact that frequent moves can have on the children;

The School Admissions Code requires admission authorities to take account of service families' needs and allows them to allocate places in advance where families are moving to their area, using the unit HQ address if necessary where families have yet to be given an address. These provisions have been welcomed by the MOD.

One recommendation about children with statements of SEN was not accepted. For those children with statements who move frequently, there are regulations governing the transfer of information between local authorities, and the timing of reviews of the statements and any necessary reassessments of the children's SEN. Previously statemented children who return from abroad may have been away for a considerable period and their needs may have changed. It is right that their needs are reassessed on return.

Schools: Biometrics

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will commission an independent assessment of the security of biometric systems used in schools *(a)* in libraries, *(b)* in canteens and *(c)* for registration. [177867]

Jim Knight: The Department has no plans to commission an assessment of the security systems used in schools *(a)* in libraries, *(b)* in canteens and *(c)* for registration. The British Educational Communications and Technology Agency is responsible for monitoring this and other aspects of technology in schools and will take appropriate action as it considers necessary. BECTA published guidance on the use of biometric technology in July 2007.

Schools: Buildings

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each local authority are using temporary mobile classrooms; and how many such classrooms there are in each local authority. [177828]

Jim Knight: Data on school temporary buildings were supplied to my Department by local education authorities in 2001, 2003 and 2005. However, checks on recent months indicate that the completeness and quality of the data was not good enough to accurately assess the number of buildings.

Central Government capital support for investment in schools has increased from under £700 million in 1996-97 to £6.4 billion in 2007-08 and will rise further to £8 billion by 2010-11. Progress is being made year by year on improving the quality of the school building stock. The bulk of schools capital is now allocated by formula to authorities and schools so that they can address their local priorities, including the replacement of decayed temporary accommodation, on which we have set a high priority. Given the high levels of funding, authorities have the opportunity to replace temporary buildings when they are considered to be unsuitable.

Modern, high-quality mobile or demountable buildings provide a good environment for teaching and

learning where there is short-term need. When they are new, they are required to meet the same building environmental standards as buildings that are not demountable. They might, for instance, be needed to cope with a short-term increase in pupil numbers, or where extensive remodelling or rebuilding of permanent accommodation means providing temporary accommodation on the school site, rather than transporting children elsewhere.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will establish a national minimum expected condition for school buildings. [178496]

Jim Knight: The Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 set out minimum standards for schools. These regulations are currently under review. The Department has also published a wide range of guidance and building bulletins on design and standards for school buildings.

Schools: Buses

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many designated school buses are fitted with seat belts. [179578]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Department does not hold information on the number of designated school buses that are fitted with safety belts.

Schools: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many schools have adopted the Opening Minds curriculum; [173812]

(2) when he will reply to question 173812, on the Opening Minds curriculum, tabled by the hon. Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton on 10 December 2007. [180586]

Jim Knight: We do not collect data about which approaches schools take to planning their curriculum. That is a matter for schools themselves, as long as they meet the statutory requirements. The Opening Minds website www.rsa.org.uk, however, suggests that

"there are now over 135 schools using the Opening Minds framework of competences".

Schools: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the difference between budgeted and actual costs incurred in the construction of all new *(a)* schools and *(b)* academy schools; and if he will make a statement. [166105]

Jim Knight: The schools for which the Department holds cost information are academies, as follows, with estimated costs including sponsorship. My Department does not hold cost information for other recently completed schools, which were procured locally. Building prices vary significantly according to the size of school, site development costs and local prevailing construction pricing levels.

Academy	*Area*	*£ million*
Bradford Academy	Bradford	20.5
Brunel Academy	Bristol	24.0
City of London Academy (Southwark)	Southwark	33.7
David Young Community Academy	Leeds	23.6
Djanogly City Academy	Nottingham	23.7
Folkestone Academy	Kent	36.8
Grace Academy	Solihull	31.7
Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy	Lewisham	40.5
Harris Academy	Croydon	38.0
John Madejski Academy	Reading	27.7
Leigh Technology Academy	Kent	36.6
London Academy	Barnet	34.4
Northampton Academy	Northampton	27.4
Paddington Academy	Westminster	31.5
Salford City Academy	Salford	16.7
Sandwell Academy	Sandwell	27.1
Stockley Academy	Hillingdon	27.5
The Academy at Peckham	Southwark	30.2
The Academy of St. Francis of Assisi	Liverpool	20.9
The Bridge Academy	Hackney	47.7
The City Academy	Bristol	27.7
The Marlowe Academy	Kent	27.8
The Petchey Academy	Hackney	34.2
The Samworth Enterprise Academy	Leicester	19.5
Thomas Deacon Academy	Peterborough	50.4
Trinity Academy	Doncaster	25.1
West London Academy	Ealing	32.2
Westminster Academy	Westminster	30.6

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the amount of guaranteed funding per school pupil in Hendon is from the *(a)* dedicated schools grant and *(b)* other specific grants in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [177925]

Jim Knight: The Department allocates education so funding to local authorities the requested information for the Hendon constituency is not available. The guaranteed unit of funding per pupil for Barnet local authority for 2007-08 was £4,344 and for 2008-09 it will be £4,559. We do not apply a guaranteed unit of funding to specific grants.

Schools: Inspections

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in Hendon were inspected by Ofsted in the last 12 months; what the outcome was of each inspection; and if he will make a statement. [177692]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. Her Majesty's chief inspector of schools, Christine Gilbert, has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 14 January 2008:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Ofsted has inspected 18 schools in Hendon constituency in the last 12 months from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007. The grades and the date on which they were inspected are shown in the table below.

URN	*Inspection date*	*Grade*	*School name*
134798	26 February 2007	2 good	London Academy
101336	27 February 2007	2 good	St. Joseph's RC Infant School
101355	14 March 2007	3 satisfactory	Dollis Junior School
101326	21 March 2007	2 good	St. Paul's CofE Primary School
130935	21 March 2007	3 satisfactory	The Hyde School
101359	25 April 2007	2 good	Mill Hill County High School
103119	15 May 2007	2 good	St. Mary's and St. John's CE Primary School
101364	17 May 2007	2 good	St. James' Catholic High School
101258	22 May 2007	1 outstanding	Barnfield Primary School
101357	24 May 2007	2 good	Hendon School
101395	14 June 2007	1 outstanding	Northway School
101376	28 June 2007	1 outstanding	Mathilda Marks-Kennedy Jewish Primary School
101339	3 July 2007	2 good	Blessed Dominic RC School
133749	11 September 2007	2 good	Northgate School
101274	14 November 2007	1 outstanding	Deansbrook Infant School
101342	29 November 2007	1 outstanding	The Annunciation RC Junior School
101275	10 December 2007	3 satisfactory	Dollis Infant School
101343	11 December 2007	1 outstanding	Independent Jewish Day School

Ofsted has four categories for grading school inspection: grade 1 is outstanding, grade 2 good, grade 3 satisfactory, and grade 4 inadequate. Grade 1 is exceptionally and consistently high, grade 2 is generally above average with no criteria significantly below average, grade 3 is broadly average, and grade 4 is exceptionally low. Grade 4 schools can either be placed in 'special measures' or be given a 'notice to improve'.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Schools: Isle of Wight

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had with officials on changes to numbers of teaching staff resulting from the reorganisation of schools on the Isle of Wight. [180732]

Jim Knight: I have had no discussions with officials on changes to numbers of teaching staff resulting from the reorganisation of schools on the Isle of Wight. This is entirely a matter for the local authority.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families who would be responsible for funding for redundancies arising from the reorganisation of schools on the Isle of Wight. [180733]

Jim Knight: It will be the responsibility of Isle of Wight council to fund any redundancy payments that may result from the reorganisation of schools on the island for which the council is responsible.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the cost of redundancy payments brought about by the reorganisation of schools on the Isle of Wight. [180734]

Jim Knight: No estimates have been made in respect of any redundancies that may result from the reorganisation of schools on the Isle of Wight, as these decisions are a matter for local determination.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department has conducted a study of the effect of the reorganisation of schools on the Isle of Wight on the number of road miles driven and car journeys made to travel to schools. [180735]

Jim Knight: No such study has been undertaken by the Department. It is for local authorities to decide how best to organise the schools in their areas in the light of local circumstances. Concerns about the proposal should therefore be directed to Isle of Wight council.

In making proposals, authorities must consider the implications for school travel and transport; and the Department's statutory guidance to decision-makers makes clear that they should bear in mind that proposals should not unreasonably extend journey times or increase transport costs. In addition, the proposals should not result in too many children being prevented from walking or cycling to school because routes are unsuitable.

Schools: Listed Buildings

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many educational establishments in receipt of funding from his Department are accommodated in listed buildings; and how many of these have been designated as in need of significant repair. [180350]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold information on which educational buildings are listed.

The bulk of schools capital is allocated by formula to authorities and schools, so that they can address their local asset management planning priorities, including any necessary repairs to listed buildings. Schools decide on the amount of revenue funding to allocate to building repairs and maintenance.

Central Government capital support for investment in schools has increased from under £700 million in 1996-97 to £6.4 billion in 2007-08, and will rise further to £8 billion by 2010-11. While reducing maintenance requirements is a long-term aim, the primary objectives for funding are to raise educational standards and tackle local deprivation. A substantial proportion of capital funding is targeted at transformational programmes, such as Building Schools for the Future and the primary capital programmes. Over time, these programmes will significantly reduce future maintenance requirements.

Schools: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of funding arrangements outside centralised programmes for the allocation of resources to ensure that schools are properly maintained; and if he will make a statement. [178583]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect the information requested from schools or local authorities. It is the responsibility for each local authority and its schools to make decisions locally on repairs and maintenance.

Schools: Rural Areas

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding was allocated to each local authority to support small rural schools in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [178452]

Jim Knight: The allocation formula for dedicated schools grant (DSG) does not separately allocate money to support small rural schools; it starts from local authorities' spending on schools for 2005-06, which is closely related to the formula for schools formula spending shares in use that year. That formula took account of the needs of sparsely populated authorities to keep open small rural primary schools, using an indicator of sparsity. The following table sets out estimated amounts within 2007-08 allocations of DSG, derived from the amounts allocated through the schools FSS formula in 2005-06 on the basis of sparsity, updated appropriately.

Authority	*Estimated amount for sparsity (£ million)*
Barking and Dagenham	—
Barnet	—
Barnsley	0.30
Bath and North East Somerset	0.49
Bedfordshire	2.49
Bexley	—
Birmingham	—
Blackburn with Darwen	0.20
Blackpool	—
Bolton	—
Bournemouth	—
Bracknell Forest	0.08
Bradford	0.48
Brent	—
Brighton and Hove	—
Bristol, City of	—
Bromley	0.06
Buckinghamshire	2.79
Bury	—
Calderdale	0.55
Cambridgeshire	5.88
Camden	—
Cheshire	3.52
City of London	0.002
Cornwall	5.27
Coventry	—
Croydon	—
Cumbria	6.37
Darlington	0.34
Derby	—
Derbyshire	4.36
Devon	8.99
Doncaster	1.62
Dorset	3.90
Dudley	—
Durham	2.61
Ealing	—
East Riding of Yorkshire	3.75
East Sussex	2.74
Enfield	—
Essex	6.27
Gateshead	0.12
Gloucestershire	4.16
Greenwich	—
Hackney	—
Halton	0.06
Hammersmith and Fulham	—
Hampshire	5.86
Haringey	—
Harrow	—
Hartlepool	0.13
Havering	—
Herefordshire	2.87
Hertfordshire	2.68
Hillingdon	—
Hounslow	—
Isle of Wight	0.92
Islington	—
Kensington and Chelsea	—
Kent	5.92
Kingston upon Hull, City of	—
Kingston upon Thames	—
Kirklees	1.01
Knowsley	0.23
Lambeth	—
Lancashire	4.66
Leeds	0.69
Leicester	—
Leicestershire	3.49
Lewisham	—

Authority	Estimated amount for sparsity (£ million)
Lincolnshire	9.35
Liverpool	—
Luton	—
Manchester	—
Medway	0.42
Merton	—
Middlesbrough	—
Milton Keynes	0.76
Newcastle upon Tyne	—
Newham	—
Norfolk	8.80
North East Lincolnshire	0.42
North Lincolnshire	1.40
North Somerset	0.77
North Tyneside	—
North Yorkshire	10.17
Northamptonshire	4.15
Northumberland	3.29
Nottingham	—
Nottinghamshire	3.27
Oldham	0.21
Oxfordshire	4.19
Peterborough	0.49
Plymouth	—
Poole	—
Portsmouth	—
Reading	—
Redbridge	—
Redcar and Cleveland	0.39
Richmond upon Thames	—
Rochdale	—
Rotherham	0.49
Rutland	0.57
Salford	—
Sandwell	—
Sefton	—
Sheffield	0.32
Shropshire	4.36
Slough	—
Solihull	0.39
Somerset	5.39
South Gloucestershire	1.14
South Tyneside	—
Southampton	—
Southend-on-Sea	—
Southwark	—
St. Helens	0.13
Staffordshire	4.10
Stockport	—
Stockton-on-Tees	0.29
Stoke-on-Trent	—
Suffolk	6.12
Sunderland	—
Surrey	2.14
Sutton	—
Swindon	0.43
Tameside	—
Telford and Wrekin	0.59
Thurrock	0.21
Torbay	—
Tower Hamlets	—
Trafford	—
Wakefield	0.24
Walsall	—
Waltham Forest	—
Wandsworth	—
Warrington	0.06
Warwickshire	3.38
West Berkshire	1.05
West Sussex	2.96
Westminster	—
Wigan	—
Wiltshire	5.87
Windsor and Maidenhead	0.38
Wirral	—
Wokingham	0.38
Wolverhampton	—
Worcestershire	2.34
York	0.32

Schools: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what factors were taken into account in deciding the amount allocated to Staffordshire for the school funding settlement for 2008-09 to 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [179761]

Jim Knight: Staffordshire's allocation of dedicated schools grant (DSG) for 2008-09 to 2010-11 depends on the following factors: the authority's 2007-08 guaranteed unit of funding for DSG and the number of pupils aged three to 15 in the authority's schools and early years providers. It includes an increase of £2.5 million for pockets of deprivation. Full details of the calculation of dedicated schools grant allocations may be found on TeacherNet at

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=12222.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he has discussed with Ofsted the commissioning of research on the relative frequency of primary schools, junior schools and infant schools being placed in either special measures or notice to improve categories. [179397]

Jim Knight: Ofsted and the DCSF have discussed the relative performance of different types of school in the primary age phase, and are continuing to analyse relevant data. I will write to the hon. Member with further details.

Schools: Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which obligatory training courses school staff must attend annually. [180356]

Jim Knight: There is a range of training and development opportunities available to all school staff. However, there are no obligatory training courses which the Department requires school staff to attend annually.

Science: Secondary Education

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what *(a)* curricular and *(b)* extra-curricular programmes his Department is supporting to encourage the study of science at key stages 3 and 4; [179583]

(2) how much his Department spent on promoting the study of science, technology, engineering and mathematics at key stage 3 in each year since 1997. [179584]

Jim Knight: The Government are supporting a number of curricular and extra curricular programmes that aim to encourage the study of science at key stages 3 and 4 and beyond. These include

The introduction of a new science programme of study at key stage 3 for first teaching from September 2008. As with the new science programme of study at key stage 4 that was introduced in 2006 it will maintain the breadth, depth and challenge of the previous curriculum, but will have a better balance between knowledge and understanding.

The secondary national strategy which provides a comprehensive professional development programme for teachers which includes training and materials and support from local consultants who are experts in their field. The strategy sets high expectations and is designed to raise standards for all pupils in all circumstances, but also focuses on pupils who need extra support and who are falling behind.

The national network of science learning centres to provide professional development for science teachers and technicians. The training focuses on encouraging innovative and exciting teaching practice that will enthuse and inspire young people and improve the subject specialism of science teachers.

Piloting 250 after school science and engineering clubs offering an engaging and stretching programme of activities to key stage 3 pupils with interest and potential in science. A further 250 clubs will be established from September 2008.

Establishing a system for coordinating the many enhancement and enrichment activities that are available to make it easier for schools to access them. This will include the publication of directories of nationally available activities.

Project Faraday, which is developing inspirational exemplar designs for school laboratories which will reflect the latest thinking on what is required to ensure effective science teaching. A book showing the exemplar designs will be published in early 2008.

The new triple science support programme, delivered by the Learning and Skills Network, which provides practical advice and support to schools to offer separate GCSEs in biology, physics and chemistry.

Information on how much has been spent on science, technology, engineering and mathematics at key stage 3 since 1997 can be provided only at disproportionate cost, or cannot be disaggregated from wider budgets.

From September 2008 the Government want to make GCSEs in the individual sciences of physics, chemistry and biology (triple science) more accessible to pupils who would benefit. To achieve this we are introducing a non-statutory entitlement to triple science for all pupils who achieve level 6 in science at key stage 3. All specialist science colleges will be expected to deliver triple science from 2008. The Government have also put in place the triple science support programme to support schools as mentioned above. This will include the delivery of 600 days of training to schools by the end of March 2008. The programme has also established 40 local triple science networks to support schools starting to offer triple science.

Science: Teachers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimates he has made of the proportion of *(a)* science and *(b)* mathematics teachers in secondary schools who were not qualified at degree level in these subjects in each year from 1995 to 2007. [163548]

Jim Knight: The information is not available in the format requested, but information on the level of qualification of full-time teachers in service in secondary schools in the subjects they teach is available from the Secondary School Curriculum and Staffing Survey (SSCSS) an occasional sample survey undertaken in the years 1988, 1992, 1996, 2002 and 2007. Figures for 2007 are expected to be published in early 2008.

The following tables show the number of full-time teachers employed in maintained secondary schools by the highest post A-level qualification held in the subjects they taught in 1996 and 2002, the years for which figures are currently available.

Teachers in service: Full-time teachers in maintained secondary schools—highest level of qualification[1] by subject of qualification[2], at November 1996, England

	Percentage						Total
	Degree[3]	BEd	PGCE	Cert Ed	Other qual.	Total	Number (thousand)
Mathematics	47	18	15	17	3	100	27.1
English	49	18	14	18	1	100	31.6
Biology	55	13	14	18	1	100	11.3
Chemistry	66	10	14	10	—	100	10.7
Physics	53	12	20	13	2	100	10.4
General Science	29	13	44	13	1	100	15.5
Other Sciences	66	10	12	10	2	100	6.2
French	59	12	16	10	2	100	15.5
German	64	11	18	4	3	100	6.9
Spanish	68	5	21	—	6	100	2.5
Other Modern Languages	68	5	18	4	5	100	2.7
Design and Technology	16	32	13	35	4	100	11.1
Information Technology	36	17	19	8	20	100	4.9
Other Technology	47	13	6	19	15	100	4.4

Teachers in service: Full-time teachers in maintained secondary schools—highest level of qualification[1] by subject of qualification[2], at November 1996, England

	Percentage						Total
	Degree[3]	BEd	PGCE	Cert Ed	Other qual.	Total	Number (thousand)
Home Economics	13	25	4	55	3	100	6.8
Business Studies	31	22	18	17	12	100	4.3
Classics	83	3	7	2	6	100	1.4
History	54	14	14	17	1	100	19.2
Religious Education	34	20	17	26	3	100	8.6
Geography	43	22	12	23	1	100	15.6
Other Social Studies	70	14	8	6	3	100	11.3
Combined Arts/Humanities/Social Studies	55	19	14	11	1	100	4.2
Music	49	16	9	23	2	100	6.3
Drama	27	19	25	25	4	100	8.0
Art	42	17	9	30	3	100	10.8
Physical Education	13	37	11	38	1	100	22.0
Careers Education	11	10	11	20	48	100	0.9
Personal and Social Education	24	17	22	20	16	100	2.3
General Studies	20	23	28	24	5	100	2.2
General Primary Subjects	14	9	48	21	8	100	1.0
Other	45	13	10	10	22	100	21.5
Total[2]	44	18	15	19	4	100	307.2

[1] Where a teacher has more than one post A-level qualification in the same subject, the qualification level is determined by the highest level reading from left (degree) to right (other qualifications). For example, teachers shown under PGCE have a PGCE but not a degree or BEd in the subject, while those with a PGCE and a degree are shown only under degree.
[2] Teachers are counted once against each subject in which they have a post A-level qualification
[3] Includes higher degrees but excludes BEds.
Source:
1996/97 Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey.

Teachers in service: Full-time teachers in maintained secondary schools—highest post A-level qualifications[1] held in the subjects they teach[2] to year groups 7-13, England

	Percentage						
	Degree[3]	BEd	PGCE	Cert Ed	Other qual.	No qual.	Total teachers (thousand)
Mathematics	42 ± 3	15 ± 2	9 ± 2	7 ± 1	2 ± 1	24 ± 2	28.2
English	51 ± 3	15 ± 2	7 ± 1	6 ± 1	1 ± 1	20 ± 2	29.4
Combined/General science	62 ± 3	12 ± 2	10 ± 2	4 ± 1	1 ± 1	11 ± 2	28.3
Biology[4]	71 ± 5	7 ± 3	11 ± 4	3 ± 2	- ± 1	7 ± 3	5.6
Chemistry[4]	72 ± 5	6 ± 3	12 ± 4	1 ± 1	1 ± 1	7 ± 3	5.2
Physics[4]	63 ± 6	11 ± 4	15 ± 4	3 ± 2	- ± -	8 ± 3	4.7
Other sciences[4]	10 ± 6	4 ± 4	5 ± 4	- ± -	- ± -	80 ± 8	1.6
French	54 ± 3	7 ± 2	10 ± 2	3 ± 1	2 ± 1	23 ± 3	16.0
German	47 ± 5	6 ± 3	13 ± 4	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	30 ± 5	6.9
Spanish	37 ± 7	8 ± 4	19 ± 6	- ± -	3 ± 2	33 ± 7	3.6
Other modern languages	18 ± 8	- ± -	9 ± 7	- ± -	3 ± 4	71 ±10	1.4
Design and technology[5]	26 ± 3	20 ± 3	7 ± 2	21 ± 3	2 ± 1	24 ± 3	20.9
ICT[5, 6]	13 ± 2	6 ± 1	8 ± 2	2 ± 1	3 ± 1	69 ± 3	18.9
Other/Combined technology[5]	30± 1 0	13 ± 8	16 ± 7	18 ± 9	2 ± 3	20 ± 9	1.6
Business studies	30 ± 5	11 ± 4	9 ± 3	4 ± 2	3 ± 2	43 ± 5	6.5
Classics	33 ± 7	- ± -	2 ± 4	2 ± -	- ± -	63 ± 7	1.0
History	57 ± 4	9 ± 2	6 ± 2	6 ± 2	- ± -	23 ± 3	13.7
Religious education	22 ± 3	8 ± 2	8 ± 2	4 ± 1	2 ± 1	57 ± 4	14.2
Geography	53 ± 4	9 ± 2	6 ± 2	5 ± 2	1 ± 1	25 ± 3	13.7
Other social studies	35 ± 5	6 ± 3	2 ± 2	2 ± 1	- ± 1	54 ± 6	4.9
Combined arts/humanities/ social studies	5 ± 3	4 ± 2	7 ± 3	1 ± 1	1 ± 1	83 ± 5	5.3
Music	59 ± 5	15 ± 4	5 ± 2	6 ± 3	2 ± 2	13 ± 4	6.3

Teachers in service: Full-time teachers in maintained secondary schools—highest post A-level qualifications[1] held in the subjects they teach[2] to year groups 7-13, England

Percentage

	Degree[3]	BEd	PGCE	Cert Ed	Other qual.	No qual.	Total teachers (thousand)
Drama	25 ± 4	10 ± 3	12 ± 3	6 ± 2	2 ± 1	45 ± 5	8.1
Art and design	54 ± 4	10 ± 3	7 ± 2	9 ± 3	1 ± 1	20 ± 4	9.3
Physical education	25 ± 3	31 ± 3	6 ± 2	13 ± 2	2 ± 1	22 ± 2	21.4
Careers education	2 ± 2	1 ± 2	3 ± 3	4 ± 4	3 ± 4	87 ± 7	1.5
PSHE[6]	1 ± -	1 ± -	2 ± 1	1 ± -	- ± -	95 ± 1	61.4
General studies	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	1 ± 1	- ± 1	- ± -	95 ± 2	7.1
Citizenship	2 ± 1	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	- ± 1	- ± -	94 ± 2	9.0
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	32.8
Total[2, 7]	33 ± -	10 ± -	7 ± -	5 ± -	1 ± -	44 ± -	388.4

'-' = zero or less than 0.5.
[1] Where a teacher has more than one post A-level qualification in the same subject, the qualification level is determined by the highest level reading from left (degree) to right (other qual.). For example, teachers shown under PGCE have a PGCE but not a degree or BEd in the subject, while those with a PGCE and a degree are shown only under degree.
[2] Teachers are counted once against each subject which they are teaching.
[3] Includes higher degrees but excludes BEds.
[4] Teachers qualified in combined/general science are treated as qualified to teach biology, chemistry, or physics. Teachers qualified in biology, chemistry or physics are treated as qualified to teach combined/general science.
[5] Teachers qualified in other/combined technology are treated as qualified to teach design and technology or information and communication technology. Teachers qualified in design and technology or information and communication technology are treated as qualified to teach other/combined technology.
[6] Information and Communication Technology is abbreviated as ICT and Personal Social and Health Education is abbreviated as PSHE.
[7] 'Other' not included in total percentages.
Source:
Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey 2002.

Secondary Education: GCE A-Levels

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of secondary schools with sixth forms submitted more than one pupil for A-Level in *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* physics, *(c)* chemistry, *(d)* biology, *(e)* French, *(f)* Spanish, *(g)* German and *(h)* Mandarin in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [178451]

Jim Knight: The 2006-07 revised figures are provided as follows:

	Number of secondary schools with sixth forms who submitted more than one pupil for A level	Percentage of secondary schools with sixth forms who submitted more than one pupil for a level
Mathematics	2,353	92.9
Physics	2,060	81.3
Chemistry	2,202	86.9
Biology	2,270	89.6
French	1,561	61.6
Spanish	810	32.0
German	1,032	40.7
Mandarin	297	11.7

Secondary Education: Newcastle-Upon-Tyne

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children aged 11 to 16 years *(a)* there were in Newcastle-upon-Tyne local education authority schools and *(b)* were resident in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in each year from 2004 to 2007. [178192]

Jim Knight: The information requested is set out as follows:

Local authority cross border movement of pupils resident in England

Newcastle upon Tyne local authority	2007	2006	2005	2004
Secondary[1, 2]				
Number of pupils residing in LA[3]	14,574	14,812	15,059	14,038
Number of pupils[4] attending schools maintained by the LA	14,115	14,414	14,687	13,920
Number of pupils in residence and attending schools maintained by the LA	13,316	13,565	13,820	13,054
Special[1, 5]				
Number of pupils residing in LA[3]	291	286	244	246
Number of pupils[4] attending schools maintained by the LA	306	306	296	296
Number of pupils in residence and attending schools maintained by the LA	248	246	218	214

[1] Excludes pupils reported to be boarders.
[2] Includes; Solely registered and main registration of dually registered pupils. Pupils aged 11 to 15 as at 31 August attending local authority maintained secondary middle deemed secondary, city technology colleges and academies.
[3] Includes pupils attending maintained schools outside the LA.
[4] Includes unmatched records, (i.e. with missing or invalid postcodes)
[5] Includes: Solely registered and main registration of dually registered pupils. Pupils aged 11 to 15 as at 31 August 2006 attending maintained and non-maintained special schools.

Secondary Education: Teaching Methods

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate has been made of the cost of introducing small group tuition into secondary schools. [180467]

Jim Knight: There is no single DCSF programme of small group tuition, although there are various programmes which encourage its use, including the Every Child a Reader and Every Child Counts programmes in primary schools, and Study Plus in secondary schools.

This range of programmes and the variety and flexibility of approaches used in schools already mean that we cannot give a simple cost for small group teaching in either primary or secondary schools. However, £1.6 billion has been committed to support personalised learning over the Comprehensive spending review SR period 2008-11, building on the £990 million allocated over the last two years. This funding is designed to ensure that every school has the capacity to deliver personalised learning, including the use of smaller groups where appropriate.

Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on the equivalence between diplomas and GCSEs. [179707]

Jim Knight: On 18 December 2007, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) announced that the diplomas would be judged equivalent to 5 GCSEs grade A*-G at the foundation level, 7 GCSEs grade A*-C at the higher level and 3.5 A-levels grade A*-E at the advanced level. The equivalence given to diplomas reflects the size and challenge of completing a large composite qualification.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the cost of introducing the new system of school diplomas. [180445]

Jim Knight: The estimated cost of introducing diplomas for 2008/09 is as follows:

KS4: £158 million direct/indirect costs of delivery

£45 million for the additional costs of work force development

The LSC will provide funding for 16 to 18-year-olds taking up diplomas in sixth forms and colleges based on the funding rates published on 21 December 2007 at http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/funding-policy/strategic-overview. These are based on an assessment of cost for each diploma line and level of learning.

The cost in subsequent years will not be known until the number of places and learners are confirmed.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to publish the curriculum specification for the diploma qualifications in *(a)* Construction and Built Environment, *(b)* Information Technology, *(c)* Creative and Media, *(d)* Society, Health and Development and *(e)* Engineering at the (i) Foundation Diploma level, (ii) Higher Diploma level and (iii) Advanced Diploma level. [180799]

Jim Knight: To support the delivery of Diploma learning, we have developed and published guidance in September 2007 for the first five lines of learning, at Foundation Level (level one), Higher Level (level two) and Advanced Level (level three). The purpose of publishing this guidance early at least a year before first teaching of the Diplomas is to support partnership curriculum planners and teachers in making decisions about introducing the Diploma and devising schemes of work. The following curriculum specifications have been accredited and published for first teaching in September 2008:

Construction and the Built Environment

Creative and Media

Engineering

Information Technology

Society, Health and Development.

The guidance is available online at:

www.qca.org.uk/diploma

Specialised Diplomas: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what additional finance will be made available to schools for each student studying for a diploma; and if he will make a statement. [179706]

Jim Knight: An initial allocation of £26 million to cover the additional costs of diplomas in respect of pupils starting diplomas at key stage 4 in 2008/09 was notified to local authorities on 18 December 2007. The average level of funding payable per student from this source in 2008-09 will amount to £1,000.

The LSC will provide funding for 16 to 18-year-olds taking up Diplomas in sixth forms and colleges based on the funding rates published on 21 December 2007.

Further details of the funding available and the rates that apply can be accessed through the 14-19 education and skills website at

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/14-19/index.cfm?sid=43

Specialist Schools: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools in Barnet have specialist status; what their specialisms are in each case; what funding was made available to each in the latest period for which figures are available; what outstanding applications for specialist status there are; and if he will make a statement. [177527]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the information requested. There are 13 maintained secondary schools in Brent local authority, all of which have specialist status. The Government remain committed to the specialist schools programme as a means of raising attainment and achievement for all secondary-age pupils.

School name	Specialism	Second specialisms	Leading options	Specialist school recurrent funding 2007-08 (£)
Alperton Community School	Maths and Computing	—	—	181,379
Cardinal Hinsley Mathematics and Computing College	Maths and Computing	—	—	59,985
Claremont High School	Arts	Maths and Computing	Vocational	343,989
Convent of Jesus and Mary Language College	Language	—	—	159,000
Copland—A Specialist Science Community College	Science	—	—	215,559
JFS	Humanities	—	—	223,209
John Kelly Boys' Technology College	Technology	—	—	94,170
John Kelly Girls' Technology College	Technology	Language	—	211,260
Kingsbury High School	Maths and Computing	—	—	226,653
Preston Manor High School	Science	—	Raising Achievement Transforming Learning	220,185
Queen's Park Community School	Business and Enterprise	—	—	129,000
St. Gregory RC High School	Science	—	—	129,000
Wembley High Technology College	Technology	—	Training School	190,134

Teachers

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will bring forward measures to establish the status of teachers in classrooms as in loco parentis; and if he will make a statement. [178162]

Jim Knight: Taken together, the Children Act 1989 and the Education and Inspections Act 2006 give teachers the powers they need to manage pupils' behaviour, so new legislation in this area is unnecessary.

Teachers: Greater London

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time (i) primary and (ii) secondary school teachers there were in each London borough in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [179290]

Jim Knight: The following tables provide separately the full-time and part-time head count and part-time full-time equivalent (FTE) number of regular teachers employed in local authority-maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in England, London and each London local authority from January 2003 to 2007.

Headcount of full-time regular teachers[1] in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in England and each London local authority, January 2003 to 2007

	2003		2004		2005	
	Nursery/primary	Secondary	Nursery/primary	Secondary	Nursery/primary	Secondary
England	176,460	189,830	174,230	192,780	172,580	196,050
London	26,620	25,850	26,940	26,100	26,860	26,820
City of London	20	—	10	—	10	—
Camden	530	630	540	630	530	640
Greenwich	850	910	910	920	860	1,020
Hackney	860	540	850	490	930	500
Hammersmith and Fulham	450	450	510	420	490	490
Islington	680	500	670	560	690	530
Kensington and Chelsea	350	250	360	230	360	230
Lambeth	910	480	930	490	990	540
Lewisham	950	720	920	710	920	700
Southwark	1,120	700	1,080	710	1,050	710
Tower Hamlets	1,040	920	1,040	910	1,080	940
Wandsworth	800	610	790	640	810	670
Westminster	540	600	550	590	520	600

Headcount of full-time regular teachers[1] in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in England and each London local authority, January 2003 to 2007

	2003		2004		2005	
	Nursery/primary	Secondary	Nursery/primary	Secondary	Nursery/primary	Secondary
Barking and Dagenham	720	750	760	790	740	780
Barnet	1,080	1,340	1,090	1,280	1,090	1,250
Bexley	810	1,010	790	1,040	790	990
Brent	980	1,100	1,030	1,060	1,010	1,200
Bromley	980	1,220	970	1,280	980	1,330
Croydon	1,370	1,110	1,350	1,110	1,270	1,150
Ealing	1,070	900	1,110	890	1,070	940
Enfield	1,110	1,330	1,120	1,360	1,130	1,400
Haringey	930	720	900	750	910	800
Harrow	780	530	780	530	780	540
Havering	840	990	820	1,010	810	990
Hillingdon	940	1,030	960	1,100	970	1,150
Hounslow	760	1,000	790	1,070	810	1,080
Kingston upon Thames	460	550	450	530	460	550
Merton	590	490	560	460	580	480
Newham	1,270	1,140	1,460	1,140	1,420	1,170
Redbridge	930	1,200	950	1,210	920	1,170
Richmond upon Thames	480	420	470	380	470	390
Sutton	600	900	570	870	550	920
Waltham Forest	810	820	840	950	850	970

	2006		2007	
	Nursery/primary	Secondary	Nursery/primary	Secondary
England	172,050	196,530	169,910	196,480
London	27,130	27,050	27,290	26,850
City of London	10	—	10	—
Camden	540	680	560	690
Greenwich	910	1,010	870	1,040
Hackney	920	480	940	470
Hammersmith and Fulham	480	450	460	390
Islington	680	570	680	560
Kensington and Chelsea	370	230	370	230
Lambeth	980	520	1,010	550
Lewisham	910	630	930	640
Southwark	1,050	690	1,080	610
Tower Hamlets	1,100	1,010	1,140	1,040
Wandsworth	810	650	810	670
Westminster	530	590	570	490
Barking and Dagenham	740	830	750	840
Barnet	1,130	1,240	1,050	1,230
Bexley	810	1,020	810	1,050
Brent	1,030	1,190	1,050	1,210
Bromley	980	1,350	980	1,380
Croydon	1,190	1,140	1,150	1,140
Ealing	1,070	940	1,110	970
Enfield	1,160	1,450	1,160	1,430
Haringey	930	810	930	780
Harrow	800	550	800	590
Havering	780	1,090	780	1,060
Hillingdon	1,010	1,090	1,020	1,100
Hounslow	810	1,070	790	1,060
Kingston upon Thames	460	550	460	580
Merton	590	490	590	380
Newham	1,470	1,200	1,490	1,190
Redbridge	1,000	1,250	1,000	1,290
Richmond upon Thames	470	410	470	350

	2006		2007	
	Nursery/primary	Secondary	Nursery/primary	Secondary
Sutton	550	910	590	950
Waltham Forest	880	960	900	920

'—' Nil or negligible
[1] Excludes teachers in occasional service on contracts of less than one month.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Headcount of part-time regular teachers[1] in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in England and each London local authority, January 2003 to 2007

	2003		2004		2005	
	Nursery/primary	Secondary	Nursery/primary	Secondary	Nursery/primary	Secondary
England	42,660	31,930	45,030	33,660	47,660	34,930
London	6,420	4,260	6,460	4,300	6,690	4,390
City of London	10	—	10	—	10	—
Camden	110	80	150	130	130	130
Greenwich	260	210	250	210	330	290
Hackney	180	100	190	90	170	90
Hammersmith and Fulham	90	50	120	90	90	70
Islington	140	80	140	60	140	70
Kensington and Chelsea	80	70	90	50	100	60
Lambeth	210	80	210	90	180	100
Lewisham	300	160	290	180	290	180
Southwark	160	80	150	50	170	60
Tower Hamlets	200	210	210	170	200	110
Wandsworth	220	150	210	170	220	180
Westminster	200	210	190	230	100	120
Barking and Dagenham	80	70	90	70	100	80
Barnet	420	240	390	250	410	240
Bexley	160	110	160	110	160	110
Brent	230	110	210	80	220	100
Bromley	300	310	260	290	250	270
Croydon	390	200	330	160	520	270
Ealing	190	200	250	150	230	140
Enfield	280	170	320	190	330	190
Haringey	180	70	200	80	210	90
Harrow	320	120	250	120	280	120
Havering	220	160	250	190	240	170
Hillingdon	170	120	230	180	230	180
Hounslow	160	120	140	140	160	140
Kingston upon Thames	130	90	170	130	130	130
Merton	150	80	150	70	170	80
Newham	90	90	160	110	110	90
Redbridge	210	180	210	180	220	210
Richmond upon Thames	210	80	210	70	210	60
Sutton	190	150	190	130	210	170
Waltham Forest	180	110	160	100	150	90

	2006		2007	
	Nursery/primary	Secondary	Nursery/primary	Secondary
England	52,420	35,850	53,900	36,610
London	7,050	4,500	7,030	4,310
City of London	10	—	—	—
Camden	120	130	130	130
Greenwich	300	230	260	200
Hackney	190	100	220	120
Hammersmith and Fulham	110	110	110	70

	2006		2007	
	Nursery/primary	Secondary	Nursery/primary	Secondary
Islington	150	70	150	50
Kensington and Chelsea	110	50	90	50
Lambeth	200	100	220	80
Lewisham	300	150	280	130
Southwark	210	80	200	60
Tower Hamlets	190	130	190	120
Wandsworth	230	210	250	220
Westminster	110	70	100	60
Barking and Dagenham	110	80	110	110
Barnet	440	250	400	200
Bexley	200	140	210	130
Brent	260	110	230	110
Bromley	290	280	300	280
Croydon	400	190	410	220
Ealing	230	150	240	140
Enfield	350	200	360	200
Haringey	240	100	220	120
Harrow	340	140	300	120
Havering	240	190	260	170
Hillingdon	230	160	270	190
Hounslow	200	170	190	170
Kingston upon Thames	160	140	170	110
Merton	190	70	200	70
Newham	130	100	140	100
Redbridge	220	250	230	240
Richmond upon Thames	260	70	240	70
Sutton	150	190	220	170
Waltham Forest	180	120	150	110

'—' Nil or negligible

[1] Excludes teachers in occasional service on contracts of less than one month.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Part-time FTE regular teachers[1] in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in England and each London local authority, January 2003 to 2007

	2003		2004		2005	
	Nursery/primary	Secondary	Nursery/primary	Secondary	Nursery/primary	Secondary
England	20,900	16,960	22,410	18,220	23,690	19,010
London	3,140	2,280	3,150	2,250	3,340	2,370
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—
Camden	80	40	80	70	70	70
Greenwich	130	100	120	100	140	110
Hackney	90	40	90	40	90	40
Hammersmith and Fulham	50	30	60	40	40	40
Islington	70	50	90	30	70	40
Kensington and Chelsea	40	30	40	20	50	20
Lambeth	110	40	100	40	100	40
Lewisham	150	90	150	90	140	100
Southwark	80	50	80	30	90	40
Tower Hamlets	90	140	110	90	110	60
Wandsworth	100	80	90	80	110	80
Westminster	80	70	60	70	70	100
Barking and Dagenham	40	30	40	30	40	30
Barnet	260	140	260	140	200	140
Bexley	80	60	80	60	80	60
Brent	140	50	90	50	110	50
Bromley	140	160	130	160	130	150
Croydon	140	90	160	90	240	140
Ealing	90	130	100	70	110	70

Part-time FTE regular teachers[1] in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in England and each London local authority, January 2003 to 2007

	2003		2004		2005	
	Nursery/primary	Secondary	Nursery/primary	Secondary	Nursery/primary	Secondary
Enfield	160	100	180	110	190	120
Haringey	90	40	100	50	110	50
Harrow	140	60	130	70	150	70
Havering	100	90	110	100	110	90
Hillingdon	90	60	90	90	90	90
Hounslow	80	70	80	80	90	90
Kingston upon Thames	60	50	70	60	70	80
Merton	70	50	70	40	80	50
Newham	60	50	50	60	60	50
Redbridge	110	100	110	100	110	120
Richmond upon Thames	100	40	110	40	110	40
Sutton	90	70	100	80	110	100
Waltham Forest	100	60	80	60	100	40

	2006		2007	
	Nursery/primary	Secondary	Nursery/primary	Secondary
England	26,150	19,750	27,190	20,360
London	3,600	2,430	3,680	2,350
City of London	—	—	—	—
Camden	70	70	70	70
Greenwich	170	110	200	100
Hackney	90	40	120	50
Hammersmith and Fulham	50	50	60	40
Islington	80	30	80	30
Kensington and Chelsea	50	20	50	20
Lambeth	100	40	110	40
Lewisham	160	90	160	70
Southwark	110	40	100	30
Tower Hamlets	100	70	110	70
Wandsworth	120	90	120	90
Westminster	50	30	50	30
Barking and Dagenham	40	40	50	50
Barnet	210	130	220	120
Bexley	110	90	110	80
Brent	120	70	110	70
Bromley	150	150	160	160
Croydon	190	110	190	110
Ealing	120	80	90	80
Enfield	190	110	200	120
Haringey	120	60	120	70
Harrow	170	70	160	70
Havering	110	110	120	90
Hillingdon	110	80	120	100
Hounslow	110	100	120	100
Kingston upon Thames	80	80	80	60
Merton	90	40	90	40
Newham	70	60	90	60
Redbridge	130	130	130	140
Richmond upon Thames	130	50	130	40
Sutton	120	110	110	100
Waltham Forest	90	70	80	70

'—' Nil or negligible

[1] Excludes teachers in occasional service on contracts of less than one month.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Teachers: Public Opinion

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1282W, on teachers: public opinion, what *(a)* discussion groups and *(b)* other qualitative and quantitive opinion research of teachers commissioned by his Department have been conducted in each of the last six months. [178424]

Jim Knight: The Department often commissions research which involves both quantitive and qualitative research methods. However, the appropriate data collection method varies depending on the research aims and the time and budget available to carry out the research project. Data on *(a)* other discussion groups and *(b)* other qualitative and quantitive opinion research of teachers commissioned by my Department is not readily available. Gathering this information would involve disproportionate cost.

Tyndale Academy

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received on the registration of Tyndale Academy. [180561]

Jim Knight: In the last three months we have received one representation from the proprietor and one from a member of staff at Tyndale academy about the institution's registration.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Airports: Security

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1165W, on airports: security, whether photographic security procedures applied to people travelling to Belfast from UK airports are applied to passengers travelling to other UK destinations in an identical manner. [178581]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 14 January 2008]:* As the Under-Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick), stated in his answer on 17 December 2007, the aviation security measures in place in the UK apply equally to all airports within the National Aviation Security programme.

Separately, the police require airlines to present passengers in a manner that would prevent any attempt to evade police scrutiny. To meet this requirement a number of airports across the United Kingdom have deployed digital imaging to ensure that the passenger who actually boards the aircraft is the same passenger that checked in. Digital imaging has been determined as the least intrusive method of meeting the police requirement, but there may be some variation in practice between airports.

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of antisocial behaviour were reported to the Respect Task Force in each of the last three years. [168506]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not record incidents of antisocial behaviour. Any such incidents are usually reported to the police, local authority, landlord or other frontline agency public whose task it is to deal directly with that problem. However, in common with many other Departments—for example the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Ministry of Justice—we do receive representations from members of the public, directly or through their Member of Parliament, about our policies in the field of antisocial behaviour. We received over 2,000 such letters and e-mails in the three years from 2005 to 2007.

Arrests: Drugs

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been tested for illegal drug use who have been arrested on suspicion of other non-drug-related crimes; and how many of those tested positive for illegal drug use in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* broken down by police force area in each year since 1997. [176109]

Mr. Coaker: Since 2003, drug testing of offenders for specified Class A drugs in police custody has operated as part of the drug interventions programme.

The police currently have the power to request persons aged 18 and over in police detention who have been charged or arrested with a "trigger offence" to provide a sample for testing for the presence of a specified Class A drug. Drug testing can be conducted only for offences with a substantial link to the use of heroin or cocaine/crack.

The trigger offences are set out in schedule 6 to the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000. These are the offences which have been shown to have the clearest link with drug misuse, particularly the misuse of heroin and cocaine/crack.

A person arrested or charged with a non-trigger offence may be tested if a police officer decides that there are reasonable grounds to suspect that Class A drug use caused or contributed to the offence. The decision to authorise a sample must be referred to a police officer of at least the rank of inspector.

Given the framework above, the data requested are not available.

Asylum Seekers

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the procedures are for reporting cases of physical and verbal abuse *(a)* by and *(b)* against failed asylum seekers during the removal process; and how many cases there have been of each in the last 12 months. [172269]

Mr. Byrne: When an incident of verbal or physical abuse occurs against escort staff by detainees (which includes failed asylum seekers), staff are required to

complete an incident report and submit it to senior managers. Staff can also report the matter to the police. Detainees wishing to complain against escort staff use complaints forms that are freely available in removal centres and submit them in confidence to the Border and Immigration Agency removal centre manager. Information on cases of physical and verbal abuse by and against failed asylum seekers is not collected separately and is therefore not available.

Asylum: Entry Clearances

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 261W, on asylum: entry clearances, whether the number of asylum applicants granted discretionary leave to remain in each of the categories set out in criteria for granting discretionary leave is recorded by her Department. [179815]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* Grants of discretionary leave (DL) are recorded on individual files. Information is collated on the total number of grants of DL and the number of grants of DL made at initial decision on applications by unaccompanied asylum-seeking children aged 17 and under at the time of decision, but not by sub-category. Information at sub-category level can be obtained only by examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Asylum: Housing

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were supported in National Asylum Support Service and Border and Immigration Agency accommodation in *(a)* Newcastle and *(b)* the north-east in each quarter of (i) 2005, (ii) 2006 and (ii) 2007. [178190]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 15 January 2008]:* The numbers of asylum seekers in receipt of support, broken down by Government office region and local authority, are published on a quarterly and annual basis. Copies of these publications are available from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Further breakdowns of those in receipt of support by parliamentary constituency are available from the Library of the House.

Asylum: Newcastle City Council

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what National Asylum Support Services contract costs were paid to Newcastle city council in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07; and how much is expected to be paid in 2007-08. [178068]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) has in place a contract with NECARS (the North East Consortium for Asylum and Refugee Support) for which the lead authority is Newcastle city council. The BIA does not hold a separate contract for asylum support with Newcastle city council.

Asylum: North Shields

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers were asked to report to North Shields immigration office in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [178067]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not centrally recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Asylum: Somalia

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers of each age group and sex were returned to Somalia in the six months from 1 July 2007; what her policy is on returning women and children to Somalia; and what areas in Somalia are considered safe for return. [177821]

Mr. Byrne: A breakdown of removals to Somalia according to age and sex is set out in the following table. Information relating to the number of asylum applicants removed from the UK during the last quarter of 2007 will be published shortly in the Asylum Statistics: 4th Quarter 2007 bulletin, copies of which will be available from the House Library.

All returns to Somalia, including returns of women and children, are assessed on their individual merits against the background of the latest country information and will only take place when it is established that there are no protection needs.

Those without any legal basis of stay in the UK may also return voluntarily to Somalia. There are scheduled air services to a number of destinations in Somalia—Mogadishu, Bosasso, Hargeisa, Berbera, Burao and Galcaiyo.

Removals, voluntary departures and assisted returns[1] of asylum applicants, including dependants, to Somalia, July to September 2007[2]

Number of removals

Age of applicant at removal date	*Gender*		
	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Under 18	—	—	—
18-29	•	—	•
30-39	5	•	5
40-49	•	—	•
50-59	—	—	—
60+	—	•	•
Total	5	•	10

[1] Includes enforced removals, persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them, persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration and those who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest five (— = 0, • = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

Note:
Persons who had sought asylum at some stage, including dependants.

Burglary: Schools

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many thefts of IT equipment were reported in schools in Essex in each of the last three years. [179236]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Community Support Officers

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the retention level of police community support officers was in each police authority area in each year since 2002-03. [179303]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 January 2008]:* Information on the retention rate of police community support officers is a matter for each police authority and chief constable.

Crime Prevention: Young People

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* methods and *(b)* technologies her Department has recommended to (i) police forces and (ii) local authorities for controlling the unlawful assembly of young people. [177990]

Mr. McNulty: The Government have provided police and local authorities with a number of legislative options to maintain public order on our streets. The use of tactics, methods and technologies to control the unlawful assembly of young people, working within these legislative options, are operational matters for the police working with local authorities.

Crime: Internet

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans the Government have to ratify the Council of Europe convention on cybercrime; and if she will make a statement. [167533]

Mr. Coaker: The Government remain committed to ratifying the Council of Europe convention on cybercrime, which we signed in 2001. The Government intend to begin the work of ratifying the convention in April 2008.

Crime: Surrey

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many crimes involving the fraudulent use of credit or debit cards in Surrey were *(a)* reported and *(b)* successfully detected in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [178095]

(2) how many thefts were reported in Surrey in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and what percentage were successfully detected; [178098]

(3) what the detection rate for domestic burglary was in Surrey in each of the last six years. [178099]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Table 1: Cheque and credit card fraud offences and theft offences recorded and detected in Surrey

	Cheque and credit card fraud		*All theft offences*	
	Recorded	*Number detected*	*Recorded*	*Percentage detected*
2002-03	2,349	576	27,789	13
2003-04	1,800	445	28,986	13
2004-05	1,466	743	25,374	14
2005-06	1,071	581	24,636	14
2006-07[1]	2,489	2,209	25,857	17

[1] The Fraud Act 2006 commenced on 15 January 2007, altering the definition and coverage of fraud and forgery offences. At that time, the counting of cheque and plastic card fraud changed to a "per account" basis rather than a "per transaction" basis.

Table 2: Detection rate for domestic burglary offences recorded by the police in Surrey

	Percentage detected
2001-02	12
2002-03	11
2003-04	13
2004-05	14
2005-06	12
2006-07	15

Crimes of Violence

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* violence against the person, *(b)* criminal damage and *(c)* drug-related offences have been recorded in Tamworth since 2000. [179383]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Selected offences recorded by the police in Tamworth

	Violence against the person	*Criminal damage*	*Drug offences*
2000-01	1,610	1,721	103
2001-02[1]	1,884	2,025	142
2002-03	1,905	1,872	116
2003-04	2,003	2,029	157
2004-05	2,240	1,907	212
2005-06	2,125	2,020	270
2006-07	2,214	1,950	337

[1] The national crime recording standard was introduced in April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Crimes of Violence: Elderly People

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many elderly people in Teesside reported being a victim of violent crime in *(a)* Teesside and *(b)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland in each of the last 10 years. [179612]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available.

Police recorded crime statistics are available at police force and local authority area level, but details relating to the age of victims of crime is not collected. The British Crime Survey does collect this information and can provide the data at national level, but not at police force or local authority area level.

Criminal Proceedings: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will list the codes of practice issued under the *(a)* Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and *(b)* Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 on the disclosure of information to defendants; what changes have been made to each since their original publication date; which have been subject to (i) a review and (ii) a public consultation by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [176104]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is as follows:

PACE Codes

The following Codes of Practice have been issued under the provisions of section 60 and Part VI of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. These are:

Code A: Stop and Search introduced 1 January 1986 SI 1985/1937

Code B: Entry search and seizure introduced 1 January 1986 SI 1985/1937

Code C: Detention Questioning and Treatment (excluding terrorism cases) introduced 1 January 1986 S11985/1937

Code D: Identification introduced 1 January 1986 SI 1985/1937

Code E: Tape/Audio recording of interviews with suspects introduced on 20 July 1988 SI 1988/1200

Code F: Visual Recording of interviews with suspects introduced on 30 October 2002 SI 2002/2527. Selected force areas for pilot purposes. Order revoked 1 November 2003 SI 2003/2463

Code G: Arrest introduced on 1 January 2006 SI 2005/3503

Code H: Detention Questioning and Treatment (terrorism cases only) introduced on 25 July 2006 SI 2006/1938

All changes proposed to the PACE codes are subject to parliamentary scrutiny and approval. Prior to presentation before Parliament, there is either a full public consultation or a consultation with statutory stakeholders in accordance with section 67 (4) of PACE. The determination of the consultation process is carried out in discussion with the Home Affairs Committee.

The codes have been subject to change since their introduction in 1986. These changes have been carried out to reflect changes in the provisions of PACE and other legislation governing police powers and procedure. The changes have been detailed and extensive. An itemised list of all changes made since 1986 is not held centrally. However, I have placed in the Library a list of the relevant statutory instruments relating to the introduction of and revision to the PACE Codes since 1986 with a brief description of their effect; and details of the more recent changes can be found on the Home Office websites at

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/operational-policing/powers-pace-codes/pace-code-intro

In March 2007 we announced the review of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and associated codes of practice (see PACE Review page on the Home Office website). We are currently considering final proposals on making the contents of the codes more accessible to both practitioners and members of the public. Final proposals will be subject to a final consultation in spring 2008.

CPIA Code

The original Code of Practice under section 23(1) of the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 (CPIA) was introduced by SI 1997/1033 and came into effect on 1 April 1997. A new version of this code of practice was introduced by SI 2005/985 and came into effect on 4 April 2005 (http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2005/20050985.htm). The 2005 version of this code was preceded by a review and a public consultation exercise, "Criminal Justice Act 2003 Implementation: Disclosure Codes of Practice A Consultation Document". (http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/2004-cons-cja-implementation/2004-cons-cja-implementation-doc?view=Binary)

The main changes made in the revised version include new provision for deputy disclosure officers and greater facility for the retention of copies instead of original investigative material.

Dangerous Driving

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government plan to take to reduce levels of street racing. [177317]

Mr. Coaker: It is an offence under section 12(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1988 for a person to promote or take part in a race between motor vehicles on a highway. The offence carries a maximum fine at level 4 (£2,500), obligatory disqualification and obligatory endorsement of between three and 11 penalty points on the offender's licence. The police also have a power under section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002 to seize a vehicle that is being driven carelessly or inconsiderately on road contrary to section 3 of the 1988 Act and in such a way as to cause or be likely to cause alarm distress or annoyance. Enforcement of the law and exercise of the seizure power are operational matters for the police.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what reviews have been undertaken of her Department's rules on data protection in the last two years; if she will place in the Library a copy of the report of the last review of her Department's compliance with data protection laws; and if *(a)* her Department and *(b)* her Department's agencies will undertake a review of their compliance with data protection laws; [168090]

(2) on how many occasions in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies confidential data have been downloaded on to compact discs (i) without and (ii) with encryption in the last 12-month period for which figures are available; how many of those discs have been posted without using recorded or registered delivery; what procedures her Department has in place for the (A) transport, (B) exchange and (C) delivery of confidential or sensitive data; what records are kept of information held by her Department being sent outside the Department; what changes have been made to her Department's rules and procedures on data protection in the last two years; on how many occasions her Department's procedures and rules on data protection have been breached in the last five years; what those breaches were; what procedures her Department has in place on downloading confidential data on to computer discs before its transfer; what technical protections there are in her Department's computer systems to prevent access to information held on those systems which is not in accordance with departmental procedures; and if she will place in the Library a copy of each of her Department's rules and procedures on the protection of confidential data on individuals, businesses and other organisations; [168256]

(3) how many employees of each grade in her Department *(a)* have access to confidential or sensitive data and *(b)* are authorised to download such data to disc; how many of her Department's employees have undergone data protection training in the last 12 months; what the average length of time is that each employee of (i) her Department and (ii) her Department's agencies has spent on data protection training; how many investigations of employees of her Department for improperly accessing confidential information have taken place in the last 12 months; how many such investigations resulted in cases of disciplinary action; and what the circumstances of each of those cases were; [168276]

(4) what steps have been taken to protect individuals in the event of a data breach of the National Identity Register. [171889]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179W. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures are in place in her Department to ensure that personal information relating to members of the public is *(a)* stored and *(b)* transported securely. [168474]

Mr. Byrne: I refer my right hon. Friend to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179W. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department's information technology and data management systems are BS7799 compliant. [168746]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179W. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

Departmental Freedom of Information

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what requests were made to her Department under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000 in each of the last two years; and what the *(a)* FOI case reference number, *(b)* request summary, *(c)* request outcome and *(d)* where appropriate, reason for exemption was in each case. [171782]

Jacqui Smith: In 2005, 1,970 requests were received in the Home Office, of which 1,469 were resolvable. The non-resolvable cases were those where no information was held or where advice and assistance were provided. Of the 1,469 resolvable requests, 42 per cent. of the requests were granted in full and 35 per cent. were withheld in full. The remainder of requests resulted in a partial disclosure or the requests were not replied to in 2005.

In 2006, 2,861 requests were received of which 1,790 were resolvable. Of the resolvable requests, 42 per cent. were granted in full and 33 per cent were withheld in full. The remainder resulted in a partial disclosure or the requests were not replied to in 2006.

Between 1 January and 30 September 2007, 1,849 requests were received, of which 1,270 were resolvable. Of the resolvable requests, 50 per cent. were granted in full and 24 per cent. were withheld in full. The remainder resulted in a partial disclosure or the requests were still being processed after 30 September last year. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

All Freedom of Information requests are logged on an Access database. An automatic case reference number is generated by the database when a new case is added.

Unfortunately a summary of each request received by the Department could be provided only at disproportionate cost. FOI requests are often contained in letters detailing individuals' personal circumstances. To put the details of the requests into the public domain would require personal information (which would allow identification of the individual to be ascertained) to be removed. This could be done only at disproportionate cost. The Home Office disclosure log provides a useful picture of the types of request received by the Department and the information which has been disclosed as a result. The disclosure log can be found at

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/freedom-of-information/released-information/

It is also impossible to provide the specific reason why an exemption is applied without consulting each FOI response issued by the Department. This information could be collated only at disproportionate cost. It may however be useful to see the top ten exemptions used by the Department from September 2006 to August 2007.

1. S40 Personal information (139).
2. S31 Law enforcement (105).
3. S22 Information intended for future publication (89).
4. S35 Formulation of government policy (49).
5. S36 Prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs (44).
6. S43 Commercial interests (38).
7. S23 Information supplied by or related to bodies dealing with security matters (32).
8. S38 Health and safety (30).
9. S24 National security (29).
10. S42 Legal professional privilege (22).

The right hon. Gentleman should be aware that more than one exemption can be applied for withholding information within a single request.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many posters or displays there are in the offices of her Department and its agencies displaying the names and photographs of Ministers; and what the cost has been of producing such posters or displays in the last five years. [179837]

Mr. Byrne: At present there are four displays in the Home Office and its agencies displaying the work and organisational structure of the Department, which include names and photographs of Ministers.

It is not possible without incurring disproportionate costs to identify separately the costs of specifically updating the ministerial information.

Driving Offences: Fixed Penalties

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many driving licences submitted to fixed penalty offices have been lost before return to the holder. [177295]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. In the event of a driving licence being lost, Royal Mail will pay compensation to replace the licence and the national fixed penalty forum will assist with the claims.

Drugs: Children

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many children under 16 in *(a)* the north-east, *(b)* Teesside and *(c)* the Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency were arrested for possession of class (i) A drugs, (ii) B drugs and (ii) C drugs in each of the last seven years; [179614]

(2) how many children under 16 were arrested in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency for dealing class (i) A drugs, (ii) B drugs and (ii) C drugs in each of the last seven years. [179615]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available centrally.

The arrests collection undertaken by the Ministry of Justice provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences), by age group, gender, ethnicity, and main offence group, i.e. violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, drugs offences etc. More detailed data about specific offences do not form part of this collection.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of those brought into a police station tested positively for Class A drugs in each year since 1997; and what the level was of voluntary take-up of treatment. [166840]

Mr. Coaker: Following a successful pilot in a limited number of sites between 2001 and 2003, drug testing of offenders for specified Class A drugs (heroin and cocaine/crack) in police custody came into operation from 2003 across 30 BCUs as part of the Drug Interventions Programme. Since that time the programme has expanded in a phased approach to 66 basic command units in 2004 and some 107 BCUs in 2005.

Only offenders arrested or charged with a "trigger offence"—largely acquisitive crime related offences—are required to provide a sample to be tested for specified Class A drugs.

Between 2003 and 2005, the programme operated drug testing at the point of charge. The average rate of positive tests for specified Class A drugs for offenders charged with a trigger offence was as follows:

2003-04: 54 per cent.

2004-05: 46 per cent.

From 2005 to the present time the programme operated drug testing at the point of arrest and the average rate of positive tests for specified Class A drugs for offenders arrested for a trigger offence was:

2005-06: 45 per cent.

2006-07: 37 per cent.

From 2003 the number of offenders entering treatment voluntarily through the Drug Interventions Programme are as follows:

	Number
2003-04	1,950
2004-05	16,517
2005-06	24,557
2006-07	39,903

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which recommendations of the Downing street strategy unit report on drugs of 2005 have been implemented. [178109]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to respond.

The strategy unit report on high-harm-causing drugs was undertaken in 2003, and contributed to wider policy debate across Government. The report did not make any formal recommendations to the Home Office, but helped to inform the development of the Government's existing drug strategy, which sets out a range of policies and interventions focusing on the most dangerous drugs that cause the most harm to communities and individuals.

Entry Clearances: Fraud

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions sponsors of visa applications have been found to be under investigation for obtaining indefinite leave to remain by fraudulent means; and if she will make a statement. [177815]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested could be obtained only through detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Essex Police Authority: Finance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the total police grant funding was for Essex police authority in each year since 1990; [174086]

(2) how much funding was allocated per head of population to Essex police authority in each year since 1990. [174083]

Mr. McNulty: Essex police authority in its present format came into existence on 1 April 1995. Revenue grants for Essex police authority since 1995-96 are set out in the following table.

The Government do not distribute grant to police authorities purely on the basis of population. The police funding formula uses a range of data relating to demographic and social characteristics to reflect the relative needs of each authority. Grant allocations also take into account the relative tax base of each authority. Grant allocations are stabilised by damping to limit year-on-year variations.

Essex police authority government revenue grant allocations 1995-96 to 2007-08

	Government grant[1] *(£ million)*	*Resident population (million)*
1995-96	123.29	1.56
1996-97	127.31	1.57
1997-98	129.70	1.58
1998-99	131.53	1.59
1999-2000	132.75	1.60
2000-01	142.51	1.61
2001-02	152.99	1.62
2002-03	157.94	1.62
2003-04	169.34	1.63
2004-05	173.67	1.64
2005-06[2]	181.81	1.65
2006-07[3,4]	180.43	1.65
2007-08	187.91	1.66

[1] Revenue funding includes all grants inside Aggregate External Finance (AEF) (i.e. revenue grants paid for councils' core services), and includes formula grant and all specific grants.
[2] 2005-06 figures have been adjusted for purposes of comparison with future years following the transfer of pensions and security funding from general grant in 2006-07.
[3] 2006-07 Government grant figures are provisional outturn figures. 2007-08 figures are budget figures.
[4] In keeping with an initiative by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, the data for 2006-07 have been collected on a Financial Reporting Standard 17 (FRS17) basis. On this basis, decisions relating to pensions are accounted for in the year they are taken, rather than the year to which they apply. As a result some expenditure on pensions may be reflected in the data and consequently comparisons between 2006-07 and data on a non-FRS17 basis may not be valid.
Source:
Population: Office of National Statistics, mid year population estimates and projections. Grants: DCLG.

Essex Police: Manpower

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* operational police officers per head of population there were in Essex police authority in each year since 1990. [174084]

Mr. McNulty: The data for police officers are taken from the Home Office Statistical Bulletin series "Police Service Strength England and Wales" which was first published in 1998, so the data are available from 1998 onwards. The data for operational police officers have been centrally collected since 2003, so the data are available from 2003 onwards. The available data are given in the following table.

Police officer strength for Essex police force area, as at 31 March (FTE)[1,2]

	Total officers per 100,000 population[3]	*Total operational officers per 100,000 population*[3]
1998	193	—
1999	190	—
2000	183	—
2001	179	—
2002	181	—
2003	186	177
2004	192	182
2005	198	187
2006	203	192
2007[4]	203	196

[1] Full-time equivalent. This figure includes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[2] This and other tables contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[3] Officers per 100,000 population for City of London and Metropolitan Police are combined.
[4] Functional group totals do not match published figures. Data quality may be an issue with this force.

European Police Office

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-UK Europol officers have permission to operate within the United Kingdom; and if she will make a statement. [178229]

Mr. Byrne: No non-UK Europol officers currently have permission to operate within the United Kingdom.

Foreign Workers: Care Homes

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment has been made of the effects of the introduction of additional transitional measures to case worker guidance on handling work permit applications relating to senior care worker posts and applications from senior care workers previously refused extensions on grounds that their new posts were not advertised nationally. [179760]

Mr. Byrne: The work permit arrangements do not require now, did not require under transitional arrangements introduced in August 2007, and did not require prior to the introduction of these transitional arrangements, jobs to be advertised nationally when a work permit holder changes employer but continues to do the same type of job. Normally this only applies when an application is received either before permit holders leave their current employment or within 28 days of their last day of work with their previous employer.

Applicants whose work permits have already expired should apply for extensions as soon as possible. Caseworkers consider all aspects of each individual case when making a decision.

Fraud: Credit Cards

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving fraudulent use of credit or debit cards in Tamworth were *(a)* reported and *(b)* successfully detected in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [179384]

Mr. McNulty: The available information relates to offences of cheque and credit card fraud recorded in the Tamworth Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area and is given in the following table. Detections data is not available at CDRP level.

Cheque and credit card fraud offences and theft offences recorded and detected in Tamworth

	Cheque and credit card fraud	
	Recorded	*Number detected*
2002-03	239	[1]
2003-04	287	[1]
2004-05	234	[1]
2005-06	126	[1]
2006-07[2]	98	[1]

[1] Not available.
[2] The Fraud Act 2006 commenced on 15 January 2007, altering the definition and coverage of fraud and forgery offences. At that time, the counting of cheque and plastic card fraud changed to a "per account" basis rather than a "per transaction" basis.

Genetics: Databases

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost to date of removing errors from the National DNA Database. [167031]

Jacqui Smith: A number of procedures carried out by police forces, forensic suppliers and the National DNA Database Custodian's staff are in place to ensure that information is recorded as accurately as possible on the National DNA Database. These procedures are designed to ensure as far as possible that errors are not included on the database in the first place rather than removing them once they are on. It is not possible to disaggregate the costs of these procedures from the general costs of work done by these organisations.

Human Trafficking

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the security of the support and accommodation arrangements provided for child victims of human trafficking in the north-west, north-east and midlands will be reviewed; what representations she has received from campaign organisations on the safety and security of trafficked children within the care of local authorities; and if she will make a statement. [177079]

Jacqui Smith: Under the Children Acts 1989 and 2004, it is the responsibility of local authorities rather than central Government to safeguard and promote the welfare of any child who is assessed to be at risk of harm and in need of accommodation. Any review of the security of the support and accommodation arrangements provided for child victims of human trafficking in particular areas would, therefore, be for the relevant local authorities.

On 7 December 2007 the Government published supplementary guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children—Safeguarding Children who may have been Trafficked, which actively guides practitioners towards making appropriate decisions for safeguarding children they suspect may have been trafficked. The Government will also shortly publish their reform programme for unaccompanied asylum seeking children which will include proposals on how safe arrangements for trafficked children may be further improved.

The Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, my hon. Friend the Member for Gedling (Mr. Coaker), who is responsible for crime reduction, has met representatives from children's charities to discuss the safeguarding of trafficked children, and informed them of the Government's policy aims for safeguarding child victims of trafficking.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans the Government have for provision of support for people who have been trafficked beyond the current funding arrangement for the Poppy Project. [177080]

Mr. Straw: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have announced their intention to accelerate plans to ratify and implement the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by the end of 2008, which sets a minimum framework of support for all identified victims of trafficking. This will enable us to enhance our existing arrangements and build on the support provided by the Poppy Project.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there have been for human trafficking offences in each year since 2001, broken down by type of offence. [177083]

Jacqui Smith: The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004. Prosecution and conviction figures under dedicated trafficking legislation are as follows:

	Court cases	*Guilty verdicts*
2004	4	3
2005	41	21
2006	78	27
2007	45	17

All the above figures relate to cases of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. There have been no convictions to date for trafficking for exploitation under the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004 which came into force on 1 December 2004.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the number of people trafficked into the UK in each year since 2001. [177084]

Jacqui Smith: The nature of the crime makes it difficult to make an accurate assessment of the extent of the problem. In order to understand the situation better, the Serious Organised Crime Agency and with the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre continue to work on improving intelligence collection as a priority. The intelligence collected as part of the current Operation Pentameter 2 will help to improve our understanding of the nature and scale of trafficking throughout the UK.

However, findings from a Home Office research paper estimate that at any one time in 2003 there were in the region of 4,000 female victims of trafficking for prostitution in the UK.

Identity Cards: Foreigners

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she expects the target to roll out identity cards to non-EEA foreign nationals by the end of 2008 to be met. [166090]

Jacqui Smith: Yes. The UK Borders Act confirms the introduction of ID cards for foreign nationals from 2008, and we are on target.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether identity cards issued to foreign nationals will contain information on their right to work in the UK. [166095]

Jacqui Smith: Yes.

Immigration Controls

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the proportion of *(a)* inward migration and *(b)* employment-related inward migration which would have been covered by the points-based system in the most recent year for which figures are available. [177461]

Mr. Byrne: Persons from outside the European economic area wishing to come to the UK to work or study and their dependants will need to apply under the points-based system once it is introduced.

Immigration: Children

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to improve the publication of the statistics on children being held in immigration removal centres to ensure that interested parties are able to see how many children are held, and how long they have been held for; and if she will make a statement. [172613]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office publishes a quarterly snapshot of people detained solely under Immigration Act powers on the last Saturday of each quarter, including a breakdown of children by length of detention. The latest published information pertains to people detained as at 29 September 2007.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are also available from the Library of the House.

The Border and Immigration Agency is reviewing what statistics are published (all aspects of the statistics, not only statistics on children). A consultation document was issued on 6 December and a copy can be found at

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/bia-immig-stat-review-07.pdf

Immigration: Deportation

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of removal following the legacy exercise fell into each category of removal including *(a)* enforced removals, *(b)* persons leaving voluntarily after enforcement action against them and *(c)* persons leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes. [177336]

Mr. Byrne: We do not hold this information in this format and to obtain it would entail work being carried out at a disproportionate cost.

Immigration: EC Countries

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the Government's policy is on whether the UK should join the *(a)* Schengen area and *(b)* Schengen visa system in the future. [177355]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 10 January 2008]:* The UK is not a member of the Schengen area as we believe that maintaining our frontier controls, including a national visa system, is the most effective way to combat illegal migration and transnational crime. We work closely with our EU partners to ensure there is effective management of the migration into the EU.

Immigration: Kosovo

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what percentage of applicants for British citizenship from Kosovo were *(a)* refused and *(b)* found not to be of Kosovan origin in the latest period for which figures are available; [177557]

(2) what percentage of applications for British citizenship from Kosovans made since 2000 were processed within *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months and *(c)* one year; and if she will make a statement. [177558]

Mr. Byrne: Out of the total number of people with their nationality recorded as Kosovan that were decided in 2007, 22.5 per cent. were refused. There is no record held of the number of individuals who have applied and subsequently been found not to be of Kosovan origin, and this information could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

Please see the following table which shows the processing times of files from Kosovo.

The information has been provided from local management information and is not a National Statistic. As such, it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

Processing times of people recorded as Kosovan

	Cases created	*Percentage within three months*	*Percentage within six months*	*Percentage within one year*
2002	915	17.4	45.7	93.9
2003	815	46.7	70.3	90.4
2004	920	61.6	81.3	98.9
2005	3,395	61.3	88.8	97.6
2006	785	58.1	87.6	94.0
2007	315	64.6	78.4	92.4

Notes:
1. The information has been provided from local management information and is not a National Statistic. As such, it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.
2. Cases created in year rounded to nearest 5.
3. Local management information can only be obtained from the end of 2001, therefore figures only show complete years 2002 to 2007.
4. Applications relate to those cases with their nationality recorded as Kosovan.
5. These figure are based upon the number of cases created in the year.

Immigration: Sri Lanka

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people from Sri Lanka have been granted indefinite leave to remain in the UK in the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [179403]

Mr. Byrne: Statistics on Sri Lankan nationals granted settlement (indefinite leave to enter or remain), 1996 to 2006, are published in Table 5.7 in the Command Paper "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2006". This publication may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Immigration: Work Permits

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent in relation to appeals against decisions not to grant people work permits *(a)* in total, *(b)* on legal counsel and *(c)* on immigration tribunal staffing, administration and accommodation costs in the last 12 months. [178537]

Mr. Byrne: Within the immigration rules there is no right of appeal against the refusal to issue a work permit and as such information on work permit appeals is not available. If a work permit is refused, the applicant can apply for a review of the case. The purpose and scope of the review is to consider whether the correct administrative procedures have been followed in reaching a decision on the application.

Independent Police Complaints Commission

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) under what legislation the awarding of compensation to complainants whose complaints have been upheld by the Independent Police Complaints Commission is regulated; what recent representations she has received about the operation of this legislation; and if she will make a statement; [177567]

(2) what guidance she *(a)* has issued and *(b)* plans to issue to police forces in England and Wales about the awarding of compensation to complainants whose complaints have been upheld by the Independent Police Complaints Commission; what recent representations she has received about the issue; and if she will make a statement. [177568]

Mr. McNulty: Under Section 88 of the Police Act 1996, any decision to award compensation following inappropriate police conduct, including following a complaint upheld by the Independent Police Complaints Commission, is a matter for the chief officer of the force. No representations have been received.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what legislation regulates the Independent Police Complaints Commission; what amendments have been made to, and what recent representations she has received about the operation of this legislation; what *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* departmental circulars and *(c)* other documents she (i) has issued and (ii) plans to issue in the next 12 months consequential to the provisions of this legislation; and if she will make a statement. [177569]

Mr. McNulty: The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) was established under the Police Reform Act 2002, with a remit covering complaints and conduct matters involving persons serving with the police service in England and Wales. The IPCC came into operation on 1 April 2004.

The following regulations were made under the Police Reform Act 2002 in bringing the IPCC into operation:

the Police (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 2004/643), amended by S.I. 2006/1406;

the IPCC (Staff Conduct) Regulations 2004 S.I. 2004/660;

IPCC (Transitional Provisions) Order 2004 S.I. 2004/671;

the IPCC (Forces maintained otherwise than under Police Authorities) Order 2004 S.I. 2004/672 (relating to the MoD police and BTP).

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (Investigatory Powers) Order 2004 S.I. 2004/815 modifies, in relation to the functions of the IPCC,

Part 3 of the Police Act 1997 (authorisations to interfere with property);

and

Parts 2 (intrusive surveillance) and 4 (Tribunal) of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

Schedule 12 to the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 amended the Police Reform Act 2002, extending the IPCC's remit to cover death and serious injury matters, and to cover complaints against the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

The Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005 and the Revenue and Customs (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/3311) as amended by S.I. 2006/1748 made under the 2005 Act extended the IPCC's remit in relation to the Commissioners and officers of HM Revenue and Customs.

The Police and Justice Act 2006 will extend the IPCC's jurisdiction to cover specified enforcement functions of immigration officers.

A Statutory Order was laid before Parliament on 5 June 2007 for the purpose of applying the Official Secrets Act to IPCC commissioners and staff.

Further legislation changes affecting the IPCC will be made as part of the introduction of a new simplified and modernised police misconduct system. However, no further regulatory changes are envisaged in the next 12 months.

Intelligence Services: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures exist for former agents of the United Kingdom intelligence services to make complaints about alleged operational misconduct practised and directed by officers of the intelligence services responsible for recruiting them. [179734]

Mr. McNulty: It is open to anyone who is aggrieved by conduct they believe has been taken against them or their property by, or on behalf of, the intelligence services to complain to the independent Investigatory Powers Tribunal (IPT). Anyone who suspects criminal wrongdoing should inform the police.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when a reply will be sent to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire's letter to the Minister of State, dated 27 November 2007, on behalf of a constituent about the deportation of asylum seekers to Uzbekistan. [178023]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 14 January 2008]:* The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency responded to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire's letter on 11 January 2008.

Metropolitan Police: Legal Costs

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by her Department in total on defending actions brought against the Metropolitan police by victims of crime in each year since 2001. [180908]

Mr. McNulty: Defending actions brought against the Metropolitan police is a matter for the Metropolitan police and the Metropolitan Police Authority.

Pakistan: Arrests

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she received from the Government of Pakistan on *(a)* Hyrbyair Marri and *(b)* Faiz Baluch prior to their arrest in the UK. [177813]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office does not comment on individual cases.

Passports

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to require UK citizens resident in Northern Ireland to carry and show their passports when travelling to the rest of the UK. [175651]

Mr. McNulty: There are no plans to require Northern Ireland citizens to carry and show passports when travelling to the rest of the United Kingdom.

Section 14 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 introduced a new power that will allow the police to capture passenger, crew and service information on air and sea journeys within the United Kingdom. The intention is that the power will be brought into force by secondary legislation in 2008. The specific police requirements under this power, which will include details of the routes affected and data required, are still under discussion within Government. Once the proposals have been finalised they will be subject to a 12-week public consultation.

It is expected that this police power will only apply to air and sea routes between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Passengers will not be required to use passports, but may be required to produce one of several types of documentation when travelling, to enable the carrier to meet the requirements of a police request.

Police

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1064-65W, on police, what estimate she has made of the number of civilian police posts (excluding police community support officers) in *(a)* Northamptonshire and *(b)* England in (i) September 2004 and (ii) March 2007. [180069]

Mr. McNulty: The requested data on police staff are published as part of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin (HOSB) series "Police Service Strength, England and Wales". These bulletins are in the Library of the House and can be downloaded from the Home Office website.

(i) Information requested for September 2004 can be found in Table 2 of HOSB 23/05 located at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/rdsolr2305.pdf

(ii) Information requested for March 2007 can be found in Table 10a of HOSB 13/07 located at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1307.pdf

Police Stations: Closures

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police stations in rural areas have been closed in each local authority area in each of the last five years. [178464]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 14 January 2008]:* The management of the police estate and allocation of resources are matters for each police authority and the chief officer, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

Police: Burglary

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reported thefts of lead there were in each police authority area in each of the last five years; how many successful prosecutions there have been of such thefts; and if she will make a statement. [179304]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 January 2008]:* The Home Office collect and publish recorded statistics on specific offences of theft. For example: theft from the person, theft from a vehicle, theft from a shop, theft by an employee etc. However, these statistics do not specify the item(s) which have been stolen.

Police: Cars

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cars were *(a)* seized and *(b)* held by police in (i) Lancashire, (ii) Cumbria, (iii) Yorkshire and (iv) Greater Manchester in each of the last five years. [179935]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* The police can seize vehicles under Section 59, Police Reform Act 2002 and Section 165A, Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended. Section 59 enables the police to seize a vehicle they reasonably believe is being driven in a

way that both contravenes s3 or 34 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 (careless/inconsiderate driving or off-road driving without authority) and is causing or is likely to cause alarm, distress or annoyance. Section 165A enables the police to seize a vehicle they reasonably believe is being driven by someone who does not have an appropriate licence (including a disqualified driver) or appropriate insurance. In both cases the police can hold the vehicle until a person pays prescribed charges in respect of its removal and storage and, in respect of s165A, produces licence and insurance. They can dispose of the vehicle if it is not claimed and retain sufficient of the proceeds to cover the unpaid charges.

The information requested is a matter for the police forces in Lancashire, Cumbria, north, south and west Yorkshire, Humberside and Great Manchester.

Police: Finance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what Government funding has been made available to police services to help them meet obligations under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004; and if she will make a statement. [177447]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

Government funding for local authorities, including police authorities to fulfil their duties under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 was taken into account in the spending plans for formula grant (Revenue Support Grant, Police Grant, and National Non Domestic Rates) announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007, copies of which are available in the Library.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the total budget of each police authority in England and Wales was accounted for by the police authority precept in each financial year since 1997. [178560]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Proportion of net budget requirement[1] met by precept on council tax 1997-98 to 2007-08

Percentage

Force	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Avon and Somerset	16.1	16.5	17.6	19.0	19.7	22.2	27.2	29.0	29.2	31.4	32.3
Bedfordshire	16.1	16.7	17.9	18.7	18.8	20.7	23.1	25.2	25.3	26.8	27.1
Cambridgeshire	17.1	15.9	16.4	18.8	19.6	25.4	29.3	30.7	30.7	33.2	34.0
Cheshire	16.9	17.4	17.4	18.4	18.6	20.7	23.2	24.6	24.9	26.2	27.0
Cleveland	11.4	9.6	11.8	12.0	12.3	16.2	18.8	20.5	20.8	21.9	22.1
Cumbria	15.4	18.7	19.5	20.3	21.1	22.9	27.4	30.1	30.1	31.3	31.8
Devon and Cornwall	16.7	15.7	16.4	17.6	17.9	20.8	26.5	28.2	28.8	30.1	30.6
Dorset	23.7	25.7	26.7	28.1	29.5	32.0	35.4	37.3	37.9	41.6	42.1
Durham	12.1	10.8	10.7	10.9	11.2	12.7	14.8	16.3	16.5	17.9	22.4
Essex	18.6	20.9	21.3	21.9	21.8	23.6	26.6	27.4	27.9	29.8	30.2
Gloucestershire	16.7	18.3	21.0	23.0	23.3	25.9	34.1	35.9	36.1	40.1	40.7
Hampshire	17.6	16.6	17.1	17.0	17.3	21.2	25.4	27.1	27.5	29.4	29.8
Hertfordshire	18.9	21.1	21.7	23.2	23.3	25.6	28.9	31.2	31.6	32.5	33.0
Humberside	12.7	12.4	12.5	13.3	17.7	19.3	21.6	23.8	24.1	25.3	25.6
Kent	17.0	15.4	16.2	16.5	16.8	20.0	24.0	25.6	26.1	28.7	29.1
Lancashire	13.6	13.3	13.9	14.5	15.2	16.4	18.2	20.0	20.6	21.8	23.2
Leicestershire	14.9	16.9	17.0	17.6	18.8	22.7	23.8	26.0	26.1	27.3	27.8
Lincolnshire	20.9	23.6	23.4	24.1	24.5	25.9	27.5	28.6	29.2	32.3	32.9
Norfolk	16.7	17.3	19.6	21.1	23.0	26.3	29.7	32.1	32.4	35.3	36.1
Northamptonshire	21.0	20.3	21.4	21.8	22.2	27.0	30.7	33.3	33.1	34.1	34.7
North Yorkshire	18.1	17.3	17.9	19.1	20.0	26.4	38.1	40.1	40.1	42.4	42.4
Nottinghamshire	12.6	13.3	14.4	14.9	15.4	18.3	21.7	23.0	23.3	25.0	25.3
Staffordshire	15.7	20.1	21.1	21.7	23.4	24.8	28.9	30.3	30.7	32.5	33.0
Suffolk	17.8	17.7	18.1	19.1	19.9	23.5	28.6	30.3	30.6	32.8	33.5
Surrey	17.0	25.3	27.5	30.8	31.8	35.3	42.7	44.2	44.6	45.6	46.1
Sussex	18.7	18.0	18.2	18.5	18.8	21.7	27.4	28.6	29.0	31.2	31.9
Thames Valley	19.4	18.2	19.4	20.1	20.5	22.8	29.5	31.7	32.0	33.7	34.2
Warwickshire	18.0	20.9	22.9	23.9	25.1	28.9	31.4	32.6	33.0	35.3	35.7
West Mercia	18.5	19.1	20.1	23.7	24.0	29.8	32.1	34.9	35.1	36.4	36.9
Wiltshire	18.6	20.6	21.8	23.4	24.7	26.7	30.0	31.5	32.0	34.5	35.0
Average shires	16.8	17.4	18.3	19.4	20.1	23.0	27.1	28.9	29.3	31.1	31.7
Greater Manchester	11.4	11.5	13.8	12.0	11.9	12.6	15.5	16.1	16.4	17.0	17.3
Merseyside	11.6	12.1	12.7	13.1	13.3	14.6	14.9	15.7	15.9	17.4	17.6
Northumbria	11.0	9.6	9.6	9.7	10.0	10.5	11.0	11.3	11.3	11.7	11.8
South Yorkshire	11.8	11.7	11.6	11.8	12.1	14.0	16.6	17.5	17.7	18.3	18.7
West Midlands	11.2	10.0	10.1	10.5	10.5	11.4	12.4	13.3	13.2	13.6	13.7
West Yorkshire	11.9	11.4	11.6	12.0	12.1	14.8	16.2	17.8	18.0	19.3	19.6
Average Mets	11.4	11.0	11.2	11.5	11.6	12.9	14.4	15.3	15.4	16.2	16.4

Proportion of net budget requirement[1] met by precept on council tax 1997-98 to 2007-08

Percentage

Force	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Average England (excl. London)	15.1	15.3	16.0	16.8	17.4	19.8	23.2	24.8	25.0	26.5	27.0
Metropolitan	10.6	12.5	13.1	13.6	16.4	17.7	20.1	22.2	22.5	25.0	25.6
Average England (incl. London)	13.9	14.6	15.2	16.0	17.1	19.3	22.4	24.1	24.4	26.1	26.7
Dyfed-Powys	16.5	19.7	22.7	25.3	25.5	26.8	31.5	33.9	34.9	37.4	37.4
Gwent	13.4	14.5	15.1	17.9	19.1	20.9	24.4	26.9	27.9	28.4	28.4
North Wales	15.8	18.4	19.8	22.4	22.4	25.3	29.9	32.9	35.2	37.9	37.9
South Wales	12.5	13.9	15.4	18.2	18.4	18.8	21.3	22.3	23.3	25.4	25.4
Average Wales	14.0	15.8	17.3	20.1	20.5	21.8	25.4	27.4	28.6	30.6	31.2
Average England and Wales	13.9	14.6	15.3	16.2	17.3	19.4	22.6	24.3	24.6	26.4	26.9

[1] Net Budget Requirement figures used are taken from the BR3 (Budget Requirement 3) forms completed by all police authorities in England and Wales.
Source:
English police authorities—DCLG Welsh police authorities—WAG.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much central Government funding each police authority in England and Wales received in each financial year since 1997. [178563]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is shown in the following table.

£ million

Police authority	*Government grant[1,2] 1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*
Avon and Somerset	134.80	139.75	142.56	146.96	152.58	158.87
Bedfordshire	50.14	51.90	51.97	54.24	59.89	61.51
Cambridgeshire	57.23	60.66	62.87	66.89	71.27	76.80
Cheshire	85.08	88.15	91.65	94.16	100.79	103.02
Cleveland	67.59	72.66	73.65	76.30	80.96	84.06
Cumbria	50.94	51.11	51.84	53.66	55.61	60.11
Derbyshire	81.06	83.35	87.29	94.24	101.56	106.46
Devon and Cornwall	132.97	141.09	146.70	152.88	163.44	167.49
Dorset	54.09	54.88	56.58	58.82	62.45	65.46
Durham	65.06	69.68	72.46	74.77	77.69	81.78
Dyfed-Powys	24.67	25.21	25.92	26.77	28.00	28.17
Essex	129.70	131.53	132.75	142.51	152.99	157.94
Gloucestershire	50.59	51.78	52.12	52.88	55.55	58.78
Greater Manchester	315.27	328.12	337.39	351.70	374.55	384.68
Gwent	31.82	33.27	34.85	35.83	37.23	37.64
Hampshire	150.38	158.77	162.66	169.64	178.39	185.16
Hertfordshire	76.02	77.23	82.42	92.89	100.61	102.27
Humberside	93.43	97.83	99.71	103.06	106.20	110.26
Kent	141.72	151.44	154.31	162.74	178.10	179.96
Lancashire	146.86	153.65	155.94	163.35	173.85	174.78
Leicestershire	83.88	85.27	87.84	90.60	94.60	101.21
Lincolnshire	52.23	51.13	53.30	56.43	60.34	60.97
Merseyside	207.64	213.25	215.31	220.65	235.53	241.29
Metropolitan[3]	1,610.26	1,633.26	1,658.78	1,601.10	1,731.70	1,838.70
Norfolk	65.65	68.10	69.95	74.20	81.58	86.60
North Wales	34.96	36.27	37.95	39.16	41.36	41.11
North Yorkshire	59.23	62.62	63.89	66.55	72.69	71.68
Northamptonshire	50.77	53.28	55.14	57.14	59.46	62.21
Northumbria	173.67	185.28	192.25	197.06	209.79	211.02
Nottinghamshire	104.73	108.06	110.75	113.91	123.97	129.84
South Wales	76.37	79.54	81.98	84.27	88.02	89.25
South Yorkshire	141.47	147.75	152.90	159.24	167.09	168.77
Staffordshire	96.15	95.09	96.27	100.13	105.23	106.36
Suffolk	52.57	55.14	57.29	59.09	62.24	62.02

£ million

Police authority	Government grant[1, 2] 1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Surrey	75.60	67.61	67.61	83.09	83.35	87.48
Sussex	127.99	134.66	137.03	142.03	149.10	153.68
Thames Valley	171.15	181.27	184.64	193.02	210.13	219.41
Warwickshire	42.18	42.54	43.16	44.98	46.90	48.67
West Mercia	87.74	90.86	92.92	98.36	108.63	109.21
West Midlands	317.34	335.10	342.16	357.58	379.35	388.14
West Yorkshire	238.20	249.54	255.01	268.61	287.07	288.26
Wiltshire	52.08	52.87	53.84	57.20	60.89	60.78
England and Wales Total	5,861.30	6,050.55	6,185.59	4,737.60	5,038.79	5,173.15

	Government grant[1, 2] 2003-04	2004-05	2005-06[3]	2006-07[4]	2007-08[4]
Avon and Somerset	173.99	175.19	183.81	185.92	184.21
Bedfordshire	66.83	69.22	73.11	74.15	76.21
Cambridgeshire	77.96	79.66	85.26	82.33	85.58
Cheshire	112.59	119.77	124.28	130.88	136.13
Cleveland	90.97	94.79	99.54	101.32	105.29
Cumbria	63.08	65.27	68.71	72.43	72.29
Derbyshire	111.23	114.88	119.38	117.32	119.81
Devon and Cornwall	174.26	180.29	189.16	190.95	199.38
Dorset	71.17	75.46	73.19	81.17	82.66
Durham	86.93	90.27	95.28	94.36	97.68
Dyfed-Powys	30.12	32.23	33.61	32.69	34.17
Essex	169.34	173.67	181.81	180.43	187.91
Gloucestershire	61.48	63.66	68.00	67.93	71.35
Greater Manchester	417.66	433.15	462.73	479.73	484.16
Gwent	40.90	43.29	44.44	44.27	45.70
Hampshire	197.87	208.08	239.16	222.35	221.75
Hertfordshire	108.85	114.58	117.84	121.12	127.33
Humberside	117.34	124.65	132.49	135.00	134.90
Kent	188.38	198.30	203.93	193.45	219.23
Lancashire	188.91	196.55	205.41	207.98	215.90
Leicestershire	107.59	111.45	118.17	124.81	126.03
Lincolnshire	64.98	68.22	71.17	66.54	72.47
Merseyside	267.38	269.90	279.85	276.08	287.30
Metropolitan[5]	1,923.90	1,983.50	1,928.50	2,019.00	2,115.40
Norfolk	90.79	94.37	99.27	100.08	102.25
North Wales	44.71	47.08	49.47	48.07	50.28
North Yorkshire	78.89	80.61	83.73	86.24	79.39
Northamptonshire	69.79	70.71	72.37	75.49	78.53
Northumbria	226.21	233.28	250.55	249.17	260.01
Nottinghamshire	136.54	142.04	148.94	143.48	145.55
South Wales	93.45	103.17	107.45	91.93	94.82
South Yorkshire	184.86	191.87	202.82	205.49	211.15
Staffordshire	112.87	117.62	122.43	122.05	126.77
Suffolk	69.57	71.81	74.76	73.73	75.57
Surrey	93.59	96.78	100.80	104.76	110.12
Sussex	168.05	180.99	180.95	156.10	189.14
Thames Valley	233.34	237.32	249.35	260.52	261.98
Warwickshire	51.91	53.90	56.16	54.57	56.91
West Mercia	114.12	117.77	122.50	126.05	131.49
West Midlands	415.20	433.31	466.12	471.41	487.88
West Yorkshire	310.30	329.12	347.12	345.62	348.95
Wiltshire	64.68	65.85	70.26	68.77	73.03
England and Wales total	5,548.65	5,770.08	6,075.37	6,066.75	6,271.23

[1] Revenue funding includes all grants inside aggregate external finance (AEF) (i.e. revenue grants paid for councils' core services), and includes formula grant and all specific grants.

[2] Welsh Government grant includes Home Office police grant, floor funding and additional support provided to ensure Welsh police authorities receive at least a minimum increase in grant in line with English authorities.

[3] In 2005-06 figures were adjusted for comparison purposes following the transfer of pensions and security funding from general grant in 2006-07.

[4] 2006-07 Government grant figures are provisional outturn figures. 2007-08 figures are budget figures.

[5] The data for Metropolitan Police Authority from 2000-01 onwards is not available from DCLG as they are collected as consolidated data from GLA. Data used is compiled from Home Office data for allocated grants.

Source:

DCLG—from English police authorities/WAG—from Welsh police authorities.

Police: Football

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much Leicestershire constabulary spent in policing football matches in the city of Leicester in each of the last five years; [179325]

(2) what the average amount spent by police forces was to police *(a)* football matches and *(b)* music events in each of the last five years. [179326]

Mr. McNulty: Decisions on the distribution of resources are matters for the chief officer and the police authority.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of *(a)* police community support officers and *(b)* regular police officers fall into each ethnic category in each police force area. [176318]

Mr. McNulty: Figures relating to 31 March 2007 appear in the following tables.

Number of police community support officers and police officers in post 31 March 2007 by police force area: Percentages in each ethnic group

(a) Police community support officers

Percentage[1]

	White	*Mixed*	*Asian or Asian British*	*Black or black British*	*Other ethnic group*	*Not stated*	*Total*[2]
Avon and Somerset	95.7	1.3	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.0	100.0
Bedfordshire	89.2	3.6	6.0	1.2	0.0	0.0	100.0
Cambridgeshire	92.9	2.2	3.3	1.1	0.0	0.5	100.0
Cheshire	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Cleveland	98.2	0.0	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Cumbria	98.8	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Derbyshire	95.6	1.1	2.2	1.1	0.0	0.0	100.0
Devon and Cornwall	67.1	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.9	31.3	100.0
Dorset	97.5	0.8	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Durham	98.6	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Dyfed-Powys	98.7	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	100.0
Essex	95.3	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.0	1.5	100.0
Gloucestershire	86.6	1.8	2.4	0.0	1.2	8.0	100.0
Greater Manchester	95.5	0.4	2.9	1.2	0.0	0.0	100.0
Gwent	97.1	0.0	1.9	1.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Hampshire	98.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.0	100.0
Hertfordshire	94.6	0.0	2.2	0.9	0.0	2.2	100.0
Humberside	99.0	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	100.0
Kent	96.1	1.5	1.5	0.0	1.0	0.0	100.0
Lancashire	97.6	0.5	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.8	100.0
Leicestershire	90.3	0.5	9.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Lincolnshire	98.6	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.0	100.0
London, City of	83.3	8.3	5.6	2.8	0.0	0.0	100.0
Merseyside	94.6	3.6	1.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	100.0
Metropolitan Police	67.4	3.8	12.1	11.3	4.1	1.3	100.0
Norfolk	97.2	0.0	1.1	0.6	1.1	0.0	100.0
Northamptonshire	93.0	3.9	0.8	2.3	0.0	0.0	100.0
Northumbria	98.0	1.2	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.0	100.0
North Wales	95.9	0.7	1.4	0.0	0.0	2.1	100.0
North Yorkshire	99.3	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	100.0
Nottinghamshire	96.1	0.9	2.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	100.0
South Wales	98.3	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.3	0.6	100.0
South Yorkshire	95.1	0.0	1.2	3.0	0.3	0.3	100.0
Staffordshire	96.1	1.0	2.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	100.0
Suffolk	99.2	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Surrey	93.1	0.0	3.5	1.0	0.5	2.0	100.0
Sussex	94.8	1.1	0.3	0.3	0.7	2.8	100.0
Thames Valley	93.0	1.9	4.2	0.5	0.0	0.5	100.0
Warwickshire	94.5	0.0	3.9	0.8	0.0	0.8	100.0
West Mercia	92.6	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.0	5.1	100.0
West Midlands	85.0	2.3	9.1	2.3	0.5	0.8	100.0
West Yorkshire	95.1	0.3	3.9	0.6	0.1	0.0	100.0
Wiltshire	98.3	0.8	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	100.0
England and Wales	86.8	1.7	5.0	3.6	1.3	1.6	100.0

(b) Police officers

Percentage[1]

	White	*Mixed*	*Black or black British*	*Asian or Asian British*	*Other ethnic group*	*Not stated*	*Total*[2]
Avon and Somerset	98.4	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.0	100.0
Bedfordshire	93.1	1.4	0.9	2.9	0.1	1.7	100.0
Cambridgeshire	96.3	0.9	0.5	0.9	0.1	1.4	100.0
Cheshire	98.6	0.6	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.5	100.0
Cleveland	96.0	0.3	0.0	1.1	0.1	2.5	100.0
Cumbria	98.9	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	100.0
Derbyshire	96.5	0.8	0.4	2.1	0.1	0.0	100.0
Devon and Cornwall	91.0	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.1	8.3	100.0
Dorset	98.7	0.7	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	100.0
Durham	98.5	0.7	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.0	100.0
Dyfed Powys	99.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.0	100.0
Essex	98.0	1.0	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	100.0
Gloucestershire	97.9	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.4	100.0
Greater Manchester	96.1	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.4	0.0	100.0
Gwent	98.5	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.0	100.0
Hampshire	90.2	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.5	7.9	100.0
Hertfordshire	96.4	1.0	0.5	0.9	0.2	1.0	100.0
Humberside	99.0	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.0	100.0
Kent	98.0	0.8	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.0	100.0
Lancashire	86.6	1.0	0.1	1.6	0.1	10.5	100.0
Leicestershire	92.6	1.3	1.0	3.5	0.0	1.6	100.0
Lincolnshire	98.6	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.0	100.0
London, City of	94.9	1.4	1.6	2.0	0.1	0.0	100.0
Merseyside	97.3	1.4	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.0	100.0
Metropolitan Police	91.9	1.4	2.4	2.8	1.3	0.2	100.0
Norfolk	98.3	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.5	100.0
North Wales	98.6	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.8	100.0
North Yorkshire	98.7	0.6	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.1	100.0
Northamptonshire	87.4	1.1	1.5	1.0	0.2	8.8	100.0
Northumbria	98.4	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.3	100.0
Nottinghamshire	96.5	0.9	0.9	1.2	0.2	0.3	100.0
South Wales	86.2	1.1	0.1	0.4	0.2	12.0	100.0
South Yorkshire	96.6	0.1	1.1	1.6	0.1	0.6	100.0
Staffordshire	98.2	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	100.0
Suffolk	98.1	1.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.0	100.0
Surrey	95.7	1.7	0.4	0.8	0.3	1.1	100.0
Sussex	98.6	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.0	100.0
Thames Valley	92.9	1.5	0.8	1.3	0.2	3.4	100.0
Warwickshire	94.7	0.6	0.3	3.1	0.2	1.0	100.0
West Mercia	98.6	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.0	100.0
West Midlands	92.4	1.4	1.6	3.9	0.1	0.4	100.0
West Yorkshire	95.7	0.8	0.7	2.3	0.3	0.2	100.0
Wiltshire	98.6	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.0	100.0
England and Wales	94.7	1.0	0.9	1.5	0.4	1.4	100.0

[1] Percentages are calculated on the numbers of full-time equivalent officers.
[2] Some percentages may not add precisely to 100.0 because of rounding to one decimal place.

Police: Uniforms

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many protective vests were issued to police officers in each year since 1997. [178214]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not held centrally. Decisions relating to the selection, purchase and issue of body armour are matters for individual chief officers of police.

Proscribed Organisations

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98W, on Proscribed Organisations Appeals Commission (POAC) and the subsequent refusal of the POAC to permit the Government to appeal against its order to the Home Secretary to lift the ban on the prohibition of the People's Mujahedeen of Iran, what steps the

Government are taking to comply with the judgment and implement the order. [175673]

Mr. McNulty: The Government have applied to the Court of Appeal for leave to appeal the judgment of the Proscribed Organisations Appeals Commission (POAC) in relation to the proscription of the People's Mujahedeen of Iran. No action will be taken in respect of the judgment until the appeals process has concluded.

Public Order Offences

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department has issued on the prevention by police of photographers taking pictures in public places; and if she will make a statement. [177626]

Mr. McNulty: It is an operational matter for the chief constable of the force area concerned, based on the individual circumstances of the situation, to determine whether action is required to respond to an offence or where they suspect an offence is about to be committed or to prevent a breach of the peace.

Violence Against the Person

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the percentage crime detection rate for *(a)* violence against the person, *(b)* sexual offences, *(c)* burglary, *(d)* robbery and *(e)* theft from a vehicle was in each London borough in each year since 1988, broken down by age group. [172541]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not available centrally from the recorded crime statistics. Details of the ages of victims and alleged offenders are not collected.

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded for *(a)* violence against the person, *(b)* sexual offences, *(c)* burglary, *(d)* robbery and *(e)* theft from a vehicle in each London borough in each year since 1988, broken down by age group. [172542]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not available centrally from the recorded crime statistics. Details of the ages of victims and alleged offenders are not collected.

Visits Abroad

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* destination, *(b)* duration and *(c)* purpose was of each overseas visit by members of staff in her Department of each civil service grade over the last 12 months. [177518]

Mr. Byrne: The requested information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department expects all official travel to be undertaken only where there is a clear business need and that, when such a need arises, it is carried out by the most efficient and economic means available, taking into account the cost of travel and subsistence, savings in official time, management benefit, and the needs of staff with disabilities. This is in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code.

West Mercia Police: Finance

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will hold discussions with the chief constable of West Mercia police on the funding arrangements for the policing of community events. [179622]

Mr. McNulty: Funding arrangements for the policing of community events are a matter for the chief constable and police authority concerned.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 22 January 2008

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental E-mail

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1229W, to the right hon. Member for Horsham, on departmental e-mail, (1) how many e-mails sent to him by members of the public through the No. 10 website have been replied to; and how many of those replies have been based on a pro forma response; [178352]

(2) which members of staff in Downing Street read the e-mails sent to him through the No. 10 website; [178353]

(3) how many members of the public have e-mailed him in each month since 27 June 2007; [178354]

(4) what procedures there are *(a)* to identify whether e-mails sent to the webpage are party political in nature and *(b)* to deal with such e-mails. [179637]

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1229W, on departmental e-mail, whether he personally reads the e-mails sent to him by members of the public via the No. 10 website. [181337]

The Prime Minister: Since 27 June 2007, I have received approximately 27,000 e-mails via the No. 10 website. All e-mails are read by my Office, however, as made clear on the No. 10 website, it is not possible to reply to all e-mails.

Downing Street Political Office

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what proportion of the cost of the position of the administrator of the Downing Street Political Office will be met by the public purse; and when the post was established; [175075]

(2) how much and what proportion of the administrative costs of the Downing Street Political Office was funded by the public purse in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; [175192]

(3) for how much of his working time the administrator of the Downing Street Political Office will be based in Downing Street. [175193]

The Prime Minister: The staffing and associated costs for my Political Office are met by the Labour party. As has been the case under successive Administrations, marginal costs associated with the Political Office are met from within the overall budget for 10 Downing street.

Gordon Brown

Adam Price: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1398W, on Gordon Brown, whether a date has been set for the publication of the list; whether it will include details of the dates on which donations to Ministers' campaigns for the Leadership and Deputy Leadership of the Labour Party were *(a)* notified to Permanent Secretaries and *(b)* registered with the Cabinet Office. [181134]

The Prime Minister: The first List of Ministers' Interests will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Prime Minister if he will attend the launch of the 'Don't Close Your Eyes' Blue Blindfold Campaign on human trafficking in the House on 29 January. [181053]

The Prime Minister: My hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Crime Reduction (Mr. Coaker) will be attending on behalf of the Government.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Contracts

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* objective and *(b)* value was of each contract placed with (i) Deloitte and Touche, (ii) Ernst and Young, (iii) KPMG, (iv) PricewaterhouseCoopers and (v) PA Consulting by his Department and its agencies in each year since 2004-05. [179028]

Mr. Woodward: The *(a)* objective and *(b)* value of the contracts placed with (i) Deloitte and Touche, (ii) Ernst and Young, (iii) KPMG, (iv) PricewaterhouseCoopers and (v) PA Consulting by the Northern Ireland Office and its agencies in each year since 2004-05 are shown in the following tables.

(i) Deloitte and Touche

	Objective	*Value (£)*
2004-05	Provision of Deputy Programme Manager to Causeway Programme	128,170
	Technical Architect for Flax Programme	250,000
	Production of business case for the State Pathologist's Departmental Case Management System	5,100
	Programme Scoping	14,119
	Financial Advisors Framework	11,400
	Finance backfill including Business Planning Support	17,798
	Review of Finance Function and Business Planning Activity	21,380
	Backfill for Accountant on sick absence including Preparation of Year End Accounts	16,020
	Total	463,987
2005-06	Provision of Deputy Programme Manager to Causeway Programme	121,544

(i) Deloitte and Touche

	Objective	Value (£)
	Document Management System for Flax Programme	31,000
	Production of business case for the State Pathologist's Departmental Case Management System	5,100
	Completion of Status Review of the State Pathologist's Department	11,850
	Capacity Planning Pilot	10,375
	Preparation of Business Case for Casebook 3	6,870
	Business Case and assistance in procurement of new Finance System	25,795
	Backfill for Accountant on sick absence	1,875
	Consultancy Testing for Causeway Programme	25,000
	Advice on transfer of Cross Border Senior Police Officer Pensions	40,000
	Research of Court Bail in Northern Ireland	106,366
	Evaluation of Bail Supervision and Support Scheme	54,039
	Feasibility Study on One Stop Shop for Domestic Violence	48,696
	Efficiency Review	23,500
	Total	512,010
2006-07	Provision of Deputy Programme Manager to Causeway Programme	16,332
	Flax Programme	23,800
	NIO Connect Scoping Study	26,700
	Completion and Analysis of Customer Satisfaction Survey	53,000
	Domestic Violence Database Project	37,600
	Health Check of EDRMS System	11,679
	Prison Escorting Business Plan Review	34,781
	Management Plan Grading Study	6,138
	Total	210,030
2007-08	Provision of Testing Manager for Causeway Programme	39,163
	Provision of Business Case for Perseus Programme	22,500
	Quality Assurance of a Service Level Agreement	46,392
	Total	108,055
	Overall total	1,294,082

(ii) Ernst and Young

No contracts have been in place with Ernst and Young since 2004-05.

(iii) KPMG

No contracts have been in place with KPMG since 2004-05.

(iv) PricewaterhouseCoopers

	Objective	Value (£)
2004-05	Provision of Accounting Services	2,438
	Total	2,438
2005-06	Production of business case and provision of financial advisory service for a New Accommodation Project	59,290
	Advice on Human Resources Restructuring	10,080
	Development of Role Profiles	5,000
	Provision of Prisoner Ombudsman	38,340
	Investors In People Review	1,051
	Total	113,761
2006-07	Production of business case and provision of financial advisory service for a New Accommodation Project	13,000
	Advice on Human Resources Restructuring	2,139
	Review of Role Profiling	1,314
	Professional fees Restructuring	8,944
	Total	25,393
2007-08	Production of business case and provision of financial advisory service for a New Accommodation Project	41,692
	Preparations for Devolution	40,000
	Total	81,692
	Overall total	223,284

Ongoing

(v) P4 Consulting

	Objective	Value (£)
2004-05		n/a
2005-06	Provision of Technical Assurance to Causeway Programme	72,800
	Total	72,800
2006-07	Review of the Public Prosecution Service's Cost Management System	9,061
	Total	9,061
2007-08		n/a
	Overall total	81,861

Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what meetings he has had with trade unions officials since 1 July 2007; on what dates; and with which trade unions. [179865]

Mr. Woodward: Ministers meet many people as part of the process of policy development. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Erasmus

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what *(a)* financial and *(b)* non-financial contribution his Department has made to the EU Erasmus Mundus programme since 2001; and which third countries were partners in the programme in the latest period for which information is available. [180444]

Bill Rammell: The Department makes no direct financial contributions to the Erasmus Mundus programme, which is funded by the European Commission. Along with representatives of the other EU member states, my officials are involved in the development of the programme

through membership of the Erasmus Mundus Committee. The latest statistical information available from the European Commission shows that in 2007, 13 third countries were involved in partnerships with EU institutions—Australia, Belarus, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Japan, Peru, Russia, South Africa, Switzerland, Ukraine and USA. In addition, scholarships were awarded to incoming students from 102 different third countries.

Europass

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his policy on the extension of the Europass is. [181030]

Bill Rammell: Europass was incorporated into the European Union's Lifelong Learning Programme with effect from 1 January 2007. There are currently no plans to extend the Europass beyond its current scope.

Higher Education: Gifts and Endowments

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the total value of private endowments managed by universities. [178240]

Bill Rammell: We do not hold data centrally on the total level on endowment funds held by universities but the income from such endowments amounted to nearly £300 million for 2005/06—the latest year for which data is available. Over the past decade, significant improvements have been made as more institutions have set up and expanded their professional fundraising capacity. This has been supported by the Government's commitment to increase the level of voluntary giving to universities with the introduction of a £7.5 million capacity building scheme and the £200 million matched funding scheme over three years that was announced last year.

Higher Education: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of withdrawal of support to institutions in south-east London for students studying equivalent or lower qualifications. [178076]

Bill Rammell: No students currently studying equivalent or lower qualifications will be affected by these changes. In future, our policy of redistributing grant will widen participation and mean that more of the three million Londoners of working age who do not have a first higher-level qualification, especially those from non-traditional backgrounds, will be able to benefit from participating in higher education.

Higher Education: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of people normally resident in Peterborough have participated in higher education to degree level in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [179257]

Bill Rammell: The main measure for tracking progress on increasing participation in higher education is currently the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR). This is the sum of the HE initial participation rates for individual ages between 17 and 30 inclusive. It covers English-domiciled first time entrants to HE courses, which are expected to last for at least six months, at UK higher education institutions and English, Scottish and Welsh further education colleges, and who remain on their course for at least six months. The figures are shown in the table.

Higher education initial participation rate (HEIPR) 1999-2000 to 2005-06

	Percentage
1999-2000	39.3
2000-01	39.7
2001-02	40.2
2002-03	41.2
2003-04	40.3
2004-05	41.3
2005-06	42.8

Source:
"Participation Rates in Higher Education: Academic Years 1999-2000 to 2005-06 (Provisional)" Statistical First Release, published by DfES.

Figures for 2006-07 will become available later this year. The HEIPR is not disaggregated below national level.

HEFCE's "Young participation in Higher Education" publication includes the proportion of young people who enter higher education at age 18 or 19 by parliamentary constituency, although this only covers the years up to 2000. Participation rates based on this work are given on the supporting POLAR website (www.hefce.ac.uk/polar).

The figures for Peterborough in each year from 1997 to 2000 are shown in the table.

Proportion of people from Peterborough entering HE aged 18 or 19, based on the cohort aged 18 in each given year

Cohort reaching age 18 in year	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
Percentage from Peterborough entering HE aged 18 or 19	23	25	23	23
Percentage from England entering HE aged 18 or 19	29	29	29	30

Source:
"Young Participation in Higher Education", published by HEFCE.

Research: Animal Experiments

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what funding his Department provides for research into alternatives to using animals for research purposes. [164127]

Ian Pearson: In 2004 the Government established the National Centre for Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NCSRs) for research into alternatives to the use of animals in research; this is the first centre of its type in the world. Since its launch, baseline Government funding for the NCSRs has increased from £696,000 in 2004-05 to £2.218 million in this financial year. In addition to this, because of the number of additional high quality applications received, the NCSRs secured additional funding of £400,000 from the MRC-Medical Research

Council and BBSRC-the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council.

Research related to the 3Rs can also be submitted to MRC and BBSRC through their response mode funding mechanisms.

Students: Finance

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect that withdrawal of funding for equivalent or lower qualifications will have on opportunities for lifelong learning. [177551]

Bill Rammell: The progressive re-distribution of institutional funding away from students doing equivalent or lower level qualifications will enable us to widen higher education participation and support more of the millions of people of all ages without a first higher education qualification, including the five million people over fifty without such qualifications. However, there will be transitional protection for existing students doing equivalent and lower level qualifications until they complete their courses. All of the £100 million will be redistributed to support our priorities, including the challenges posed by Sandy Leitch around the proportion of the workforce with higher level skills from under 30 per cent. to over 40 per cent. by 2020.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Capita

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings (*a*) she, (*b*) Ministers in her Department and (*c*) officials have held with (i) directors and (ii) senior executives of (A) Capita Group plc and (B) its subsidiaries since 1 January 2001; what the (1) location and (2) duration of each meeting was; whether a record of each meeting was kept; and if she will make a statement. [180710]

Mr. Dhanda: Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not the usual practice of Government to disclose details of such meetings.

Council Tax Benefits: Tax Rates and Bands

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many households in England have zero liability for council tax due to 100 per cent. council tax exemptions; [180158]

(2) how many households in England have a liability for council tax. [180159]

John Healey: Table 1 of the statistics release "Local Authority Taxbase—2007 England" gives details of dwellings in England as at 8 October 2007 that were exempt from council tax. This release is available on the Communities and Local Government's website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/ctbase07.htm

Council Tax: Bedfordshire

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what was (*a*) the rate of household council tax and (*b*) the percentage change from the previous year this represented for each of the last 10 years for (i) Bedfordshire county council, (ii) South Bedfordshire district council and (iii) Luton borough council. [181120]

John Healey: Details of the council tax and the percentage change from the previous year this represented for each of the last 10 years for (i) Bedfordshire county council, (ii) South Bedfordshire district council and (iii) Luton borough council are available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/data/ctaxtimes.xls

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what items of her Department's (*a*) revenue and (*b*) expenditure are uprated using (i) the consumer prices index, (ii) the retail prices index and (iii) other measures of inflation. [179945]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Contracts

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the (*a*) objectives and (*b*) value was of each contract placed with (i) Deloitte and Touche, (ii) Ernst and Young, (iii) KPMG, (iv) PricewaterhouseCoopers and (v) PA Consulting by her Department its predecessor Department and its agencies in each year since 2004-05. [178035]

Mr. Dhanda: The total amount spent by the Department centrally with the five companies since 2004-05 is as follows:

£000

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 to date	Total
Deloitte and Touche	882	1,653	241	86	2,862
Ernst and Young	434	763	18	0	1,215
KPMG	921	550	356	476	2,303
Pricewaterhouse-Coopers	926	970	1,338	1,099	4,333
PA Consulting	9,457	12,047	8,840	6,126	36,470

The nature of each contract involved could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 554W, and to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1170W, which give details of certain departmental contracts.

The amounts spent by the Department's agencies and nature of the contracts are set out as follows.

	£000					
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total	Nature of contract(s)
Fire Service College						
Deloitte and Touche	3	0	0	0	0	Risk Management Workshop
Ernst and Young	0	0	0	0	0	
KPMG	0	0	0	0	0	
PricewaterhouseCoopers	26	0	0	0	26	Pay and Grading Review
PA Consulting	0	0	0	0	0	
Ordnance Survey						
Deloitte and Touche	0	13	0	0	13	2005-06: International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Advice 2005-07: Computer Audit Services
Ernst and Young	0	0	0	0	0	
KPMG	0	0	0	0	0	
PricewaterhouseCoopers	7	9	0	5	21	2004-05: Investigation of IFRS implementation impact 2005-06: Internal Audit 2005-06 and 2007-08: Agency Performance Monitor Review
PA Consulting	0	0	0	0	0	

Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre has not used the services of any of these companies. Information for the Planning Inspectorate could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the reasons were for the increase in the early severance/early retirement costs for her Department and its predecessor from 2004 to 2006. [173309]

Mr. Dhanda: Increased early severance/retirement costs incurred during this period were necessary in order to achieve future efficiency targets, strategic resourcing aims and to avoid compulsory redundancies.

Eco-Towns

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which locations have applied to become eco-towns. [164771]

Yvette Cooper: We have received over 50 expressions of interest for eco-towns and expect to publish the proposals shortly, once we have completed an initial assessment of the applications received.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether all eco-towns designated as healthy towns will be obliged to offer weigh-ins for children when they leave primary school. [166290]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 920W.

English Language: Public Participation

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department has held a Citizens' Jury on English for speakers of other languages since 6 October 2007. [181185]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department held two Citizens' Juries on English for speakers of other languages jointly with Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) in December 2007. The findings of these juries, which were held in London and Hull, will be taken into account alongside DIUS's the public consultation 'Focusing English for Speakers of Other Languages on Community Cohesion'.

Fire Services: Cleveland

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been allocated to Cleveland Fire Authority for the next funding period. [179619]

Mr. Dhanda: The provisional local government finance settlement, announced on the 6 December 2007, provisionally allocated £22.160 million in 2008-09, £22.270 million in 2009-10 and £22.382 million in 2010-11 in formula grant to Cleveland Fire Authority. The final settlement will be laid before the House shortly.

In addition, Cleveland Fire Authority will be allocated specific revenue grants to enable the implementation of an enhanced national resilience capability.

Cleveland will also benefit from the new Fire Capital Grants. These total £35 million and £45 million for England in years 2009-10 and 2010-11. We will be consulting on the distribution of these grants shortly.

Fire Services: Finance

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what level of funding was allocated to each English fire authority, in each of the last three years; and how many incidents were attended by firefighters from each authority in each such year. [179608]

Mr. Dhanda: The following table shows formula grant allocations for each combined fire authority, metropolitan fire authority and the GLA (fire) for the years 2005-06 to 2007-08. In addition 15 county fire authorities are responsible for providing the fire and rescue service within their areas. Their formula grants allocation covers all the services provided including fire, but the fire element cannot be separately identified. It is for each county to allocate funding between services in response to their statutory duties and local priorities.

Formula grant, 2005-06 to 2007-08

£ million

Local authority	Formula grant 2005-06	Formula grant 2006-07	Formula grant 2007-08
GLA Fire	277.288	248.308	254.453
Greater Manchester Fire	78.266	70.085	72.020
Merseyside Fire	52.019	44.198	45.391
South Yorkshire Fire	36.816	33.720	34.333
Tyne and Wear Fire	38.763	33.065	33.937
West Midlands Fire	82.228	76.456	77.397
West Yorkshire Fire	59.788	52.123	53.548
Avon Fire	25.827	23.946	24.388
Bedfordshire Fire	10.905	10.194	10.594
Berkshire Fire Authority	15.041	14.734	15.118
Buckinghamshire Fire	11.028	10.946	11.226
Cambridgeshire Fire	12.721	11.863	12.444
Cheshire Fire	17.008	15.525	16.471
Cleveland Fire	22.863	21.757	21.940
Derbyshire Fire	18.540	16.299	16.920
Devon Fire	22.614	20.469	n/a
Devon and Somerset Fire	n/a	n/a	29.095
Dorset Fire	12.258	10.337	10.733
Durham Fire	13.907	12.258	13.058
East Sussex Fire	15.060	13.524	13.836
Essex Fire Authority	30.815	28.692	29.938
Hampshire Fire	28.522	26.627	27.595
Hereford and Worcester Fire	11.208	9.840	10.355
Humberside Fire	25.427	23.431	24.026
Kent Fire	28.958	27.048	28.111
Lancashire Fire	34.087	30.494	31.965
Leicestershire Fire	17.431	17.082	17.694
North Yorkshire Fire	13.568	12.335	12.712
Nottinghamshire Fire	21.679	20.179	21.073
Shropshire Fire	7.153	6.786	7.195
Staffordshire Fire	17.462	16.125	16.822
Wiltshire Fire	8.845	8.563	9.152

Notes:
1. Decreases in Formula Grant funding between 2005-06 and 2006-07 reflect the removal of firefighter pensions from revenue support grant.
2. From 2006-07 FRAs receive pensions top-up grant to cover any annual deficit in their firefighter pension funds.

Fire authorities also benefited from the following specific grant funding:

£

Type of funding	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Fire prevention grants	n/a	5,689,926	5,651,208
Fire control	2,272,787	3,620,237	16,983,600
New Dimension	14,106,760	26,015,848	16,706,251
Pensions top up grant: Estimate	n/a	138,937,033	163,155,000
Home fire risk checks initiative	5,000,000	5,000,000	10,000,000

The following table shows all incidents attended by English fire services between 2003-04 and 2004-05, including all fires, false alarms and special service incidents (including road traffic accidents and other non-fire or false alarm related incidents). The table also shows fire and false alarm incidents attended during the 2006 calendar year. Non-fire and non-false alarm data are not available for 2006.

All incidents attended by English fire and rescue services, 2003-04 to 2005-06; and all fires and false alarms attended in the calendar year 2006

	All incidents			All fires and false alarms[1]
FRS area	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006 (calendar)
England	1,016,028	859,800	841,780	689,937
Avon	21,360	17,628	18,723	15,309
Bedfordshire	9,414	7,413	5,930	5,716
Berkshire	14,398	12,121	11,410	9,915
Buckinghamshire	10,999	9,791	9,699	8,242
Cambridgeshire	13,039	11,710	11,886	10,544
Cheshire	17,543	15,242	15,081	13,250
Cleveland	15,594	13,063	13,593	12,479
Cornwall	6,203	5,946	5,690	4,511
Cumbria	8,340	7,567	7,624	6,256
Derbyshire	14,773	12,428	12,826	10,594
Devon	18,308	17,374	16,676	12,114
Dorset	10,282	9,294	9,205	6,718
Durham	11,723	10,421	9,916	9,235
East Sussex	14,648	12,932	12,819	9,819
Essex	27,946	23,265	22,709	18,386
Gloucestershire	8,850	8,402	8,287	6,424
Greater London	181,642	158,756	155,224	106,084
Greater Manchester	64,240	54,052	52,414	47,316
Hampshire	27,138	22,389	22,697	18,717
Hereford and Worcester	10,785	9,016	8,801	7,609
Hertfordshire	14,941	12,000	11,526	9,412
Humberside	22,067	17,330	16,697	13,956
Isle of Wight	1,891	1,643	1,789	1,411
Isles of Scilly	35	26	33	33
Kent	28,916	23,325	23,497	18,919
Lancashire	30,907	26,518	24,995	17,808
Leicestershire	15,236	13,978	12,622	10,511
Lincolnshire	11,420	11,197	10,680	6,702
Merseyside	42,804	34,603	29,854	27,947
Norfolk	11,095	9,610	10,155	9,103
North Yorkshire	10,722	10,347	10,612	8,175
Northamptonshire	12,382	10,537	10,425	8,478
Northumberland	6,126	4,996	4,712	4,381
Nottinghamshire	23,476	18,482	17,757	15,393
Oxfordshire	6,957	6,451	6,469	5,016
Shropshire	7,008	5,880	5,966	5,296
Somerset	7,648	6,069	5,528	4,051
South Yorkshire	30,619	23,217	23,763	21,440

All incidents attended by English fire and rescue services, 2003-04 to 2005-06; and all fires and false alarms attended in the calendar year 2006

	All incidents			All fires and false alarms[1]
FRS areas	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006 (calendar)*
Staffordshire	18,233	15,249	15,672	14,227
Suffolk	9,366	7,803	7,941	7,408
Surrey	17,255	15,113	15,357	12,416
Tyne and Wear	29,533	23,773	23,523	23,602
Warwickshire	9,012	7,864	8,123	7,015
West Midlands	65,635	52,219	50,251	43,755
West Sussex	14,100	12,662	12,269	9,335
West Yorkshire	52,929	43,810	42,489	39,166
Wiltshire	8,488	7,188	7,865	5,723

[1] Including road traffic accidents and other non-fire incidents. *Note:* Fire and false alarm data for 2006 are provisional.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to take into account the number of high risk industrial sites in each fire authority area allocating resources to fire authorities. [179620]

Mr. Dhanda: The distribution of formula grant takes into account the relative needs and potential to raise income locally (resources) of an authority, relative to all other authorities providing the same service. It also contains a central allocation and a floor damping mechanism.

To reflect needs, the Fire and Rescue Relative Needs Formula (RNF) takes into account the resident population, coastline, deprivation, high risk sites, property and societal risk and community fire safety. The high risk sites element is measured by the number of top tier Control of Major Accident hazards (COMAH) sites per head. The COMAH sites data are sourced from the Health and Safety Executive and for the 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 settlement, the count is as at 1 October 2007.

Home Information Packs: Expenditure

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent from the public purse on home information packs including *(a)* administration costs, *(b)* legal fees, *(c)* external advisers, *(d)* websites, *(e)* research and area trials, *(f)* communications, publicity and publishing, *(g)* agency staff and *(h)* other costs in relation to the home information packs. [173336]

Yvette Cooper: An update on programme spend was given in the House on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 653W. Since then HIPs and EPC expenditure has been as follows:

	HIP programme spend (£)
Admin costs[1]	124,591
Legal fees	—
Outside expertise	—
Website costs	4,211
Area trials	—
Research	188,757
Comms, publicity and publishing	598,046
Agency staff	17,402
Other costs	5,264
Total	938,271

[1] Includes departmental staff working on HIPs and EPC development, management and implementation.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps the Government have taken to update and improve the quality of social housing in the West Midlands. [178467]

Mr. Iain Wright: The most significant step we have taken to improve the quality of social housing has been the introduction of the decent homes standard in 2001.

This led to the requirement, set out in the Deputy Prime Minister's Sustainable Communities Plan 2003, for all local housing authorities with council stock to undertake and complete stock options appraisal to identify investment options in order to meet the decent homes standard for all council housing by 2010.

These options included large scale voluntary stock transfer, arms length management organisations, and the private finance initiative, all with the potential for additional Government funding. In the West Midlands, three local authorities formed arms length management organisations (Sandwell, Solihull and Wolverhampton). Collectively they received allocations from CLG during 2007-08 of over £104 million, with over £340 million additional proposed for the period 2008 to 2011.

In April 2003 there were 137,698 non-decent council homes in the West Midlands making up just over 55 per cent. of the total council stock. Provisional figures as of April 2007 show that this figure has almost halved to 69,401 (-68,297), representing just 32 per cent. of the council housing stock. This is a clear demonstration that this policy is improving the quality of social housing in the region.

The decent homes target also applies to the social housing in the ownership of registered social landlords (RSLs). Here data available from the Housing Corporation for 2007, shows the number of non-decent dwellings owned by RSLs in the West Midlands to be 22,056, 9.46 per cent. of the regional RSL stock. RSLs are working effectively to achieve 100 per cent. decency without recourse to Government funding through the delivery of asset management strategies funded by rents and private finance.

In addition to renovations to properties in this sector, funding for the Affordable Housing programme, administered by the Housing Corporation, has resulted in an allocation to the West Midlands of £377 million over the period 2004-05 to 2007-08, to subsidise delivery of new high quality social housing, over 8,600 new affordable homes for rent and low cost sale through registered social landlords. We are now close to concluding the 2008 to 2011 allocations which will make available an additional £467 million through this programme, generating an additional 7,000 new social rented sector homes and 3,600 low cost homes.

Local Authorities: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 783, on local authorities: finance, what proportion of total annual expenditure of the seven Gloucestershire local authorities the cost of administrative overheads was in the last year for which figures are available. [168329]

John Healey: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Local Authorities: Rodents

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information her Department holds on *(a)* the number of local authorities which charge for treating mice infestations in residential properties and *(b)* the average price charged by local authorities for such treatment. [178041]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs holds no information on either the number of local authorities which charge for treating mice infestations in residential properties or the average price charged. It is for local authorities to decide on the most appropriate pest control programme in their own area, while having regard to their duties under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.

Official Visits: Expenditure

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the public purse was of the visit by the chief executive of Thames Gateway and others to Emscher Park in Germany's Ruhr Valley in October; and if she will make a statement. [165126]

Yvette Cooper: The visit to Emscher Park in Germany on 3 to 5 October 2007 by the Thames Gateway chief executive and others was paid for by Communities and Local Government (CLG), the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) and other agencies who had representatives on the trip. The cost of the flight of the Thames Gateway chief executive and other costs including accommodation, food and transport were paid for by CABE. The flight of one other CLG official was paid for by CLG, but accommodation and other costs for this officer were paid for by CABE. The total cost to CLG of this trip was therefore £377.00.

Redundancy Pay

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons the early severance and early retirement costs for her Department and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister rose from £2.3 million in 2004 to £8.0 million in 2006. [176621]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today reference parliamentary question 173309.

Regional Ministers: Accountability

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on arrangements for the accountability of regional Ministers to the House throughout the creation of select committees. [180826]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* The Government's position as set out in the "Governance of Britain" Green Paper proposes regional Ministers being held accountable through parliamentary questions and scrutiny by parliamentary committee. Whether this is best actioned by select committees or some other arrangement has yet to be decided. The details and structure of committees is under consideration by the Modernisation Committee of the House. The Government will be submitting their evidence in due course. It will ultimately be for Parliament to decide what structure for regional accountability will be established.

Regional Planning and Development: East of England

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consultation is planned as part of the east of england regional spatial strategy. [176616]

Mr. Dhanda: No further consultation is planned as part of the process of finalising the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England, also known as the East of England Plan. There has been substantial public consultation at the various stages of the plan's development, namely the 14 week consultation on the Draft East of England Plan (launched December 2004), the 12 week consultation on the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes to the Draft Plan (launched December 2006) and most recently the Secretary of State's Further Proposed Changes to the Draft Plan (launched October 2007).

Regional Planning and Development: Fire Services

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Government's plans are to provide fire service coverage in relation to developments which take place under the South Midlands and Milton Keynes Spatial Core Strategy. [178531]

Mr. Dhanda: Fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) are required by the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework to have in place and maintain an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) which reflects local need and sets out plans to tackle effectively both existing and potential risks to communities. The IRMP enables the authority to tailor cover for fire and other incidents to local circumstances—evaluating where risk is greatest and allocating resource accordingly. It is a requirement that the IRMP is subject to a full consultation with the local community before it is agreed and published.

It is not the role of Ministers to agree the operational proposals in an authority's plan; that is for the elected members of the authority concerned. They are best placed to act on the professional advice of principal officers, including taking into consideration any relevant local planning and community strategies, and to balance

the competing local demands on available resources for the benefits of the communities they serve.

Regional Planning and Development: South East Region

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her proposed changes to the draft South East Plan will be published. [178423]

Mr. Dhanda: The Secretary of State's Proposed Changes for the draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the South East (The South East Plan) will be published for consultation later this year.

Sleeping Rough

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many rough sleepers were recorded in each region in England in each year since 1997; and how many were *(a)* over the age of 60 years and *(b)* under the age of 25 years in each year. [181056]

Mr. Iain Wright: A national estimate of the number of rough sleepers in England is published every September. The estimate is based on the results of local authority street counts in those areas where a known, or suspected, rough sleeping problem has been identified. The following table sets out the national rough sleeping estimate, broken down by region, for each year since 1998. We do not hold this information for 1997.

This Department does not hold information relating to the age of rough sleepers.

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
ENG	1,850	1,633	1,180	703	596	504	508	459	502	498
SW	290	203	124	75	61	64	44	50	63	58
SE	327	282	200	115	60	45	35	53	47	71
NW	181	194	108	47	49	37	64	35	36	33
NE	14	27	5	13	7	0	0	1	4	3
WM	99	89	36	38	27	16	23	29	13	13
EM	91	59	47	26	21	21	32	30	31	5
E	162	88	65	22	38	24	29	18	24	36
Y&H	65	56	49	10	12	30	16	22	17	31
L	621	635	546	357	321	267	265	221	267	248

Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings she has had with trades union officials since 1 July 2007; on what dates; and with which trades unions. [179861]

Mr. Dhanda: Ministers meet many people as part of the process of policy development. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

Urban Areas: Sustainable Development

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether the Government have plans for direct public sector land acquisition at pre-planning decision land values in respect of eco-town developments; [171217]

(2) whether the availability of public sector land in an area will affect determinations on the selection of locations for eco-towns. [171219]

Yvette Cooper: We have received over 50 expressions of interest for eco-towns and expect to publish the proposals shortly, once we have completed an initial assessment of the applications received. In the Eco-towns Prospectus (published on 23 July), land use was one of the seven criteria against which eco-town proposals will be assessed, and we said that "where there are good opportunities to do so, schemes should make use of suitable surplus public sector land, or brownfield land".

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which locations have been submitted to her Department as prospective eco-towns as part of the new points growth scheme. [175566]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) today reference parliamentary question 164771.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list proposals submitted for eco-towns. [179267]

Yvette Cooper: We expect to announce proposals shortly, once an initial assessment has taken place. There will be considerable opportunity for consultation before the process is completed.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when local authorities will be informed that a bid for an eco-town has been *(a)* made, *(b)* successful and *(c)* unsuccessful in their area. [179834]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* We are consulting with local authorities in the relevant areas covered by proposed eco-towns in January 2008 as part of an initial assessment of bids and expect to publish proposals shortly. There will be considerable opportunity for consultation before the process is completed.

Written Questions

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will reply to question 165126, on Emscher Park tabled by the hon. Member for Thurrock on 13 November 2007. [174342]

Yvette Cooper: I have now replied to my hon. Friend's question.

Youth Services: Finance

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local area agreements are required to include provisions on ring-fenced funding for projects which used to be funded through the Children's Fund for Youth Inclusion Projects; and what other arrangements her Department has put in place for the future funding of such projects. [180377]

John Healey: From April 2008, no funding streams will be directly linked to local area agreements (LAAs). Local partners are responsible for collectively agreeing how they will resource delivery of their LAA priorities from their mainstream funding, including by aligning or pooling resources where it makes sense to do so.

The Government are maximising local authorities' freedom to target their resources on what matters most to local people, including their LAA priorities, by moving over £5 billion of former specific grants such as the Children's Fund into non-ringfenced general grants (either Revenue Support Grant or the new Area Based Grant) over the comprehensive spending review period.

Under the new arrangements, the Government will continue to allocate funding to local authorities where there is a recognised need for additional support for preventative services for children aged five to 13. However, it will be paid as part of the non-ringfenced Area Based Grant from April 2008, so local authorities will be free to decide how best to use the resources to support local priorities.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council of England: Grants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many regularly funded, theatre-based producing companies in the regions were supported by Arts Council England in 2007-08. [179449]

James Purnell *[holding answer 16 January 2008]:* In 2007-08 Arts Council England are supporting 36 regularly funded theatre-based producing companies outside London.

Capita

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials have held with (i) directors and (ii) senior executives of (A) Capita Group plc and (B) its subsidiaries since 1 January 2001; what the (1) location and (2) duration of each meeting was; whether a record of each meeting was kept; and if he will make a statement. [180704]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not the usual practice of Government to disclose details of such meetings.

Coastal Areas: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much of the £45 million fund for cultural spending on coastal towns, announced on 30 November 2007, will come from *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the National Lottery and *(c)* private partners; and if he will make a statement. [181050]

Margaret Hodge: The £45 million fund (£15 million a year over three years) for seaside resorts announced on 30 November 2007 will come from departmental funds made available through the 2007 comprehensive spending review. We have asked the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, who will lead the programme, to seek to attract at least equal matching funding from public and private partners to further enhance the programme. This match-funding has yet to be determined.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects the first funding from the £45 million fund for cultural spending on coastal towns, announced on 30 November 2007, to be allocated. [181051]

Margaret Hodge: The funding is available from the next financial year. The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment is developing the criteria and timetable for the seaside resorts initiative. I expect they will make some allocations early in 2008-09.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what items of his Department's *(a)* revenue and *(b)* expenditure are uprated using (i) the consumer prices index, (ii) the retail prices index and (iii) other measures of inflation. [179947]

Margaret Hodge: No element of the Department's annual expenditure or revenue is uprated using any of the aforementioned indices. Pay increases are governed by Her Majesty's Treasury guidance, their approval and affordability. Staff salaries, for staff below the senior civil service, are increased annually in DCMS, but these are not uprated by any measure of inflation. Senior civil service salary costs are subject to review by the Senior Salaries Review Body. They do not apply inflation indices but do take them into account as part of the evidence they consider.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many posters or displays there are in the offices of his Department and its agencies

displaying the names and photographs of Ministers; and what the cost has been of producing such posters or displays in the last five years. [179841]

Margaret Hodge: The Department produced two displays showing ministerial names and photographs for the London Open House in 2005 and 2007. The costs were:

	Display costs (£)
2005	250.27
2007	270.25

Expenditure on such posters or displays by the Department's agencies could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisors

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether any of his Department's special advisers also work for organisations outside his Department. [178483]

James Purnell: Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the "Model Contract" and "Code of Conduct for Special Advisers", copies of which are in the Library of the House.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme: Copeland

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the uptake has been of the digital switchover targeted assistance scheme in Whitehaven and Copeland; what the expected uptake was; what assessment he has made of the reasons for the difference between the two; and if he will make a statement. [173932]

James Purnell: Details of the number of households eligible for assistance from the Digital Switchover Help Scheme in the Copeland area and the number and proportion of eligible households in Copeland who responded to scheme communications and took up the offer of help during the switchover period are set out in the table. No specific forecast was made of the number of households who would take up the offer of assistance in the Copeland area, though projections were made for the UK Scheme as a whole, based on survey work carried out in 2006.

DCMS, Digital UK, Ofcom, the BBC and Digital Switchover Help Scheme Ltd., the wholly owned BBC subsidiary company responsible for the delivery of the Help Scheme, are looking closely at the possible reasons for the level of help scheme take-up as part of a detailed evaluation of the successful programme to switch-off analogue television services in the Copeland area on 14 November 2007. It is too early to draw any firm conclusions.

Whitehaven/ Copeland Help Scheme	*Total*	*Free*	*£40 charge*
Number of eligible households[1, 2, 3, 4]	8,600	3,100	5,500
Projected take-up (households)[5]	5,900	2,700	3,200
Response rate (households)[6]	6,412	2,431	3,981
Response rate (percentage)	75	78	72
Take-up (households)[6]	2,808	1,780	1,028
Of whom needed an aerial installation	197	—	—
Take-up (percentage)	—	57	19
Opted out (households)[6]	3,604	651	2,953

[1] The figures for eligible households and forecast take-up are rounded to the nearest 100.

[2] Eligibility for help from the Digital Switchover Help Scheme is by household. Household is defined as a 'benefit unit' rather than the whole household definition used by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG), the Scottish Executive, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Northern Ireland Office to forecast future household growth. The scheme definition of eligible households mirrors Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) definition of a benefit unit: a married couple or couple living together as husband and wife (which from December 2005 includes gay couples) and any dependent children. It excludes adults deemed to be non-dependents who, if eligible, are able to claim assistance from the help scheme in their own right.

[3] The estimates of the number of eligible households use data from the Department for Work and Pensions Client Group Analysis for November 2005 for the Copeland parliamentary constituency adjusted by changes in future household and benefits growth for the period from 2005 until the date switchover took place.

[4] The estimates of eligible people do not include households where the person qualifying for help under the scheme is registered blind or registered partially sighted and qualifies on grounds of registration rather than on grounds of age or entitlement to disability benefits.

[5] The projected take-up figures for Copeland parliamentary constituency are based on the modelling work carried out by DCMS to set the overall budget for the UK-wide help scheme.

[6] The eligibility period for the scheme in Whitehaven and Copeland closed on 13 December. These are final figures.

Licensing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what records his Department holds of which local authorities have licensing policies with cumulative impact areas; [176709]

(2) which local authorities have adopted cumulative impact areas under the Licensing Act 2003; [176712]

(3) how many local authorities have designated cumulative impact areas in their licensing policies. [176718]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The data which the Department for Culture, Media and Sport hold on local authority cumulative impact areas were published in the Department's licensing statistical bulletin on 8 November 2007 and are set out in the table. The data cover cumulative impact areas in force on 31 March 2007 and are based upon a response rate of 80 per cent. of licensing authorities. Details of individual licensing authority statements of licensing policy are not held centrally.

Licensing authority	Cumulative impact areas
Leeds	4
Bexley	3
Newcastle upon Tyne	3
Bristol	2
Bromley	2
Fareham	2
Merton	2
Pembrokeshire	2
Portsmouth	2
Richmond upon Thames	2
Scarborough	2
Trafford	2
Warwick	2
Aylesbury Vale	1
Birmingham	1
Blackpool	1
Blaenau Gwent	1
Bournemouth	1
Bridgend	1
Cardiff	1
Colchester	1
Croydon	1
Dudley	1
Ealing	1
Easington	1
East Hampshire	1
East Staffordshire	1
Eastbourne	1
Hackney	1
Hartlepool	1
Herefordshire	1
Hinckley and Bosworth	1
Isles of Scilly	1
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	1
Lancaster	1
Leicester	1
Lichfield	1
Lincoln	1
Middlesbrough	1
Newcastle-under-Lyme	1
Nottingham	1
Oadby and Wigston	1
Oxford	1
Preston	1
Restormel	1
Shrewsbury and Atcham	1
South Tyneside	1
Southend-on-Sea	1
Torbay	1
Wakefield	1
Watford	1
Windsor and Maidenhead	1
Worthing	1
York	1

Note:
The number of 'cumulative impact areas' published on 9 November 2007 for two licensing authorities were incorrect:
Melton licensing authority had recorded the wrong number of cumulative impact areas as six; it has been amended to zero in the revised statistical bulletin published on 15 January 2008.
Warwick's number of cumulative impact areas was incorrectly inputted as four; this has been corrected to two in the revised statistical bulletin published on 15 January 2008.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many officials in his Department are working on the review of licensing legislation announced by the Prime Minister in July 2007. [180474]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Prime Minister was referring to the evaluation of the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 which has been on-going since the new regime came into effect on 24 November 2005.

A variety of officials have worked in the various strands of the project in both the Home Office and Department for Culture, Media and Sport since 2005, some of which are now complete. There are currently eight officials involved in licensing issues in the DCMS's Tourism Licensing and Economic Impact Division who are involved in elements of the evaluation to varying degrees. In addition there are a number of people within the Department who have previously contributed to specific reviews or initiatives.

Regulation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for which regulators and inspectorates his Department has had responsibility in each year since 1997; what the budget was of each such body in each year; and what the cost to the public purse was of any restructuring of each such body in each year. [175317]

Margaret Hodge: The information available is listed in the tables. The remaining information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Name of body and budget details

£ million

	Charity Commission	Football Licensing Authority	Independent Television Commission	Ofcom[1] (Office of Communications)	Ofcom (Office of Communications)
1997-98	21.368	0.896	—	—	—
1998-99	—	0.858	—	—	—
1999-2000	—	0.945	—	—	—
2000-01	—	0.945	—	—	—
2001-02	—	0.955	—	—	—
2002-03	—	0.955	—	—	—
2003-04	—	2.042	—	234.0	—
2004-05	—	1.083	—	—	140.6

	Name of body and budget details				£ million
	Charity Commission	Football Licensing Authority	Independent Television Commission	Ofcom[1] (Office of Communications)	Ofcom (Office of Communications)
2005-06	—	1.138	—	—	133.0
2006-07	—	1.174	—	—	129.5

						£ million
	Radio Authority	Oflot (Office of the National Lottery)	National Lottery Commission	Gaming Board for Great Britain	Gambling Commission	
1997-98		2.410				
1998-99		2.252				
1999-2000	3.940	—	3.452			
2000-01	4.149	—	4.965			
2001-02	4.406	—	4.965	3.800		
2002-03	—	—	3.182	3.860		
2003-04	—	—	4.075	4.240		
2004-05	—	—	4.194		14.253	
2005-06	—	—	8.886		10.204	
2006-07	—	—	9.200		18.742	

[1] Responsibility for Ofcom is shared with BERR.
[2] Budget is period from the start of Ofcom (29 December 2003 to 31 March 2004).

Sports: Females

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much public funding was made available for *(a)* women's sport and *(b)* women's netball in the latest period for which figures are available. [179762]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is as follows:

(a) It is not possible to provide total figures for investment into women's sport. Sport England's funding benefits young people and adults of all ages, especially those within hard-to-reach or priority groups, of which women are identified as one of the key target groups.

We do have figures on programmes specifically targeted at women. For example, the Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation, which exists to promote sport and active recreation as an integral part of life for women and girls, has received the following funding:

					£
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Core costs (exchequer)	150,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	329,333
Project support (exchequer)	—	—	—	—	[1]33,000
Project support (lottery)	—	83,729	—	65,207	56,454
Total	150,000	283,729	200,000	265,207	418,787

[1] £20,000 to support work across the Sports Equity Alliance, not solely women's sport.

UK Sport has funded the following women's sport programmes:

£30,000 (£10,000 in 2006-07 and £20,000 in 2007-08) has been invested in the Women and Leadership Development Programme, established in partnership with the BOA and CCPR to address the lack of women in senior decision making sports positions.

£67,500 has been invested between 2004 and 2008 in international women's sport development projects.

Synchronised swimming, (£1,617,000 for April 2006 to March 2009) and rhythmic gymnastics (integrated into the overall British Gymnastics Beijing award of £9 million) which are both female only sports.

Since 2003, female athletes have received 39 to 41 per cent. of UK Sport World Class Performance programme and World Class Pathway programme awards.

(b) The latest figures available for the funding of women's netball by Sport England are:

	Lottery (£)
2003-04	[1]1,823,752
2004-05	2,029,430
2005-06	2,751,675
2006-07	2,893,925
2007-08	3,232,884

[1] The award figure is for the period 1 September 2002 to 31 March 2004

	Exchequer (£)
2003-04	[1]868,000
2004-05	[2]435,284
2005-06	1,371,853
2006-07	613,500
2007-08	205,700

[1] The award figure is for the period 1 September 2002 to 31 August 2004.
[2] Includes awards in periods between 1 February 2002 to 31 March 2005.

Note:
Netball also benefits from awards to multi-sport projects e.g. multi-use games areas.

Tourism: Vocational Training

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of people involved in work-based training in the tourism sector in Cleethorpes constituency in each of the last five years. [179715]

Margaret Hodge: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Yorkshire and the Humber has provided data for each of the last five years (including the current academic year) on the number of people in Cleethorpes in work-based learning in travel and tourism and in hospitality and catering. The LSC has also provided data on the number undertaking learning through Train to Gain since it was rolled out nationally in 2006.

In 2003-04, 30 Cleethorpes residents were involved in work-based learning in travel and tourism and in hospitality and catering; in 2004-05, there were 20 people; in 2005-06, there were 22 people; in 2006-07, there were 26 people; and in 2007-08 there have been 23 people so far. In addition, 21 Cleethorpes residents started learning through Train to Gain in 2006-07; and seven in 2007-08 so far.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Meetings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 758W, on departmental meetings, how many times she met the Prime Minister in each week of the last two months. [179640]

Ms Harman: I have regular meetings with the Prime Minister.

TRANSPORT

Shrewsbury to London Rail Service

10. **Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she plans to attend the inauguration of the direct rail service from Shrewsbury to London; and if she will make a statement. [180544]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department has not been notified of a planned date for the start of the service. But I expect it to bring major benefits to passengers from Wrexham and Shropshire and look forward to its inauguration.

Smartcards

11. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many local authorities she expects to introduce smartcards for the National Bus Concessionary Fares scheme by 1 April 2008. [180545]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We expect all travel concession authorities to introduce smartcards for the new concession. We have provided authorities with around £31 million for the introduction of these cards.

Air Travel

12. **Margaret Moran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research her Department has commissioned and evaluated on travel to and from airports by air travel passengers. [180546]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport uses data from surveys including the DfT public experiences of and attitudes to air travel survey and the Civil Aviation Authority's passenger surveys. The Future of Air Transport White Paper and the Project for the Sustainable Development of Heathrow were supported by modelling of passengers' choice of surface access mode to airports. The Department recently published an analysis of end-to-end journeys, with a focus on Heathrow.

Rail Overcrowding

13. **Mr. Leigh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to tackle rail overcrowding on routes other than the west coast main line. [180547]

Mr. Tom Harris: The July 2007 rail White Paper committed the Government to spend £15 billion on their railway between 2009 and 2014. £10 billion of that is specifically devoted to measures to increase capacity. These include 1,300 extra carriages, £5.5 billion for Thameslink and £600 million for improvements at Birmingham New Street and Reading. We have also recently announced a funding package for Crossrail.

Air Transport Auxiliary

14. **Nigel Griffiths:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will bring forward proposals for an award marking the service given in the second world war by the pilots of the Air Transport Auxiliary. [180548]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I regret to inform my hon. Friend that we have no present plans to do so. But he is welcome to write to me with details.

Metronet

15. **Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she had on Metronet since it entered into administration; and what her latest estimate is of the costs to the public purse resulting from its entering into administration. [180549]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Mayor of London and Transport for London have provided regular updates on progress since Metronet entered administration.

The Spending Review settlement reached with TfL makes provision for costs arising from Metronet's administration.

The extent to which Metronet's delivery had slipped behind their spending, and therefore the scale of any long-term costs, will become clear only when London Underground have been able to review Metronet's detailed accounts, if they take control of the Metronet assets from administration.

Rail Staff

16. **John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she had with railway companies and railway trades unions on assaults on railway staff. [R] [180550]

Mr. Tom Harris: The rail industry is undertaking a range of initiatives to help reduce the number of staff assaults and has set up a Rail Personal Security Group to address this. The British Transport police has made staff assaults a priority in its policing plan for the last three years.

Aircraft Noise

17. **Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the impact of aircraft noise on quality of life; and what steps airports are taking to reduce such noise. [180551]

Jim Fitzpatrick: "The Future of Air Transport" White Paper provided a clear approach to the local environmental challenges of airport operation, in terms of noise and the impact on the area in which airports operate. In particular it set out our key aim to limit and where possible reduce the number of people in the UK significantly affected by aircraft noise.

In addition to measures taken by airport operators, the Government have acted to strengthen airport operators' powers to control noise at airports; implemented a new night noise regime for London airports that caps flight numbers at current levels and provide incentives for introducing quieter aircraft and continued to undertake appropriate research into aircraft noise.

Bus Accessibility

18. **Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to improve the accessibility of buses to elderly people with mobility difficulties. [180552]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In 2000, the Government introduced the Public Service Vehicles Accessibility Regulations requiring all new and existing buses and coaches, with a carrying capacity of more than 22 passengers and used on local or scheduled services, to be accessible to the widest possible range of disabled people.

In addition, regulations were introduced in 2002 and 2006, which placed certain duties on bus and coach operators and staff with respect to disabled people.

We have also announced that free off-peak local bus travel anywhere in England for people aged 60 and over and disabled people resident in England would be in place from April 2008.

Concessionary Travel

19. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans the Government have to extend concessionary travel to forms of public transport other than buses. [180553]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We expect all travel concession authorities to introduce smartcards for the new concession. We have provided authorities with around £31 million for the introduction of these cards.

21. **Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what formula she has used in determining full funding for the concessionary bus fare scheme for pensioners when it is implemented nationally. [180555]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The chosen formula, following the Department's consultation last November, is based on data on eligible population, bus patronage, overnight visitors and retail floor space. Of the four options presented in the consultation, there was a clear preference for Option 4. Our proposed distribution amends this slightly to take account of the responses.

24. **Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings she has had with bus user groups to discuss the forthcoming free off-peak national scheme for concessionary bus fares. [180558]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have undertaken meetings with stakeholder groups, including bus users, both at regional and national level. These discussions covered a range of issues, including the new national bus concession.

West Coast Main Line

20. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of recent service reliability on the west coast main line. [180554]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department monitors the performance of all passenger train operators. In the year to 5 January 2008 West Coast trains achieved an average punctuality of 85.9 per cent.

Vehicle Size

22. **Alan Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects to report on the study her Department commissioned on longer and heavier vehicles in 2005. [180556]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The study was actually commissioned in October 2006 and the full report should be published by the end of February. At present, we do not intend to publish a response, but following speculation in the media about the Government allowing trials of "super" lorries, the Secretary of State has previously made clear that we are sceptical of these vehicles and have no plans to permit them in the UK.

Buses: Stockton

23. **Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps are being taken by her Department to improve bus transport in Stockton. [180557]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Through the Local Transport Bill, we will give local authorities increased flexibility and powers to work with bus operators to improve local bus services.

Railways

25. **Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to maintain levels of railway use. [180559]

Mr. Tom Harris: Rail use has grown consistently in recent years. We expect that trend to continue. The rail White Paper incorporates our best estimate of future

demand and an undertaking to spend £10 billion between 2009 and 2014 on capacity improvements to cater for it.

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has for the provision of rail services on 26 December 2008. [179509]

Mr. Tom Harris: Boxing day service provision is a matter for Network Rail, as the owner and operator of the national rail network, and the passenger train operators.

Bicycles: Children

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made in her Department's investigation into the wearing of cycle helmets by children. [180934]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department is developing a new research project looking at a range of road safety and cycling issues. This will examine the following topics:

Road user safety and cycling data;

Cycling infrastructure;

Attitudes and behaviours; and

Bicycle helmets.

A draft specification has been prepared and we are discussing this with stakeholders. A meeting was held with cycling groups on 14 December, and a meeting with others including the Bicycle Helmet Initiative Trust is scheduled for 25 January. Once these meetings are completed, the Department intends to commission the research.

The Department also intends to publish the 2006 cycle helmet wearing survey shortly.

David Abrahams

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Highways Agency have received from (i) representatives of Durham Green Developments Limited and (ii) Mr. David Abrahams on Durham Green Business Park in the last 36 months. [170733]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 3 December 2007]*: The information is as follows:

(a) The central Department has received no such representations.

(b) During the period August 2005 to October 2006 there were over 200 e-mail exchanges and four letters between the Highways Agency and its consultants, and the developer's consultants in relation to the Durham Green Business Park proposal. The Highways Agency and its consultants also attended three meetings with the developer's consultants; two of these were attended by David Martin (also known as David Abrahams). All these related to the potential traffic impact of the proposed development on the road network and mitigation measures required.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will place in the Library a copy of all correspondence and documentation relating to the Durham Green Business Park planning application and development held by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Highways Agency. [171024]

Mr. Tom Harris: The central Department has not been party to any correspondence regarding the Durham Green Business Park planning application and does not hold any documentation relating to the application.

All correspondence and documentation relating to the Durham Green Business Park planning application held by the Highways Agency will be placed in the House of Commons Library as soon as it can be assembled. All correspondence and documentation related to the potential traffic impact of the proposed development on the road network and the mitigation measures required.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many instances have been recorded in her Department of former employees accessing important and sensitive data after terminating their employment with the Department. [176933]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department, including its Agencies, is not aware of any instances where former employees have accessed sensitive data after the termination of their employment.

Level Crossings: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* fatalities and *(b)* injuries have resulted from accidents at each level crossing in Hampshire since 2002. [179736]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) has provided the overall number of fatalities and injuries at level crossings in Hampshire since 2002 in the following table. Data for 2007 are not yet available.

Fatalities and injuries at level crossings in Hampshire, 2002-06

	Fatalities	*Injuries*	*Total*
2002	1	0	1
2003	1	0	1
2004	1	0	1
2005	0	1	1
2006	0	1	1
Total	3	2	5

Level Crossings: Safety

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress she expects to be made in *(a)* improving the safety of level crossings open to road traffic and *(b)* eliminating such crossings by over bridges within the timetable of the Network Rail Strategic Plan; and if she will make a statement. [179738]

Mr. Tom Harris: Improving the safety of level crossings requires co-operation among a wide range of stakeholders. The Office of Rail Regulation, Network Rail and the Department, together with many other key players, are working to achieve this. Network Rail is running campaigns to raise level crossing safety awareness. The latest industry statistics suggest that risk at level crossings has been reduced.

Eliminating level crossings open to road traffic by providing road bridges is a matter for local highways authorities, local councils and Network Rail. There are examples of level crossings being replaced by bridges where risk to crossing users has necessitated such action. There is no timetable within the Network Rail Strategic Business Plan for eliminating level crossings by providing bridges.

Network Rail

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how frequently she has met executives from Network Rail in each of the last six months; [178565]

(2) what meetings she had with executives from Network Rail in each of the last three months; and what was discussed at each meeting. [178566]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Secretary of State for Transport holds regular bilateral meetings with senior executives from Network Rail to discuss issues of common interest. In the last six months four such meetings have been held.

In addition, the Secretary of State met with Iain Coucher, chief executive of Network Rail, on 3 January, to express her concern at the inconvenience caused to passengers and freight operators by Network Rail's engineering over-runs over the new year period and to seek reassurances that these would not be repeated.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proposals *(a)* she and *(b)* the Office of Rail Regulation has for the strengthening of the conditions of Network Rail's network licence. [180493]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) began a planned review of Network Rail's network licence in 2007 with a view to giving it a more purposeful format and to ensure that it remains fit for purpose going forward. In reviewing Network Rail's licence, ORR will take into account the findings of their investigation into the recent over-running engineering works, to the extent that these are relevant.

Network Rail: Bridges

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what arrangements are in place for the recovery of money by Network Rail from *(a)* the Highways Agency, *(b)* local authorities, *(c)* statutory undertakers and *(d)* other persons, in relation to (i) road bridges and (ii) foot bridges which cross its network; what charges are applied; and what the basis is for those charges. [180489]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* These are operational matters for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his question.

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton street
London NW1 2EE

Network Rail: Repairs and Maintenance

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proposals *(a)* she and *(b)* the Office of Rail Regulation have for the further reform of the railway network code in respect of (i) the carrying out of engineering work on the network and (ii) the liability of Network Rail to pay compensation to its train operator customers in cases of delays or unsatisfactory or late completion of works. [180490]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) is currently working with the industry to review compensation arrangements for engineering works in order to introduce stronger incentives on Network Rail to manage them more effectively and efficiently. In the light of the findings of its investigation into the recent engineering overruns, ORR will consider whether any further changes may be needed to the network code in respect of engineering works or the arrangements for paying compensation.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether *(a)* she and *(b)* the Office of Rail Regulation has any plans to require Network Rail to extend the timetable for the completion of the West Coast route modernisation. [180492]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) is investigating whether Network Rail is in breach of its network licence following the engineering overruns at Rugby and Liverpool Street Station.

An important part of ORR's investigation is to examine the robustness of Network Rail's plans for the remaining work to enhance the West Coast Main Line. ORR will consider whether the findings of its investigation have implications for the timetable for completion of the West Coast works.

Railway Stations: Accidents

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* fatalities and *(b)* injuries have occurred at railway stations in Hampshire since 2002, broken down by cause. [179741]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) records accident data against the geographical location of where the accident occurs. There is no further sub division into the nature of the location e.g. station, signal box, track. Details of accidents to people at stations could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

ORR has however provided details of all fatalities and injuries occurring on the railways in Hampshire since 2002. Data for 2007 are not yet available. The information is broken down by person category and is detailed in the following tables:

Table 1: Railway fatalities in Hampshire, 2002-06

	Passenger	*Railway employees*	*Other members of the public*	*Trespassers*	*Suicides*
2002	1	0	0	2	1
2003	0	1	0	2	1
2004	1	1	1	2	4
2005	0	0	0	3	4
2006	0	0	0	[illegible]	2
Total	2	2	1	16	10

Table 2: Railway injuries in Hampshire, 2002-06

	Passenger	*Railway employees*	*Other members of the public*	*Trespassers*	*Attempted suicides*
2002	34	56	[illegible]	1	1
2003	29	59	[illegible]	2	0
2004	33	48	[illegible]	5	1
2005	34	47	1	3	1
2006	18	30	1	6	1
Total	148	240	2	17	4

Railways: Construction

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of new railway have been built in each year since 1997. [180281]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 21 January 2008]*: 46 miles of new two track high speed railway were built by London and Continental Railways for section 1 of the channel tunnel rail link completed in 2003, and a further 24 miles were built for section 2 completed in 2007. The channel tunnel rail link was constructed as a public private partnership project with a 90-year concession and is not the direct responsibility of Network Rail.

Otherwise, the amount of railway built each year is an operational matter for Network Rail, as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for a response to his question:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London
NW1 2EE

Railways: Disabled

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the level of compliance of each Hampshire rail station with the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. [179742]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department does not assess the compliance of railway stations with Part 3 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Station operators are required to take reasonable steps to ensure that disabled people do not find it impossible or unreasonably difficult to access their services. Operators are responding to these duties, but where a disabled person believes that they have been discriminated against contrary to Part 3 they can bring a claim against the operator.

Railways: Fares

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effect of recent rail fare increases; and what recent discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on developing a rail fares policy which takes into account more fully the interests of passengers and the environment. [179161]

Mr. Tom Harris: In the absence of specific grounds for doing so, the Department has made no formal assessment of the recent increases in unregulated fares. However, we keep unregulated fares under review.

The Department continues to listen to the representations of train users and has invited passenger focus to take a greater role in commenting on the specification of future franchises.

This Government want to encourage people to make more informed choices about how and when they travel. As part of our strategy to give people an alternative to travelling by car and meet our environmental obligations on CO_2 emissions, we are putting record investment in public transport. The Government are investing £88 million in the railway each week and with over one billion passenger journeys last year, we now have the fastest growing railway in Europe.

Railways: Gravesend

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which types of ticket for rail journeys from Gravesend to London Charing Cross are regulated by the Government. [179711]

Mr. Tom Harris: The following types of ticket are subject to fares regulation:

Gravesend to London Terminals standard day single, standard day return and season tickets.

In addition the Gravesend to London All Zone Travelcard and Travelcard seasons tickets Zones 2-6 (inclusive) are regulated.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average time-tabled journey time by train from Gravesend to London Charing Cross was in each of the last 10 years. [179712]

Mr. Tom Harris: The average travel time between Gravesend and London is outlined in the following table:

Journey time in minutes

	From London	*To London*
1997	50	52
1998	50	52
1999	51	53
2000	52	53
2001	52	53
2002	52	53
2003	52	53
2004	53	54
2005	53	54
2006	53	54
2007	54	54

Railways: Passengers

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will list the 10 railway *(a)* stations and *(b)* lines which had the largest (i) percentage and (ii) gross increase in passenger numbers in the latest year for which figures are available. [180273]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* The Department does not hold this information. The Office of Rail Regulation does however publish "National Rail Trends" on a quarterly basis. This document shows a variety of industry information and statistics including journey and revenue information by three sectors of operators, "Long Distance", "London and South East", and "Regional".

Railways: Planning

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps are being taken to safeguard potential railway routes from development. [181159]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Government do not propose to take a blanket approach to safeguarding all potential alignments or disused lines. This would be disproportionate and blight homes and properties. Strict controls are already in place for the development of railway land and local authorities can use local planning processes to protect sites or alignments if they deem this appropriate.

Railways: Standards

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* punctuality and reliability statistics and *(b)* passengers in excess numbers were for rail services on (i) the Portsmouth to Cardiff, (ii) Portsmouth to London via Guildford, (iii) Portsmouth to London via Basingstoke and (iv) Southampton to Havant routes in each month since January 2005. [180613]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department does not hold punctuality and reliability information broken down by service groups. Inquiries relating to data should be made to the relevant train operating companies.

For (a) (i):

Chief Operating Officer
First Great Western
Head Office
Milford House
1 Milford Street
Swindon
SN1 1HL

and (a) (ii) (iii) and (iv):

Managing Director
South West Trains
Friars Bridge Court
41-45 Blackfriars Road
London
SE1 8NZ

The numbers of passengers on rail services running in excess of capacity is shown in the following table:

Number of passengers on all rail services in excess of capacity in each peak

	2005		2006	
Route	*AM*	*PM*	*AM*	*PM*
(i) Portsmouth to Cardiff	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
(ii) Portsmouth to London (via Guildford)	411	146	827	487
(iii) Portsmouth to London (via Basingstoke)	0	62	106	107
(iv) Southampton to Havant	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

n/a = Not available

The data in the table relate to the previous South West Trains franchise. Data for the successor Stagecoach South Western Trains Franchise in autumn 2007 are being collected and are currently not available.

The rail White Paper was published in July 2007. It sets out the resources we intend to make available to the rail industry and the increases in capacity, as well as safety and performance, that we expect the industry to deliver in return.

There are no specific requirements regarding levels of overcrowding on these routes. The Department's general requirements for overcrowding are that passengers should not be expected to stand for more than 20 minutes.

Railways: Watford

Sir Malcolm Rifkind: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her policy is on Southern Trains' proposal to withdraw its Watford to Brighton service; if she will make it her policy to preserve the Watford to Brighton service through conversion of trains to dual-voltage to operate on Thameslink; and if she will make a statement. [179559]

Mr. Tom Harris: While there are some trains that could be converted from single- to dual-voltage, those trains are all in full use on other services from which they cannot be released, and therefore not available to preserve the Watford to Brighton service. The Government have already announced the intention to procure 1,300 additional vehicles for the rail network in England and Wales between 2008 and 2014.

Sir Malcolm Rifkind: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the likely effect of the withdrawal of Southern Trains' Watford to Brighton service on passengers with disabilities or heavy luggage required to change platforms at Clapham Junction. [179560]

Mr. Tom Harris: Clapham Junction is one of 92 stations selected for major improvements as part of the £370 million "Access for All" project. This will benefit all those passengers with disabilities who may need to change trains at Clapham Junction, including the few who wish to travel between Watford and Brighton.

Regulation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for which regulators and inspectorates her Department has had responsibility in each year since 1997; what the budget was of each such body in each year; and what the cost to the public purse was of any restructuring of each such body in each year. [175313]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Since its formation on 29 May 2002, the Department has had responsibility for the Civil Aviation Authority which is responsible for the regulation of civil aviation in the United Kingdom. The CAA is financially independent of Government and is financed by those it regulates. The financial statements for the CAA are published in its annual accounts.

The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) was formed on 1 April 2003 following the merger of the Vehicle Inspectorate and the Traffic Area Network division of the Department for Transport. VOSA provides a range of licensing, testing and enforcement services with the aim of improving the roadworthiness standards of vehicles ensuring the compliance of operators and drivers with road traffic legislation, and supporting the independent Traffic Commissioners. The financial statements for the Vehicle Inspectorate were published in its annual accounts.

Roads

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many detrunking orders her Department has made in each of the last 10 years. [180412]

Mr. Tom Harris: In the last 10 years (1998-2007) there have been a total of 205 detrunking orders predominantly for short lengths of the trunk road network. A breakdown of these detrunking orders by year is given in the following table:

	Number
1998	7
1999	9
2000	6
2001	30
2002	44
2003	47
2004	15
2005	9
2006	16
2007	12
Total	205

Shipping: Containers

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many containers were lost overboard from container ships in UK coastal waters in each of the last 10 years. [180609]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In the period of time specified the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has operated two databases to record incidents, including recording where containers are lost overboard. There is no separate database to record the loss of containers.

The MCA relies on ships reporting loss of containers in accordance with national and European legislation.

To give a specific number would require a manual interrogation of the incident recording system and that would incur disproportionate costs.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what processes are in place to report losses of shipping containers at sea. [180612]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The vessel traffic monitoring directive covers the reporting of hazardous incidents including the loss of containers at sea. Any vessel losing containers is obliged to report the loss to Her Majesty's Coastguard (HMCG) in the UK. Reports of containers lost will be captured in the Consolidated European Reporting System (CERS).

Vessels encountering lost containers at sea are obliged under the Merchant Shipping (Safety of Navigation) Regulations 2002 to report hazardous incidents to HMCG in the UK.

South West Trains: Rolling Stock

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1094W, on South West Trains, what the internal specifications are for (*a*) seating and (*b*) stand alone tables for (i) suburban, (ii) mainline and (iii) mainline express rolling stock units; into which of these categories (A) class 442 and (B) class 444 units fall; and if she will make a statement. [180674]

Mr. Tom Harris: A guidance note for interior design of trains has been issued by the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC). This document will have been taken into account by the designers of new trains like Class 444 and in the refurbishment of older trains like Class 442.

For further information and a copy of this document please contact either South West Trains or ATOC at the following addresses:

South West Trains

Friars Bridge Court

41-45 Blackfriars road

London

SE1 8NZ

Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC)

3rd Floor

40 Bernard street

London

WC1N 1BY

Train Operating Companies: Fines

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on which occasions the Rail Regulator has imposed penalties on rail companies in each of the last three years; what penalty was imposed; on which company it was imposed; for what reasons it was imposed; and to what purpose the fines have been put. [179745]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) has imposed the following penalties on railway companies in the last three years:

Penalties imposed by ORR on railway companies 2005-07

	Penalty (£)	Railway company	Reasons
2006	250,000	Network Rail	Breach of Condition 7 of Network Licence regarding inaccurate infrastructure information
2006	4.1 million	English Welsh and Scottish Railway	Infringement of prohibition contained in Chapter II of the Competition Act 1998, resulting in exclusion of competitors from the coal haulage-by-rail market
2007	2.4 million	Network Rail	Breach of Condition 7 of Network Licence regarding the Portsmouth re-signalling scheme

All the penalties levied were paid into the Consolidated Fund. Any penalties on rail companies following prosecution for breaches of health and safety legislation would be determined by the courts.

Trains: Standards

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 700W, on trains: standards, whether the full report commissioned by South West Trains was made available for review by Passenger Focus; and if she will make a statement. [180228]

Mr. Tom Harris: The full report was made available for independent review by Passenger Focus and the findings of the subsequent report published on the South West Trains website. Passenger Focus has confirmed the published findings to be an accurate reflection of the report.

Transport: Radioactive Materials

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents occurred involving *(a)* road vehicles, *(b)* aircraft and *(c)* trains carrying radioactive material in the United Kingdom in each year since 1997. [180661]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* Since 1989 reports detailing all events involving the transport of radioactive material in the UK have been produced by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) working under contract to the Department for Transport.

Copies of these reports have been placed in the House Library and recent ones have been placed on the HPA website and are also available via the Department's website at the following address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/freight/dgt1/guidance/guidance?class/theradiologicalimpactofthetr1178

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations the UK has made to other NATO countries on provision of troops for operations in Helmand Province; Afghanistan. [180279]

Des Browne *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* NATO nations have made a collective commitment to Afghanistan and to meet the force levels set out in the Combined Joint Statement of Requirements. We routinely raise Afghanistan issues, including force levels, in bilateral and multilateral meetings.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for improving UK combat search and rescue cover in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [180406]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Combat search and rescue is a specialist subset of Joint Personnel Recovery Operations. It refers to the recovery of trained and equipped isolated personnel, such as downed aircrew, when conducted in a threat environment. Allocation of resources for this task on current operations in Iraq and Afghanistan is a coalition responsibility and we are content the current system provides a satisfactory degree of cover.

Aircraft Carriers: Procurement

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to agree a manufacturing contract for the building of the two new aircraft carriers; and if he will make a statement. [180301]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne) gave on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 21W, to the hon. Member for New Forest East (Dr. Lewis).

Armed Forces: Compensation

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what minimum compensation is paid to the families of servicemen killed in action; how compensation to bereaved families is calculated; what arrangements are in place for the payment of compensation to bereaved families; whether a civilian inquest is necessary before compensation is paid to bereaved relatives; and what arrangements are in place for meeting bereaved families' immediate expenses such as a funeral if there is any delay in paying compensation. [180098]

Derek Twigg: Under the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces (Compensation Scheme) Order 2005, benefits are payable to eligible surviving adult dependants/children of servicemen killed in action on or after 6 April 2005. The scheme provides compensation where death was caused by service on or after 6 April 2005 (causes before this date are considered under the war pension scheme).

Benefits are calculated in accordance with the rules of the scheme and consist of a bereavement grant of up

to £20,000, a survivor's guaranteed income payment (SGIP) payable for life and payments to eligible children.

The calculation for SGIP is based on the serviceman's salary and age at death and is taxable. This is paid monthly for life even in the event of remarriage. Payments to eligible children are based on similar calculations but the payment for children depends on the number of children and whether there is a surviving adult dependant.

It is not normally a necessity that an inquest is carried out before compensation can be paid, the results of an inquest may however be required if there is a question as to whether death was due to service.

The settling of funeral accounts and associated expenses is an entirely separate process and is not affected by any decision on compensation payments. Families may choose between having a service (military) funeral or a private family funeral. In the first instance all approved expense arising from a service funeral is paid by the MOD and the family also receive a cash grant of £500 to use as they wish to defray incidental expenses. If the family elect to have a private funeral then a grant is made, according to the type of funeral or cremation, currently up to a maximum of £2,760.

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the average cost was for upgrading a *(a)* single living accommodation and *(b)* single family accommodation from standard 4 to standard 3 in the latest period for which figures are available; [174471]

(2) what the average cost was of upgrading a *(a)* single living accommodation and *(b)* single family accommodation from standard 2 to a standard 1 in the latest period for which figures are available; [174502]

(3) what the average cost was of upgrading a *(a)* single living accommodation and *(b)* single family accommodation from standard 3 to a standard 2 in the latest period for which figures are available. [174504]

Derek Twigg: MOD does not collect data in the form requested, nor does the Department approach the modernisation or upgrading of service families accommodation (SFA) and single living accommodation (SLA) in the way suggested.

The only time that we would improve a standard 4 for condition property just to standard 3, or simply uplifting any standard to one higher, would be as part of life-cycle maintenance activity; for instance, replacing bathrooms, kitchens or boilers and this would be classified as an upgrade.

It should be noted that 95 per cent. of SFA in mainland Great Britain is already at either standard 1 (60 per cent.) or standard 2 (35 per cent.) for condition. Over the last three years some 5,500 properties in the UK and 20,000 SLA worldwide have been upgraded to standard 1. Another 600 SFA will be upgraded in the current year with funding in place for a further 600 in 2008-09, and 800 per annum in subsequent years. By 2013 the Department is planning to upgrade a further 30,000 SLA to Grade 1.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service families' properties were upgraded to *(a)* S1fC and *(b)* S2fC categories under the standard for condition initiative in each of the last four years. [179926]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* In each of the last four years the following numbers of service families accommodation (SFA) properties were upgraded to standard 1 for condition (S1fC).

Financial year	*Number upgraded to S1fC*
2006-07	1,215
2005-06	1,705
2004-05	2,610
2003-04	1,402

It is not possible separately to identify the number of properties that were upgraded to S2fC in each of the last four years. The Department only has targets to upgrade SFA to S1fC, other lesser upgrades would only take place as part of life-cycle maintenance activity (for instance replacing bathrooms, kitchens or boilers).

Armed Forces: Literacy

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on basic literacy and basic mathematics education in each year since 2000 by *(a)* the Royal Navy, *(b)* the Royal Air Force and *(c)* the Army. [180797]

Derek Twigg: The armed forces recognise that improving basic skills enhances the ability of service personnel to cope with work pressures and increases their potential for career development. Basic skills education is one of several roles for service education officers, but is also delivered by appropriately trained civilian staff. Significant key skills training is also delivered within vocational training programmes.

Establishing the full cost of basic skills education across the armed forces could be achieved only at disproportionate cost. Hence in this response the expenditure identified is that which relates specifically to the employment and support of specialist manpower whose primary role is the delivery of basic skills education.

Royal Navy

Basic skills tutors have been directly employed by the RN since 2006 and the costs relating to their role are as follows:

		£
	2006	*2007*
Basic skills tutors	250,000	250,000

Army

As the largest of the services the army has the greatest requirement for basic skills education and support. The costs directly attributable to Basic Skills Development Managers (BSDM) (salary, travel and subsistence and in-house training) since their engagement in 2002 are shown in the following table.

	BSDM	Admin SP	Total
2002	480,000	102,000	582,000
2003	1,046,000	741,000	1,787,000
2004	1,191,000	765,000	1,956,000
2005	1,361,000	828,000	2,189,000
2006	1,612,000	874,000	2,486,000
2007	1,665,000	942,000	2,607,000

Royal Air Force

The RAF has a higher academic entry standard than the Army and RN. Any basic skills educational requirements are met primarily through the use of local college programmes, outside normal working hours and utilising Learning and Skills Council funding. Where literacy and numeracy packages have been delivered on RAF bases they have been funded by the individuals themselves. There are therefore no figures available for directly attributable costs for basic skills education for the RAF in the period 2000-07.

Armed Forces: Pay

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will fully implement the forthcoming recommendations of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body; and if he will make a statement. [180302]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Armed Forces Pay Review Body (AFPRB) is currently deliberating and will submit its report to my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and Defence Secretary in due course. The Government will then consider whether to implement the AFPRB recommendations.

Armed Forces: Vacancies

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current percentage shortfall is of each pinch point trade in the armed forces. [179677]

Derek Twigg: Details of percentage shortfalls for pinch point trades are provided in the following table. The figures are those reported for financial year 2007-08 quarter 3 returns.

Pinch points	Percentage shortfall
Royal Navy	
RN Harrier GR7 Instructors	57
Lt GR7 Harrier Pilots	51
Merlin Observers	46
Merlin Pilots	39
Merlin Aircrew	22
Able Bodied Warfare Specialist (Sensors Submariner)	26
Able Bodied Warfare Specialist (Tactical Submariner	22
Strategic Weapons Systems Junior Ranks	29
Leading Hand Warfare	33
Able Bodied Diver	35
Royal Marines Other Ranks	9
Sea-King and Lynx Avionics Supervisors	18
Petty Officer Mine Warfare	25
Nuclear Watchkeepers	24
Able Bodied Seaman	40
Army	
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Vehicle Mechanic 1	20
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Recovery Mechanic	20
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Armourer	12
Royal Engineers Clerk of Works	15
Army Medical Service—General Surgeon	63
Royal Engineers Mechanical Engineer Fitter	20
Royal Logistics Corps Ammunition Technician	44
Royal Logistic Corps—Postal and Courier Operator	16
Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps—Radiographer	43
Royal Engineers Military Engineer Geographic	36
Intelligence Operational Military Intelligence	26
Royal Engineers Explosive Ordnance Disposal	49
Royal Signals Information Systems Engineer	2
Royal Engineers Command, Control and Communications Systems	13
Army Medical Service—General Medical Practitioner	12
Royal Logistics Corps Chef	12
Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps—Operation Department Practitioner	37
Royal Logistics Corps Petroleum Operator	42
AG Corps Staff and Personnel Service (Mil Admin)	14
Royal Artillery—Operator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle	48
Army Medical Service—Nurse Officer	27
Army Medical Service—A and E Nurse Officer	30
Army Medical Service—Anaesthetist	62
Army Medical Service—Radiologist	80
Army Medical Service—Orthopaedic Surgeon	61
Army Medical Service—Intensive Therapy Unit Nurse Officer	23
RAF	
Medical	29
Operational Support (Intelligence)	3
Operational Support (RAF Regiment)	17
Operational Support (Provost/Security)	8
Operational Support (Flight Ops)	8
Princess Mary's RAF Nursing Service	18
Weapons Support (Air Load Master)	11
Weapons Support (Linguist)	19
Air Traffic Control/Flight Operations Manager/Flight Operations Assistant—Sergeant	10
Firefighter	12
Gunner	16
Movements Operations/Controller	1
RAF Police	8
Staff Nurse (RGN) A and E	14

Atlas Consortium: Contracts

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons the Atlas consortium was awarded a DII add-on contract in December 2006; what progress has been made on the original contract; and if he will make a statement. [176097]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor gave on 30 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 154-55W to my hon. Friend the Member for North-West Leicestershire (David Taylor).

Delivery of some elements of the Defence Information Infrastructure (Future) (DII(F)) increment 1 are up to a year behind the original plan; however increments 1 and 2a have been combined to provide a more efficient and effective overall delivery plan. Over 22,000 DII(F) terminals have been delivered, supporting over 62,000 users.

Bowman Combat Radio System: Batteries

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to release the general design specification for Bowman batteries and invite a range of companies to tender for their supply. [180403]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No. The Bowman prime contract was let in 2001 and the prime contractor, who has a commitment to supply the Bowman suite of batteries until 2009, issued a set of performance criteria and tested the market to ensure that the supplier offering the most appropriate, cost effective solutions was selected.

A Bowman power study is being conducted which, when complete, should assist with ensuring that improved capabilities are delivered to the armed forces and aid the future procurement strategy for batteries.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the ability of ABSL/AEA to provide batteries for Bowman to the standard required in theatre; and if he will make a statement. [180404]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department has not undertaken an assessment of ABSL/AEA's ability to provide batteries for Bowman to the required standard. Overall responsibility to MOD for the standard of the product rests with the Bowman Prime Contractor, General Dynamics United Kingdom Ltd. However, ABSL Power Solutions, as the battery provider, is responsible for the quality and assurance of their products.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons Bowman HF batteries have been recalled for replacement; and who was responsible for ensuring that the quality of this product was of the standard necessary for theatre before it was sent overseas. [180405]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In 2006, Bowman High Frequency (HF) Mark 1 radio batteries were recalled when it became evident that an immersion requirement had not been met and water ingress could occur. The battery provider, ABSL Power Solutions agreed to replace all Mark 1 HF batteries at no cost to the Department and the replacement programme is continuing. Overall responsibility to MOD for the standard of the product rests with the Bowman prime contractor, General Dynamics United Kingdom Ltd. However, ABSL Power Solutions, as the battery provider, is responsible for the quality and assurance of their products.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to ensure that English wine is served exclusively or at the request of guests at meals, parties and receptions hosted by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [164288]

Derek Twigg: All public procurement procedures must comply with the EC treaty. The relevant principles of the treaty from a public procurement point of view are the free movement of goods and services and non-discrimination on the grounds of nationality. This legislation is designed to ensure that all public procurement across the European Union is fair, transparent and non-discriminatory. This means that the MOD cannot specify that it will buy goods solely from a particular country or locality, as that would discriminate against producers from other EU member states.

However, the Government are committed to increase opportunities for small and local suppliers to tender for contracts, thus increasing competition and securing better value for money.

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the acquisition of paintings for his departmental art collection; and what his Department's budget for art acquisitions is in 2007-08. [180195]

Derek Twigg: No such acquisitions have been made since 2004. There is no departmental budget for art acquisition in 2007-08.

Helicopters

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what helicopters are *(a)* owned and *(b)* utilised by (i) his Department and (ii) the armed forces; what the (A) original date of manufacture and (B) first in-service year was for each such helicopter; and if he will make a statement. [178043]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the helicopters owned and leased by the Department for use by the armed forces. The original date of manufacture has been taken as when the first aircraft came off production, except for the Lynx for which the date of the first Lynx Trials Installation Flight has been given. The first year in service has been taken as the year in which the aircraft were first flown by the UK military.

The original dates of manufacture for the leased aircraft relate to the specific aircraft currently being leased by the MOD.

Helicopter type	MOD owned/leased	Original date of manufacture	First in service year
Agusta A109 A	Owned	1979	1984
Agusta A109 AM	Owned	1984	1984
Apache AH Mk1	Owned	2000	2001
Chinook	Owned	1980	1981
Gazelle	Owned	1972	1973
Lynx	Owned	1972	1977
Merlin Mk1	Owned	1995	1999
Merlin Mk3	Owned	1998	2000
Puma	Owned	1971	1971
Sea King	Owned	1969	1969
Agusta Westland A109E	Leased	2006	2006
Bell 212	Leased	1971	1994
Dauphin	Leased	1990	1996
Griffin (Bell 412)	Leased	1996	1997
Squirrel	Leased	1996	1997

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Iraq on apprehending those responsible for the murder of six members of the Royal Military Police in 2003; and if he will make a statement. [180070]

Des Browne *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* The UK Government remains absolutely committed to bringing to justice those responsible for the murder of six members of the Royal Military Police at Al Majar Al Kabir on 24 June 2003. Ministers, and our ambassador in Baghdad, frequently press the Iraqi authorities to enact the arrest warrants issued in 2006 and will continue to do so until these individuals are apprehended. I personally raised this issue with the Iraqi Prime Minister, Nouri al-Maliki, when I met him last October and he offered his full co-operation.

Kuwait: Armed Forces

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether British personnel based at Camp Buehring in Kuwait will receive the *(a)* Iraq Medal and *(b)* council tax rebate; and if he will make a statement. [179672]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Under the current arrangements armed forces personnel may only receive the Iraq Medal for service on the land and in the airspace of Iraq, as well as the waters of the Northern Gulf, Iraqi territorial seas and Iraqi internal waters. However, in common with all campaign medals the situation is kept under constant review by the Chain of Command, and continues to take into account the ongoing risks and rigours of the operations in which British troops are involved.

Council tax relief will be paid to service personnel serving in Camp Buehring who are involved in Operation Telic (roulement) 11. Payment will be made from 1 April 2008 and, in line with the introduction of operational allowance payment for these personnel, will be backdated to 1 November 2007.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the planned out of service dates for all military helicopters were in each year since 1997. [176841]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The planned out of service dates for all military helicopters such as they were from 1997 to 2007 are listed as follows:

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Army											
Agusta A109	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009
Apache AH1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2030	2030	2030	2030
Gazelle AH1	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018
Lynx AH7	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2013
Lynx AH9	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2013
Royal Navy											
Lynx HAS3[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2012	2012	2013
Lynx HMA8[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2014	2014	2015
Merlin HM1	n/a	n/a	2029	2029	2029	2029	2029	2029	2029	2029	2029
Sea King HC4	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012
Sea King HAS5	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017
Sea King HAS6(CR)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2008	2008	2008	2008
Sea King ASaCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018
Royal Air Force											
Chinook HC2	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015
Chinook HC2a	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025
Merlin HC3	n/a	n/a	n/a	2030	2030	2030	2030	2030	2030	2030	2030
Puma HC1	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2012

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Sea King HAR3	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017
Sea King HAR3a	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017

[1] Comprehensive data unobtainable in the time available

The table does not include the commercially owned helicopters that the Department leases.

RAF Menwith Hill

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 400W, on RAF Menwith Hill, for what reason the exchange of letters between the US Defense Secretary, dated 29 June 2007 and the UK Secretary of State for Defence, dated 17 July 2007, is classified. [180271]

Des Browne: As I stated in my reply of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 30W, it is not the practice of the Government to make public the details of correspondence with foreign governments as this would, or would be likely to, prejudice international relations.

Training: Young People

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what military programmes are operated for the rehabilitation of people aged 16 to 25 who are *(a)* services personnel and *(b)* civilians; [178211]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on the provision of military training or other activities for young offenders as an alternative to court proceedings. [178441]

Derek Twigg: The Military Corrective Training Centre (MCTC) at Colchester exists to retrain and rehabilitate service personnel who have offended and will return to active service, as well as those resettling into civilian life having been discharged from the armed forces. The MCTC is not specifically targeted at individuals between the ages of 16 to 25; however any courts martial ruling would have taken into account an individual's age. The MCTC acts in accordance with Home Office guidance on the treatment of those under 18 years of age. It is regularly inspected by HMIP.

There are no military programmes in place for civilians; any rehabilitation would be a matter for the civilian criminal justice system. However my Department is involved in helping vulnerable young people through the Outreach programme and the Army Cadet force's youth and community project, which helps socially disengaged young people to become responsible citizens. We also work with other Government Departments on initiatives such as Skill Force, providing alternative training for young people at risk of exclusion.

No discussions have taken place with the Secretary of State for Justice on the provision of military training for young offenders prior to court proceedings.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 22 January 2008

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Anniversaries

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will list planned commemorative *(a)* coins and *(b)* events for 2008 in which the Government will be involved. [180345]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the statement given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 115WS, which announces the coins to be issued in 2008.

The Government currently have no plans to attend any events in relation to 2008 commemorative coins.

Cabinet Committees

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what information is published in respect of meetings of *(a)* Cabinet Committees' and *(b)* Cabinet Sub-Committees' (i) dates of meeting, (ii) attendees and (iii) decisions taken; and if he will make a statement. [180673]

Edward Miliband: The membership, chair and terms of reference of all Cabinet Committees are published periodically on the Cabinet Office website and this information is placed in the Library of the House.

Information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet Committees and Sub- Committees is generally not disclosed. This includes the dates of meetings, attendees, and decisions taken.

Strategy Unit

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1085W, on the strategy unit, how many full-time equivalent staff in the strategy unit worked on the development of the Children's Plan. [178351]

Phil Hope: The strategy unit worked in support of the Children's Plan between July and December 2007. Full-time equivalent numbers of staff involved ranged from 1-2 in July to August, rising to 4-6 in September to December.

Strategy Unit: Secondment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many *(a)* full-time, *(b)* part-time and *(c)* seconded appointments were made to the strategy unit in each month in 2007; [178568]

(2) how many *(a)* full-time, *(b)* part-time and *(c)* seconded staff work for the strategy unit. [178569]

Phil Hope: The number of full-time appointments made to the strategy unit in each month of 2007 is set out as follows (there were no part-time appointments).

Strategy unit appointments in 2007

	Number of appointments
January 2007	1
February 2007	0
March 2007	1
April 2007	2
May 2007	0
June 2007	1
July 2007	0
August 2007	2
September 2007	5
October 2007	4.8
November 2007	3
December 2007	0
Total	[1]19.8

[1] Of which two appointments were secondments from outside the civil service.

Total staff in post as of 1 January 2008 is 43.9 full-time equivalents, comprising: 18.2 fixed-term appointments; 14.9 permanent Cabinet Office staff; nine staff on loan from other Government Departments; and 1.8 secondments.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Departmental ICT

Susan Kramer: To ask the Solicitor-General how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female members of staff in the Attorney-General's Office were issued with personal digital assistants in each year since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [181366]

The Solicitor-General: The Attorney-General's Office has not issued any personal digital assistants to members of staff since 2001.

Domestic Violence: Prosecutions

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Solicitor-General what the ratio of domestic violence prosecutions to convictions was in each of the last 10 years. [179607]

The Solicitor-General: The records held by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) provide an analysis of the outcome of proceedings for domestic violence only with effect from full implementation of the Compass Case Management System in 2004.

The following figures show the number of defendant cases either charged by police, or accepted for prosecution

by the CPS, which were identified as allegations involving domestic violence. The data are split into those defendant cases resulting in a conviction, and those resulting in an unsuccessful outcome:

	Convictions	Percentage	Unsuccessful outcomes	Percentage	Total
2004-05	19,468	55.10	15,867	44.90	35,335
2005-06	30,213	59.80	20,343	40.20	50,556
2006-07	37,505	65.20	20,034	34.80	57,539
2007 to 14 January 2008	34,034	68.40	15,698	31.60	49,732

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Audit: Tax Avoidance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will introduce legislation to prevent auditors of banks from selling tax avoidance schemes to their audit clients. [178521]

Mr. Timms: I have no plans to do so. The provision of taxation services to audit clients is already regulated in two ways:

by the Ethical Standards of the Auditing Practices Board, which auditors are required to follow. These standards require auditors to adopt safeguards to mitigate any threats to their objectivity which might result from their providing tax services, or to refrain from providing the services.

by the requirement on companies to disclose in their annual accounts any sums paid to their auditors for taxation services.

Banks: Pay

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will appoint an inquiry to investigate executive remuneration at banks. [178523]

Mr. Timms: No. Directors' remuneration is a matter for companies and their shareholders.

The Directors' Remuneration Report Regulations 2002 have improved transparency and accountability in this area.

Broadband: Scotland

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to his answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1061W, on Broadband: Scotland, what the location is of each of the clusters; in which parliamentary constituency in Scotland each cluster falls; and if he will make a statement. [176946]

Mr. Timms: The Scottish Executive has completed preliminary research on broadband reach in Scotland, which was published in December 2006. They estimate that between 7,000 and 25,000 homes cannot access DSL bandwidths in excess of 512Kb/s. These are scattered throughout Scotland. There is "clustering" where local conditions affect a number of premises in the same way, and the Scottish Executive is aware of around 50 such "clusters" (of 10 or more homes) as shown in table.

The Scottish Executive is currently undertaking a data verification exercise of all known demand in connection with Scottish broadband reach project which is expected to be complete by the end of this month.

Cluster location	BT exchange	Westminster constituency
Strathrusdale	Alness	Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross
Glen Creran	Appin	Argyll and Bute
Assynt	Assynt	Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross
Second Coast	Aultbea	Ross, Skye and Lochaber
Rowerdennan	Balmaha	Stirling
Throsk	Bannockburn	Stirling
Argas	Beauly	Ross, Skye and Lochaber
Craik	Borthwickbrae	Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk
Forgandenny	Bridge of Earn	Ochil and South Perthshire
Drumfearn	Broadford	Ross, Skye and Lochaber
Luib	Broadford	Ross, Skye and Lochaber
Strathbrora	Brora	Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross
Cortachy, Glen Prosen	Cortachy	Angus
Craigmarloch	Cumbernauld	Inverclyde
Carron Valley	Denny	Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch
Kilcoy	Dingwall	Ross, Skye and Lochaber
Kinkell	Dingwall	Ross, Skye and Lochaber
Mulbuie	Dingwall	Ross, Skye and Lochaber
Scoraig, Badcaul	Dundonnell	Ross, Skye and Lochaber
Dunans	Glendaruel	Argyll and Bute
Arnisdale	Glenelg	Ross, Skye and Lochaber

Cluster location	BT exchange	(Westminster) constituency
Inverfaraig	Gorthleck	Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey
Whitebridge	Gorthleck	Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey
Stromfirth	Gott	Orkney and Shetland
Nairnside	Inverness Culloden	Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey
Jura	Jura	Argyll and Bute
Ardeonaig	Killin	Stirling
Dalqueich	Kinross	Ochil and South Perthshire
Kinggoldrum	Kirriemuir	Angus
Ewes	Langholm	Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale
Glenuig	Lochailort	Ross, Skye and Lochaber
Dunadd	Lochgilphead	Argyll and Bute
Knoydart	Mallaig	Ross, Skye and Lochaber
Eigg	Mallaig	Ross, Skye and Lochaber
Canna	Mallaig	Ross, Skye and Lochaber
Harperrig	Mid Calder	Livingston
Drimnin	Morvern	Ross, Skye and Lochaber
Glenbuck	Muirkirk	Kilmarnock and Loudoun
Cove, Inverasdale	Poolewe	Ross, Skye and Lochaber
Bridgend	Port Charlotte	Argyll and Bute
Boyndie	Portsoy	Banff and Buchan
Rousay	Rousay	Orkney and Shetland
North Sanday	Sanday	Orkney and Shetland
Kylesku, Kylestrom	Scourie	Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross
Invergloy, Clunes	Spean Bridge	Ross, Skye and Lochaber
South Ronaldsay	St Margaret's Hope	Orkney and Shetland
Corgarff	Strathdon	West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine
Balquhidder	Strathyre	Stirling
West Burrafirth	Walls	Orkney and Shetland

Business: Greater London

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many new businesses were started in each London borough in the last 10 years; how many of them received Government funding; and if he will make a statement. [178418]

Mr. Timms: VAT registration data provide the only accurate indicator of the level of business start-up activity.

The number of new VAT registrations in each London borough are shown as follows for 1997 to 2006. Data for registrations in 2007 will be available autumn 2008.

Number of VAT registrations in each London borough 1997-2006

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
London	35,825	37,690	36,210	36,330	33,400	32,955	35,750	35,320	34,875	34,825
Barking and Dagenham	280	305	340	365	320	315	345	350	330	370
Barnet	2,360	2,350	2,050	2,075	1,815	1,740	1,715	1,700	1,605	1,490
Bexley	655	585	565	585	620	545	580	580	535	560
Brent	1,205	1,185	1,135	1,200	1,085	1,040	1,175	1,175	1,105	1,135
Bromley	1,065	1,140	925	940	965	965	985	1,015	920	1,015
Camden	2,405	2,405	2,310	2,245	1,885	1,880	2,050	1,985	1,915	1,925
City of London	1,075	1,220	1,290	1,450	1,110	1,065	1,100	1,130	1,385	1,385
Croydon	1,045	1,070	970	970	945	975	1,065	965	1,030	960
Ealing	1,240	1,215	1,175	1,175	1,150	1,160	1,315	1,280	1,250	1,350
Enfield	830	875	850	895	830	860	895	900	840	865
Greenwich	560	565	520	510	495	490	515	550	575	600
Hackney	995	1,130	1,095	1,155	1,025	1,020	1,060	980	960	990
Hammersmith and Fulham	970	1,135	1,020	1,010	970	930	960	1,065	1,045	1,000
Haringey	930	980	975	965	880	840	915	905	850	790
Harrow	950	1,065	900	960	915	935	985	970	925	835
Havering	725	765	655	655	635	630	620	625	630	635
Hillingdon	905	920	835	860	765	850	855	870	845	845

Number of VAT registrations in each London borough 1997-2006

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Hounslow	795	835	820	810	810	795	840	875	875	900
Islington	1,520	1,570	1,415	1,340	1,180	1,190	1,270	1,315	1,370	1,345
Kensington and Chelsea	1,075	1,115	1,165	1,200	905	1,065	1,095	1,170	1,125	1,205
Kingston upon Thames	670	695	605	640	615	595	610	640	640	585
Lambeth	860	905	885	840	1,000	850	880	990	945	985
Lewisham	625	660	635	615	605	590	605	660	590	635
Merton	745	830	720	765	695	655	725	705	725	830
Newham	530	580	555	565	530	565	650	620	580	620
Redbridge	840	930	855	870	810	755	865	830	815	830
Richmond upon Thames	975	1,010	960	955	895	1,000	1,020	945	975	1,000
Southwark	1,005	1,080	1,015	1,100	940	985	1,080	1,100	1,135	1,090
Sutton	595	600	535	510	505	495	560	525	520	525
Tower Hamlets	975	1,080	1,100	1,085	920	940	1,055	1,065	1,295	1,180
Waltham Forest	685	715	725	655	630	660	685	700	685	615
Wandsworth	1,160	1,210	1,215	1,170	1,105	1,105	1,245	1,380	1,310	1,370
Westminster	4,570	4,960	5,390	5,195	4,840	4,455	5,430	4,760	4,545	4,375

Source:
Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Registrations and De-registrations 1994-2006, available at: http://www.stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/vat

Although the number of new registrations has fluctuated over the period, the total number of VAT registered businesses in London has increased from 241,000 at the start of 1997 to 309,000 at the start of 2007, an increase of 68,000 (28 per cent.).

VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £60,000 at the start of 2006. Only 1.9 million out of 4.5 million UK enterprises (43 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2006.

Over the last 10 years a range of Government programmes have supported business start-ups in London. These programmes include the single regeneration budget programme, European structural funds, Business Link, LEGI and a range of other programmes supported by the LDA and BERR.

Neither my Department nor the LDA, keep central records about the aggregate number of business start ups which have been supported by these programmes. Given the potential range of relevant programmes, the compilation of the information required to answer this question could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government plans to take to assist vulnerable groups affected by energy price increases. [178469]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government have a package of measures in place to support vulnerable households to keep their homes warm. We have announced that spend on energy efficiency measures for those on low incomes for the period 2008-11 will be in excess of £2.3 billion. This is in addition to the winter fuel payments, payable to all pensioners, which will continue for the lifetime of this Parliament.

In addition, energy companies have recently increased the level of support they provide to vulnerable customers as a result of Government pressure. The level of support available this winter is now close to £60 million.

Radioactive Materials: Theft

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether any radioactive materials have been stolen or lost in the United Kingdom since 1993. [172975]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

Across the UK, the largest amounts of radioactive materials are handled on civil nuclear sites overseen by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Smaller amounts of radioactive materials, handled at universities and hospitals for example, are regulated individually by the UK environment agencies.

Since 1993, the HSE has not recorded any thefts or losses of radioactive material in the UK.

Since 1999, the Environment Agency has recorded no thefts of radioactive materials regulated under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993 in England or Wales. From premises that the Environment Agency regulates in England, there were nine cases involving losses of radioactive sources. These have included losses of clinical 'marker' substances and small sealed sources used in manufacturing processes. In each case the Environment Agency took enforcement action. There are no recorded cases involving a loss in Wales.

Small numbers of thefts and losses have occurred while radioactive materials have been transported in the UK and the Department for Transport (DFT) investigates such events and takes regulatory action as appropriate. Information is available in reports published by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) on behalf of DFT. All HPA reports have been placed in the House of Commons Library and copies of these reports since 2001 are available on the DFT website.

The Ministry of Defence's (MOD) use of radioactive materials is covered by the ionising radiations regulations that require the reporting of losses and thefts. Since 1993, the MOD has reported various lost items to the civil authorities, mainly low activity gaseous tritium light devices (compasses, sights, route markers or illumination devices) lost on exercise. There has also been one known theft of such devices.

Regional Development Agencies: Brussels

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which regional development agencies have offices in Brussels; and how much they paid towards each of the offices in each of the last five years. [176358]

Mr. Timms: No RDAs have dedicated offices in Brussels. However, all RDAs make a contribution to European Regional Representation Offices, which are based in Brussels. These offices are run in partnership with other regional stakeholders such as local authorities, and other public and private sector organisations. Full details are given in the following table.

Contribution by RDAs towards the office (£000)

UK Regional Representational Offices in Brussels	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
West Midlands in Europe Brussels Office	200	391	445	377	378
East of England European Office	49	37	58	59	63
East Midlands European Office	50	58	197	209	315
London European Office[1]	0	100	50	50	50
North West Brussels Office	43	56	55	53	58
North East of England Brussels Office	51	53	56	93	63
South East of England Brussels Office	58	61	62	53	65
South West UK Brussels Office	188	192	197	172	178
Yorkshire Europe[2]	0	0	0	60	340

[1] Office was not set up in 2002-03

[2] Yorkshire Forward did not provide any funding before 2005-06.

Regional Development Agencies: Land

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what land holdings that each regional development agency owns. [176459]

Mr. Timms: A document listing the RDA land holdings (as at 1 April 2007) has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Rolls-Royce: Closures

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect of the proposed closure of the Bootle Rolls-Royce factory on the manufacturing capacity of the region. [181149]

Mr. Timms: The Secretary of State met the hon. Member for Bootle and a trade union/work force delegation from Bootle on 13 December 2007, and heard their assessment of discussions with Rolls-Royce management. This included discussion about the impact of the proposed closure regionally. BERR has also maintained a dialogue with Rolls-Royce about its consultation process over Bootle. The final decision will be a commercial matter for Rolls-Royce. We will remain in close contact with the company, and consider what may need to be done once a decision is reached.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Burma: Arms Trade

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what progress has been made on the EU review of the implementation of the arms embargo on Burma following the Prime Minister's statement on 15 October 2007; [180736]

(2) what progress has been made in discussions with the UK's international partners on a UN arms embargo on Burma following the Prime Minister's statement on 15 October 2007. [180737]

Meg Munn: Following my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister's statement of 15 October 2007, the UK raised the embargo at the EU Working Group on Conventional Arms Exports. All member states confirmed that they rigorously enforce the embargo, but also agreed to pay particular attention when issuing licences where there was a risk that equipment might be diverted to Burma from third countries. Any such applications would be in breach of criterion 7 of the Consolidated EU and National Export and Licensing Criteria (known as the Code of Conduct), and as such, the licence would be refused.

The UK strictly applies the EU arms embargo on Burma and the Government have investigated all the reports received of alleged breaches. The Government have no evidence that British-made equipment is currently being exported to Burma in breach of the embargo.

The UK works closely with its partners at the UN to press the regime to engage constructively with the Secretary-General's Good Offices mission. We have made clear that, should the regime fail to make progress towards genuine national reconciliation under UN auspices, we would press for further UN action. An arms embargo on Burma would require a Chapter VII Security Council resolution.

Chevening Scholarships Programme

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the operation of British Chevening scholarships. [179646]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Following major reviews in 2006 and 2007, and a reassessment by the current Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) ministerial team, we

have determined a new, more focused approach to Chevening scholarships and fellowships. The scholarship programme will identify and sponsor young people with the potential to become the world's leaders of the future. Through our scholarship scheme we will build and maintain our relationships with these outstanding individuals as well as encouraging them to build relationships with each other. Our Fellowship programme will train and build networks of mid-career professionals working around the world on issues of vital importance to the UK. These are people we will work with closely to deliver our key policy goals.

FCO Ministers agreed that the Chevening programme should remain global, but targeted primarily on the key countries of interest to us in achieving our policy objectives.

The Chevening Annual Report for 2006-07, which we hope to publish shortly, will provide detailed information about the operation of the Chevening programme last year. There are 1,309 Chevening scholars studying at academic institutions in the UK this year (2007-08).

Gaza

David Lepper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Israeli government about its description of Gaza as a hostile entity in September 2007 and the resulting boycott on supplies to Palestinians in Gaza. [180744]

Dr. Howells: We have regularly made clear to the Government of Israel our concern about the situation in Gaza. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has raised this issue with the Israeli Foreign Minister Livni. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development discussed the situation in Gaza with the Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak during his recent visit to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories from 9 to 11 December 2007.

Regarding supplies to Palestinians in Gaza, my right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the Secretary of State for International Development made a statement on 11 January detailing our concerns.

The Quartet (US, EU, UN and Russia) has also expressed concern over the continued closure of major crossing points. The UN is actively involved in trying to find a solution. The EU has called "on all parties to work towards an opening of the crossings in and out of Gaza".

Group of Friends of the UN Secretary-General on Myanmar

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what the UK objectives were at the meeting on 19 December 2007 of the Group of Friends of the UN Secretary-General on Myanmar; and who represents the UK on the group; [180729]

(2) when the Group of Friends of the UN Secretary-General on Myanmar plans to meet next. [180730]

Meg Munn: Our permanent representative to the UN represented the UK at the first meeting of the Group of Friends.

The UK looked to the group to strengthen and support the UN Secretary-General's Good Offices mission, maintain international focus on Burma and encourage political reform in that country.

No date has yet been set for the group's next meeting.

Gulf States: Military Bases

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his French counterpart on the creation of a permanent French military base in the Gulf area. [180603]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has not discussed this matter with his French counterpart. However, we would welcome any agreement which reinforced peace and stability in the region.

Indian Subcontinent: Entry Clearances

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many visitors' visas were issued to residents of *(a)* India, *(b)* Pakistan, *(c)* Bangladesh and *(d)* Sri Lanka in each of the last three years; and how many of these visitors overstayed. [180118]

Dr. Howells: The number of visit visas issued in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in the last three years are as follows:

	Issued		
Country	*April 2005 to March 2006*	*April 2006 to March 2007*	*April 2007 to December 2007*
Bangladesh	8,875	8,980	5,434
India	148,638	176,425	126,727
Pakistan	41,182	42,201	21,172
Sri Lanka	8,381	7,610	4,764
Total	207,076	235,216	158,097

We are unable at present to confirm how many of these visitors have overstayed. The Home Office does keep records of foreign nationals who have failed to comply with their conditions of stay and have had enforcement action taken against them. However, it is not at present possible to differentiate visitors from those who entered in other temporary categories (e.g. students, work permit holders). The Home Office is currently addressing this problem.

Israel: EU External Trade

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps are being taken to monitor the post code regulation of goods being imported to the UK by Israel under the EU-Israel Association Agreement; and what

assessment he has made of the effectiveness of monitoring in preventing the products of Israeli settlements in the West Bank being imported using the Agreement's trade preferences. [178520]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs assess applications for relief based on the terms of the international agreements applying to the territories concerned. Claims to duty relief under the provisions of the EU-Israel Association Agreement are disallowed where documentation accompanying the goods indicates that they were produced in the Palestinian Authority.

The monitoring of the post code regulation is effective and resulted in the disallowance of 202 claims to preference since January 2007.

David Lepper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to ensure that the EU Trade Association Agreement with Israel is properly implemented in relation to its human rights clauses. [180745]

Dr. Howells: The European Commission, on behalf of member states, is responsible for monitoring implementation of the EU/Israel Association Agreement. Twice a year, all aspects of the EU/Israel relationship are discussed at an Association Council at which Israel and the EU are represented.

Human rights issues in particular are also discussed in the Informal Working Group on Human Rights, established under the European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan with Israel.

The UK also raises a range of human rights issues bilaterally with Israel at ambassadorial and ministerial level.

Israel: Oppression

David Lepper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Israeli government about the release of imprisoned, democratically elected Palestinian representatives. [180743]

Dr. Howells: We continue to call for the elected members of the Palestinian government detained by Israel to be either released or subject to due legal process. On 30 May 2007, the Quartet also called for the release of the politicians. On 23 July 2007, the EU called for the immediate release of all Palestinian ministers and legislators detained in Israel. Our Embassy in Tel Aviv last raised the issue of the detained Palestinian ministers and legislators with the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 5 December 2007.

Middle East: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK diplomatic posts in the Middle East and South Asia will receive additional staff under the diplomatic surge strategy; which will receive additional staff and how many each will receive; and when the new staff are expected to be in post in each case. [179167]

David Miliband: On current plans, the 10 posts listed will receive additional staff. Numbers by post have yet to be decided. The intention is that wherever possible staff will be in their new positions by April 2009.

New Delhi
Islamabad
Dhaka
Kabul
Baghdad
Riyadh
Cairo
Sana'a
Rabat
Dubai

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the proposed 30 per cent. increase in staff in UK diplomatic posts in the Middle East and South Asia includes locally-employed staff; and if he will make a statement. [179169]

David Miliband: The increase refers to numbers of UK based frontline policy staff only. Decisions on local staff manning levels are devolved to individual posts who employ the appropriate number to deliver their objectives.

Nuclear Disarmament

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what further steps the Government plan to take to secure nuclear disarmament in accordance with their commitments under Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. [180611]

Dr. Howells: The UK has now met the commitment outlined in the 2006 White Paper on the future of the UK nuclear deterrent to reduce the number of operationally available warheads to fewer than 160. The explosive power of our nuclear arsenal has been reduced by 75 per cent. since the end of the cold war.

My right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett), then Foreign Secretary, announced in her June 2007 speech to the Carnegie Endowment that the UK would act as a "disarmament laboratory" for the thinking and practical work required to move forward global nuclear disarmament. We are supporting an independent International Institute of Strategic Studies in-depth study to help determine the requirements for the eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons. We have also tasked the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston with some detailed work on key stages in the verification of the reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons.

The UK continues to press for the immediate commencement of negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty, the next logical step for multilateral nuclear disarmament, at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the value of his Department's contracts with PricewaterhouseCoopers relating to private finance initiative projects was in each year since 2000. [180848]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has had no contracts with PricewaterhouseCoopers relating to private finance initiative projects since 2000.

Rizana Nafeek

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 709W, on Rizana Nafeek, what information he holds on the fate of Ms Nafeek. [179313]

Dr. Howells: Representatives for Rizana Nafeek filed an appeal against her death sentence on 15 July 2007. This is still awaiting a decision by His Majesty King Abdullah.

Our embassy in Riyadh continues to monitor this case. We shall continue to consider when best to take further action, including through the EU.

Spratly Islands

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications of the protests outside the Chinese embassy in Hanoi and the Chinese consulate in Ho Chi Minh City on the disputed Spratly and Paracel islands. [180658]

Meg Munn: We have noted the demonstrations which recently took place outside the Chinese embassy in Hanoi and the Chinese consulate in Ho Chi Minh City. We encourage all countries laying claim to the Spratly and Paracel islands to resolve this dispute peacefully, and welcome the commitment by all governments involved to finding a mutually acceptable solution through peaceful means and negotiation.

Sudan: Human Rights

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the reasons for the UN Human Rights Council's decision on 14 December 2007 to let the mandate of the Group of Experts on Darfur expire; and if he will make a statement. [180721]

Meg Munn: The UN Human Rights Council (HRC) renewed and strengthened the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Sudan by consensus on 14 December 2007 by extending it to cover all of Sudan, including Darfur. The Group of Experts for Darfur had been established under a temporary mandate. Its recommendations of 30 March 2007 will now be taken forward by the Special Rapporteur, which is a very positive outcome.

The UK was instrumental in obtaining a strong EU statement on Sudan, which condemned the continued human rights abuses and called on the Government of Sudan to comply with its obligations to the International Criminal Court and the HRC. We take every appropriate opportunity to discuss human rights with the Government of Sudan.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government is taking with its international partners to ensure that the government of Sudan complies with its obligations under UN Security Council Resolution 1593; and what progress has been made in ensuring such compliance. [180720]

Meg Munn: The UK sponsored UN Security Council Resolution 1593 of March 2005 which referred the human rights situation in Darfur to the International Criminal Court (ICC). The UK fully supports the ICC and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs discussed Sudan's compliance with the ICC with ICC President Kirsch on 8 November 2007.

The UK continues to press the Government of Sudan, at all levels, to comply with the ICC requirements. We have raised Sudanese compliance with the ICC with partners who have influence over the Government of Sudan.

Turkey: Religious Freedom

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Turkish Government on the prosecution of the Ecumenical Patriarch of the Orthodox Church for using the title Ecumenical; and if he will make a statement. [180051]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The issue of religious freedoms in Turkey is regularly raised with the Turkish Government. My right hon. Friend the Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon), then Minister for Europe, also met the Ecumenical Patriarch in January last year to discuss the difficulties facing the Orthodox Church in Turkey.

We continue to urge the Turkish authorities to resolve ongoing issues relating to fundamental rights and freedoms facing religious minority groups in Turkey, including the status of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to Turkey on its recognition of the spiritual and religious status of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople; and if he will make a statement. [180052]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We regularly raise issues of freedom of religion in bilateral discussions at all levels. We continue to urge the Turkish authorities to resolve ongoing issues relating to fundamental rights and freedoms facing religious minority groups in Turkey, including the status of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Turkish government on its obligations under the Lausanne Treaty provisions and the UN Declaration on Freedom of Religion or Belief; and if he will make a statement. [180056]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Turkish government is aware of its obligations under the Lausanne Treaty provisions and the UN Declaration on Freedom of Religion or Belief. We continue to urge Turkey in regular bilateral discussions to take positive steps on issues surrounding freedom of religion and belief, and the European Commission monitors progress towards full and consistent alignment with EU standards.

Turkey: Travel Restrictions

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Turkish Government on its prohibition of the proposed visit of the Archbishop of Cyprus to the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul; and if he will make a statement. [180049]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Our high commission in Nicosia is in regular contact with the Archbishop of Cyprus and we are not aware of a proposed visit to the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul. We would urge against prohibitions from being placed on travel for any religious reason.

More generally, we continue to urge Turkey in regular bilateral discussions to take positive steps on issues surrounding freedom of religion and belief, and we monitor their progress towards full and consistent alignment with EU standards.

Uganda: Kenya

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department urged the Government of Uganda not to interfere in the democratic processes of Kenya; and if he will make a statement. [180965]

Meg Munn: The Government are deeply concerned about the post-election crisis in Kenya. We support the African Union initiative to facilitate talks between the political parties and Kofi Annan's mission. We have been in touch with regional, and other African leaders, including the Ugandan Government, to underline our support for this African-led process aimed at restoring peace, stability and prosperity to Kenya.

We are aware that President Museveni, in his capacity as Head of the East African Community, plans to visit Kenya. We understand that this visit would support the visit of the Eminent Persons Panel, led by Kofi Annan, which is due to arrive in Kenya on 22 January to facilitate talks between the parties.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many removals through enforcement action in *(a)* asylum cases and *(b)* non-asylum cases took place in each quarter since 1 January 2005. [177473]

Mr. Byrne: Information on removals is published in the Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom Command Papers. Copies of these publications and others relating to immigration to the UK are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of those attending a Home Office Unit to make an asylum application had been referred there by the police following arrest and release in each of the last five years. [179818]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* The information requested is not collated and any information recorded on individual case files could be extracted only at disproportionate cost.

Christmas

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department and its agencies have spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in each of the last five years. [171440]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is as follows.

(a) The costs for Christmas cards over the last five years are as follows:

Home Office

	£
2003	[1]
2004	[1]
2005	[1]
2006	14,354.98
2007	4,724.72 (including BIA)

[1] No information held centrally

Border and Immigration Agency Information concerning the cost of Christmas cards for previous years is not known centrally and would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Identity and Passport Service

	£
2003	[1]
2004	[1]
2005	1,280
2006	1,030
2007 to date	1,000

[1] No information held centrally

Criminal Records Bureau

	£
2003	558.32
2004	786.14
2005	679.59
2006	578.38
2007	757.76

(b) There are no figures relating to Christmas parties—any parties attended are entirely at the cost of the staff member / individual.

(c) The costs for Christmas decorations over the last five years are as follows:

Home Office

	£
2003	[1]
2004	[1]
2005	[2] 1,250
2006	[2] 550
2007	[3] no cost

[1] no information held centrally
[2] at 2 Marsham street
[3] at 2 Marsham street—they were provided on a complementary basis from our property services company Ecovert FM

Border and Immigration Agency / Criminal Records Bureau

Information concerning the cost of decorations to the Border and Immigration Agency and Criminal Records Bureau over the past five years is not known centrally and would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Identity and Passport Service

Spend on decorations during the last five years is unavailable but it has been a nominal amount.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's policy is on the selection of *(a)* real and *(b)* artificial Christmas trees for her Department's festive decorations; and how real trees are disposed of. [173526]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office believes that marking Christmas is important. The Department does not have a central policy on the selection of Christmas trees. Arrangements for purchasing both real and artificial trees are made locally. In terms of disposal, procedures vary according to the waste contract in operation at particular buildings but at our London headquarters building in 2 Marsham street, for example, the trees are chipped and added to a composting facility for later re-use.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* postage of Christmas cards in 2007. [176918]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office believes that marking Christmas is important.

(a) Spend on Christmas Cards in 2007 is as follows:

The Home Office (including Border and Immigration Agency)—£4,724.72

Identity and Passport Service—£1,000 to date

Criminal Records Bureau—£757.76

(b) Spend on postage of Christmas cards is not separated from spend of all Home Office mail and is therefore not calculable.

Community Policing: Manpower

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers *(a)* were recruited and *(b)* retired due to (i) age and (ii) sickness in each police force area in each year since 2002. [176319]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Number of police community support officers (FTE[1]) recruited and retired by police force area, 2002-03 to 2006-07

	(a) Number of recruits[2]				
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Avon and Somerset	0	15	10	20	126
Bedfordshire	0	11	28	10	45
Cambridgeshire	6	54	45	34	98
Cheshire	2	26	12	14	66
Cleveland	37	43	0	0	32
Cumbria	0	0	14	3	71
Derbyshire	0	0	26	0	123
Devon and Cornwall	20	36	6	5	277
Dorset	0	2	37	18	58
Durham	4	13	36	0	81
Dyfed-Powys	0	3	17	4	45
Essex	10	65	89	38	192
Gloucestershire	0	47	21	11	90
Greater Manchester	142	41	106	24	499
Gwent	30	26	58	13	44
Hampshire	0	0	26	6	275
Hertfordshire	14	30	57	57	106
Humberside	0	0	49	0	156
Kent	0	5	42	10	109
Lancashire	41	7	66	56	208
Leicestershire	28	24	43	40	100
Lincolnshire	30	19	47	9	80
London, City of	0	0	14	1	33
Merseyside	40	45	117	43	201
Metropolitan Police	518	1,060	817	598	1,726
Norfolk	10	22	34	5	107
Northamptonshire	8	0	26	3	101
Northumbria	0	53	30	22	138
North Wales	0	0	8	2	70
North Yorkshire	0	0	32	2	83
Nottinghamshire	0	34	39	4	102
South Wales	0	51	56	17	209
South Yorkshire	14	40	65	4	176
Staffordshire	0	3	52	12	143
Suffolk	0	12	12	1	72
Surrey	21	11	67	47	97
Sussex	0	59	170	51	139
Thames Valley	0	5	77	54	90
Warwickshire	11	17	34	19	69
West Mercia	8	39	24	8	142
West Midlands	0	33	106	28	370
West Yorkshire	70	172	181	128	265

Number of police community support officers (FTE[1]) recruited and retired by police force area, 2002-03 to 2006-07[2]

(a) Number of recruits[3]

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Wiltshire	13	7	26	27	71
England and Wales	1,077	2,130	2,791	1,444	7,285

(b) (i) Number of normal retirements[4]

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Avon and Somerset	0	0	0	1	0
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0	0
Cheshire	0	0	1	0	0
Cleveland	0	0	0	0	0
Cumbria	0	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	0	0	0	0	0
Devon and Cornwall	0	0	0	0	0
Dorset	0	0	0	0	0
Durham	0	0	0	0	1
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	0	0	0	0	0
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	0
Greater Manchester	0	0	0	10	0
Gwent	0	0	0	0	0
Hampshire	0	0	0	0	0
Hertfordshire	0	0	0	0	0
Humberside	0	0	0	0	0
Kent	0	0	0	0	0
Lancashire	0	0	2	0	0
Leicestershire	0	0	0	0	0
Lincolnshire	0	1	0	0	2
London, City of	0	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	0	0	0	0	1
Metropolitan Police	0	0	0	5	3
Norfolk	0	0	0	0	0
Northamptonshire	0	0	1	0	0
Northumbria	0	0	0	0	0
North Wales	0	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	0	0
South Wales	0	0	0	0	0
South Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	1
Staffordshire	0	0	0	0	0
Suffolk	0	0	0	0	0
Surrey	0	0	0	0	0
Sussex	0	0	0	0	1
Thames Valley	0	0	0	0	0
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0	0
West Mercia	0	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	0	0	0	0	0
West Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	1
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0	0
England and Wales	0	1	4	16	10

(b) (ii) Number of medical retirements[4]

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Avon and Somerset	0	0	0	0	0
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0	0
Cheshire	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	0	0	0	0	0
Cumbria	0	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	0	0	0	0	0
Devon and Cornwall	0	0	0	0	0
Dorset	0	0	0	0	1
Durham	0	0	0	0	0
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	0	0	0	0	0
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	0
Greater Manchester	0	2	0	0	0
Gwent	0	0	0	0	0
Hampshire	0	0	0	0	0
Hertfordshire	0	0	0	0	0
Humberside	0	0	0	0	0
Kent	0	0	0	0	0
Lancashire	0	0	0	1	0
Leicestershire	0	0	0	0	0
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	1
London, City of	0	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	0	0	0	0	0
Metropolitan Police	0	0	1	0	0
Norfolk	0	0	1	0	0
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	0	0
Northumbria	0	0	0	0	0
North Wales	0	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	0	0
South Wales	0	0	0	0	0
South Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0
Staffordshire	0	0	0	0	0
Suffolk	0	0	0	0	0
Surrey	0	0	0	0	0
Sussex	0	0	0	0	0
Thames Valley	0	0	0	0	0
Warwickshire	0	1	0	0	0
West Mercia	0	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	0	0	0	0	0
West Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0	0
England and Wales	0	3	2	1	2

[1] Full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[2] Financial year runs from 1 April to 31 March inclusive.

[3] Recruits include those officers joining as police staff, standard direct recruits and those who were previously special constables. This excludes police community support officers on transfers from other forces and those rejoining.

[4] Normal and medical retirements excludes resignations and dismissals, as well as police community support officers on transfer to another force and deaths (on active duty or otherwise).

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent by her Department on international flights in each year since 1997. [174360]

Mr. Byrne: Since 1999 the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the current financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. From next year, the list will include details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Information in respect of flights taken by officials could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Publicity

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent by her Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [167955]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is shown in the following table.

In the financial year 2006-07, the Home Office has spent a total of £14,182,537 on advertising, which was allocated to the following areas of public concern:

		£
Crime Reduction	Acquisitive Crime (Robbery, Burglary and Car Theft)	3,295,134
	Domestic Violence	806,200
	Rape - Consent awareness	287,664
	Alcohol Fixed Penalty Notices	233,832
	National Knife Amnesty	138,622
	Stop and Search awareness	135,264
	Child protection on the Internet	47,092
	Alcohol Harm Reduction	2,052,614
	Single Non Emergency Number	1,002,780
Drugs	Frank	3,510,850
Police Recruitment	Police Community Support Officers 2006-07	1,829,370
Passports (IPS)	IPS Communications	22,680
Immigration (BIA)	Immigration 2006-07	795,450
Classified	Recruitment	24,984
	Total	14,182,537

The costs provided relate to net media, excluding fees and production, on press, TV, cinema, out of home and radio advertising.

Driving Under Influence: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government has taken to enforce legislation against under-age drinking. [177318]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* Between 2004-06 successive Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaigns (AMECs) were focused on tackling crime and disorder in the night-time economy and included within them element of underage sales test-purchase activity.

From 2006 two Tackling Underage Sales of Alcohol Campaigns (TUSAC) have been conducted with specific focus on test-purchase activity with an additional focus on supporting existing and new powers available through the Licensing Act 2003:

Pilot TUSAC (October 2006) targeted test purchase campaign designed to support the license review powers available through the Licensing Act 2003.

National TUSAC (May to July 2007) targeted test purchase campaign designed to support the commencement of the new offences of persistently selling alcohol to children (section 147A Licensing Act 2003, commenced 6 April 2007)

A pilot Confiscation of Alcohol Campaign (October to July 2007) was undertaken to utilise police powers to seize alcohol from children in public places and to disperse persons aged 16 or more causing alcohol related crime and disorder.

EC Immigration

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on UK participation in the development of EU rapid border intervention teams. [178213]

Mr. Byrne: The UK fully supports the EU Rapid Border Intervention Teams (RABITs) initiative; but is excluded from the Frontex Regulation and thus the RABITs Regulation. However, as signalled by the Council Declaration accompanying adoption of the RABITs Regulation in June 2007, we are exploring ways in which the UK can support RABITs operations abroad on an observer/adviser basis, in a similar way to our support for Frontex joint operations. The UK can participate in Frontex operations, if we wish to, with the agreement of the Frontex Management Board on a case-by-case basis.

Extradition

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were sought for extradition *(a)* from and *(b)* to the UK in each year since 1997. [172947]

Meg Hillier: Since 1997, there have been 1,232 extradition requests made to England and Wales. These have resulted in 517 people being extradited back to the requesting state.

In the same time, the prosecuting authorities in England and Wales have made 589 extradition requests to extradition partners, with 378 people being extradited back. The following table gives a year-on-year breakdown.

It should be emphasised that these figures do not include statistics for the European Arrest Warrant, which the UK has been operating with our European Union partners since 1 January 2004. I refer to the answer given to this House on 29 November 2007, which gave the statistics for the EAW.

Total of extradition requests made to and by England and Wales, 1997 to 2007

	Received	*Extradited*	*Made*	*Returned*
1997	107	43	44	28
1998	108	45	64	38
1999	103	37	56	35
2000	113	47	70	31
2001	161	55	82	52
2002	179	53	70	36
2003	148	56	82	64
2004	142	50	35	49
2005	54	62	29	17
2006	65	40	31	14
2007	52	29	26	14
Total	1,232	517	589	378

Foreigners: Visits

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what she expects the cost will be to administer the proposed cash bond for families to pay when receiving a visitor from outside the EU; [176829]

(2) when she expects the proposed cash bond scheme for non-EU visitors to Britain to come into force; [176830]

(3) what she expects the change in the number of visitors from non-EU countries will be after the implementation of the proposed cash bond scheme. [176831]

Mr. Byrne: The visitor consultation, published on 18 December 2007, provides an opportunity for ideas, comments and discussion on a number of options to ensure that our system for visitors is fit for the 21st century. The consultation period concludes on 10 March 2008.

We shall consider all responses before announcing what changes, if any, we intend to make to the Immigration Rules relating to visitors.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much money has been confiscated from criminals convicted of trafficking people in the UK in each of the last three years. [177917]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 14 January 2008]:* The total value of confiscation orders and cash forfeiture orders made in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland over the last three years against criminals involved in people trafficking is set out in the table.

	Value (£)
2004-05	392,942
2005-06	924,576
2006-07	2,438,243

Illegal Immigrants

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were found trying to enter the United Kingdom with stolen or forged passports in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by nationality. [163139]

Mr. Byrne: The total number of detections of travel document abuse (passports and identity cards) at United Kingdom arrivals controls (which includes our juxtaposed controls in France and Belgium) in 2006 was 4,152. Of these 3,944 were stolen and/or forged travel documents.

Complete figures are set out in the following tables and are broken down by nationality.

Doc Type	*Total*
Nigerian Ppt	402
Lithuanian Ppt	247
British Ppt	244
French Ppt	193
Portuguese ID	137
Polish Ppt	126
Italian ID	126
French ID	111
Portuguese Ppt	104
Italian Ppt	100
South African Ppt	99
Greek Ppt	95
Dutch ID	83
Ghanaian Ppt	80
Latvian Ppt	73
Czech Ppt	72
Dutch Ppt	68
Hungarian Ppt	63
German ID	60
Spanish Ppt	58
Danish Ppt	56
Belgian Ppt	51
Polish ID	50
British Travel Doc	47
Indian Ppt	44
Slovak Ppt	44
Other documents	1,111
Grand total	3,944

Nationality	*Total*
Nigerian	553
Romanian	310
Ukrainian	242
Brazilian	213
Albanian	152
Chinese	143
Somali	140
Ghanaian	130
Sri Lankan	116

Nationality	Total
Russian	102
Undetermined	100
Indian	95
Iranian	90
Dem Rep Congo	89
Moldovan	81
Pakistani	78
Former Yugoslav	71
Cameroonian	70
Jamaican	67
Algerian	61
Bangladeshi	52
Ivorian	51
South African	51
Zimbabwean	47
Turkish	46
Other nationalities	794
Grand total	3,944

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many estimates her Department has made of the illegal migrant population since 1997; what methodology was employed to produce each such estimate; what those estimates were; what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated into the size of the illegal migrant population in the UK since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [177393]

Mr. Byrne: No Government have ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately and that remains the case. Exit controls were phased out from 1994 but are being re-instated from this year, so it will become possible to count people in and out of the country. ID cards for foreign nationals are also going to be introduced.

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of illegal migrants working in the UK. [175216]

Mr. Byrne: No Government of the United Kingdom has been able to produce an accurate estimate for the number of illegal migrants in the country, and this is the case for any Government in the world.

Immigration

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many grants of settlement on the basis of family formation and reunion were made in *(a)* 1987, *(b)* 1997 and *(c)* the most recent year for which figures are available; and which 10 nationalities obtained the most such grants in each of those years. [177474]

Mr. Byrne: Total grants of settlement on the basis of family formation and reunion are published in the yearly Command Paper "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom". This publication may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Immigration and Nationality Directorate

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with local authorities on the legacy exercise dealing with the former Immigration and Nationality Directorate caseload; and what representations she has made to local authorities on the accommodation of those dealt with under the exercise and the costs thereof. [177325]

Mr. Byrne: The Secretary of State for the Home Department has had no discussions with local authorities on the work of the Case Resolution Directorate.

However, I and my officials have worked closely with local authorities in dealing specifically with families who are no longer entitled to asylum support.

The Border and Immigration Agency has offered to reimburse unavoidable transitional costs incurred by local authorities in dealing with the cases when families are given leave to remain.

Immigration Controls: Skilled Workers

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to announce details of the blue card scheme for non-EU migrant workers. [175444]

Mr. Byrne: Our initial view is that the Directive is incompatible with the Points Based System because of its (the Directive's) requirement for a job offer, a minimum salary level and provisions on equal treatment.

Immigration: Deportation

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of those deported or otherwise removed from the UK as illegal migrants in each year since 2001 had entered the UK on a student visa; and what estimate she has made of the number of student visa holders in the UK who have overstayed. [177395]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the number of people who have been removed from the United Kingdom (UK) having entered on a student visa could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

As the then Home Secretary set out in his evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 23 May 2006, following the dismantling of routine embarkation controls beginning in 1994, no Government has been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally, and that remains the case.

A clear goal has been set to reintroduce systems to count everyone in and out of the UK. The e-Borders programme, scheduled to commence this year, will strengthen and modernise our border control including

providing an electronic record of all those entering and leaving the UK. We expect to count 95 per cent. of all passengers in and out of the country by the end of 2010.

In the meantime, targeted embarkation controls continue to take place at major ports to identify failed asylum seekers and other immigration offenders who are leaving the UK, and the Border and Immigration Agency is reviewing its capacity to extend these.

Immigration: Turkey

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many citizens of Turkey have had their applications for permanent leave to remain *(a)* considered and *(b)* granted under the provisions of the European Community Association Agreement in each year since the inception of the agreement. [178330]

Mr. Byrne: Since 2000 48 Turkish citizens have had applications for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) under the provisions of the European Community Association Agreement considered with 34 (71 per cent.) of these granted.

The following table provides annual breakdown of applications.

	1973-99	*2000-03*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[1]	*Total*
Considered	[2]	0	2	3	4	38	1	48
Granted	[2]	0	0	0	2	31	1	34
Percentage granted		0	0	0	50	82	100	71

[1] January only.
[2] Data unavailable.
Note:
The figures quoted are 'not' provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Full information on all decisions relating to Turkish nationals making applications for the period May 2005 to December 2006 under terms of the agreement was published by the Home Office in February 2007 in "European Community Association Agreements Statistics for Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey to 31 December 2006". A copy of this report will be placed in the House Library.

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many knives were confiscated by the police in the last year for which figures are available. [178234]

Mr. Coaker: Information on knives confiscated by the police is not collated centrally.

Offensive Weapons: Amnesties

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many knives were voluntarily handed in to the police in the last year for which figures are available. [178230]

Mr. Coaker: We do not routinely collate figures on the number of knives voluntarily handed to police. However, during the national knife amnesty held between 24 May and 30 June 2006, the number of surrendered items was reported to the Home Office. A total of 89,864 items were handed in to police in England and Wales during that period.

Passports

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which countries issue passports that are not readable by electronic or automated passport readers; and how many citizens from such countries presented themselves for entry into the United Kingdom in the last year for which figures are available. [163140]

Meg Hillier: A list of countries that do not currently issue machine readable passports and how many citizens from such countries were admitted to the United Kingdom during 2006 is set out in the following table. The list is the International Civil Aviation's (ICAO) list of those countries that do not issue passports that are capable of being machine read by electronic or automated passport readers.

Nationality	*Passenger journeys*[1]
Afghanistan	15,100
Algeria	25,100
Bahamas	4,170
Bangladesh	58,100
Bolivia	5,700
Botswana	4,620
Chad	235
Colombia	38,300
Congo	4,910
Congo Democratic Republic	2,520
Cook Islands	n/a
Cote D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)	5,450
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	2,110
East Timor	180
Egypt	47,400
El Salvador	2,170
Equatorial Guinea	350
Eritrea	1,720
Gabon	715
Ghana	73,600
Guinea	1,770
Guinea-Bissau	290
Guyana	—
Kiribati	150
Laos	—
Libya	17,200
Madagascar	510
Marshall Islands	15
Mauritania	450

Nationality	Passenger journeys[1]
Micronesia (Federated States of)	30
Montenegro	120
Morocco	20,700
Mozambique	1,310
Nauru	40
Nepal	25,900
Philippines	
Republic of Serbia	4,570
Sao Tome and Principe	270
Solomon Islands	135
Somalia	3,360
Sudan	13,900
Turkey	160,000
Turkmenistan	2,520
Vanuatu	60

n/a = Not available.
[1] A person who makes more than one journey is counted on each occasion.
Notes:
1. Due to some gaps in the data from ports, estimates have been used.
2. Excluding refugees, exceptional leave cases and their dependants.
3. Includes those admitted under the Iris recognition immigration system (IRIS).
4. Based on ICAO list of non-machine readable passport countries.
5. Data rounded to three significant figures or the nearest five where applicable, therefore they may not sum to the total shown.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many dispatched passports have been reported lost since October 2006; and what estimate she has made of the number of such passports that may have been stolen. [171128]

Meg Hillier: For the period October 2006 to August 2007, the latest period for which data are available, the estimated number of passports recorded as lost during the delivery process is 665. Of these, 584 are recorded as mis-posted by the courier, 78 as a consequence of a theft from or attack on a courier, and three were reported as lost within Secure Mail Services, the courier company that delivers passports on behalf of IPS.

All confirmed losses are cancelled on the IPS system and details entered onto the centralised database of lost and stolen passports, and all passports contain security features to prevent misuse.

Police Service Pay Award

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total cost is of backdating the Police Service Pay Award from 1 December to 1 September. [175384]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 18 December 2007]*: Approximately £40 million.

Police: Finance

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much funding was allocated per head of population to each police authority in England and Wales in each year since 1997; [172868]

(2) what the total police grant funding was for each police authority in each year since 1997. [172869]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is set out in the table.

The Government do not distribute grant to police authorities purely on the basis of population. The police funding formula uses a range of data relating to demographic and social characteristics to reflect the relative needs of each authority. Grant allocations also take into account the relative tax base of each authority. Grant allocations are stabilised by damping to limit year-on-year variations.

Police authority total Government grant allocations 2006-07 and 2007-08.

	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000		2000-01	
Police authority	Government Grant[1] (£ million)	Resident population (million)	Government Grant[1] (£ million)	Resident population (million)	Government Grant[1] (£ million)	Resident population (million)	Government Grant[1] (£ million)	Resident population (million)
Avon and Somerset	134.80	1.46	139.75	1.47	142.56	1.48	146.96	1.49
Bedfordshire	50.14	0.55	51.90	0.55	51.97	0.56	54.24	0.56
Cambridgeshire	57.23	0.70	60.66	0.70	62.87	0.70	66.89	0.71
Cheshire	85.08	0.98	88.15	0.98	91.65	0.98	94.16	0.98
Cleveland	67.59	0.55	72.66	0.55	73.65	0.55	76.30	0.55
Cumbria	50.94	0.49	51.11	0.49	51.84	0.49	53.66	0.49
Derbyshire	81.06	0.95	83.35	0.96	87.29	0.96	94.24	0.96
Devon and Cornwall	132.97	1.54	141.09	1.54	146.70	1.55	152.88	1.52
Dorset	54.09	0.68	54.88	0.68	56.58	0.69	58.82	0.69
Durham	65.06	0.60	69.68	0.60	72.46	0.59	74.77	0.59
Dyfed-Powys	24.67	0.48	25.21	0.48	25.92	0.48	26.77	0.49
Essex	129.70	1.58	131.53	1.59	132.75	1.60	142.51	1.61
Gloucestershire	50.59	0.56	51.78	0.56	52.12	0.56	52.88	0.56
Greater Manchester	315.27	2.52	328.12	2.52	337.39	2.52	351.70	2.52
Gwent	31.82	0.55	33.27	0.55	34.85	0.55	35.83	0.55
Hampshire	150.38	1.75	158.77	1.76	162.66	1.77	169.64	1.77
Hertfordshire	76.02	1.01	77.23	1.02	82.42	1.02	92.89	1.03
Humberside	93.43	0.88	97.83	0.88	99.71	0.87	103.06	0.87
Kent	141.72	1.55	151.44	1.55	154.31	1.56	162.74	1.57

Police authority total Government grant allocations 2006-07 and 2007-08

Police authority	1997-98 Government Grant[1,2] (£ million)	1997-98 Resident population (million)	1998-99 Government Grant[1,2] (£ million)	1998-99 Resident population (million)	1999-2000 Government Grant[1,2] (£ million)	1999-2000 Resident population (million)	2000-01 Government Grant[1,2] (£ million)	2000-01 Resident population (million)
Lancashire	146.86	1.41	153.65	1.41	155.94	1.41	163.35	1.41
Leicestershire	83.88	0.92	85.27	0.92	87.84	0.92	90.60	0.92
Lincolnshire	52.23	0.62	51.13	0.63	53.30	0.63	56.43	0.64
Merseyside	207.64	1.39	213.25	1.39	215.31	1.38	220.65	1.37
Metropolitan[3]	1,610.26	7.01	1,633.26	7.06	1,658.78	7.15	1,601.10	7.23
Norfolk	65.65	0.77	68.10	0.78	69.95	0.79	74.20	0.79
North Wales	34.96	0.65	36.27	0.66	37.95	0.66	39.16	0.66
North Yorkshire	59.23	0.73	62.62	0.73	63.89	0.74	66.55	0.74
Northamptonshire	50.77	0.61	53.28	0.62	55.14	0.62	57.14	0.63
Northumbria	173.67	1.42	185.28	1.41	192.25	1.40	197.06	1.40
Nottinghamshire	104.73	1.02	108.06	1.02	110.75	1.02	113.91	1.02
South Wales	76.37	1.21	79.54	1.21	81.98	1.21	84.27	1.21
South Yorkshire	141.47	1.28	147.75	1.27	152.90	1.27	159.24	1.27
Staffordshire	96.15	1.05	95.09	1.05	96.27	1.05	100.13	1.05
Suffolk	52.57	0.66	55.14	0.66	57.29	0.67	59.09	0.67
Surrey	75.60	1.04	67.61	1.04	67.61	1.06	83.09	1.06
Sussex	127.99	1.46	134.66	1.47	137.03	1.49	142.03	1.49
Thames Valley	171.15	2.06	181.27	2.07	184.64	2.08	193.02	2.09
Warwickshire	42.18	0.50	42.54	0.50	43.16	0.50	44.98	0.50
West Mercia	87.74	1.13	90.86	1.14	92.92	1.14	98.36	1.15
West Midlands	317.34	2.59	335.10	2.59	342.16	2.58	357.58	2.57
West Yorkshire	238.20	2.07	249.54	2.07	255.01	2.07	268.61	2.07
Wiltshire	52.08	0.59	52.87	0.60	53.84	0.60	57.20	0.61
England and Wales total	5,861.30	51.56	6,050.55	51.71	6,185.59	51.93	4,737.60	52.13

Police authority	2001-02 Government Grant[1,2] (£ million)	2001-02 Resident population (million)	2002-03 Government Grant[1,2] (£ million)	2002-03 Resident population (million)	2003-04 Government Grant[1,2] (£ million)	2003-04 Resident population (million)	2004-05 Government Grant[1,2] (£ million)	2004-05 Resident population (million)
Avon and Somerset	152.58	1.49	158.87	1.50	173.99	1.51	175.19	1.52
Bedfordshire	59.89	0.57	61.51	0.57	66.83	0.57	69.22	0.58
Cambridgeshire	71.27	0.71	76.80	0.72	77.96	0.73	79.66	0.74
Cheshire	100.79	0.98	103.02	0.99	112.59	0.99	119.77	0.99
Cleveland	80.96	0.55	84.06	0.55	90.97	0.55	94.79	0.55
Cumbria	55.61	0.49	60.11	0.49	63.08	0.49	65.27	0.49
Derbyshire	101.56	0.97	106.46	0.97	111.23	0.98	114.88	0.98
Devon and Cornwall	163.44	1.58	167.49	1.59	174.26	1.60	180.29	1.62
Dorset	62.45	0.69	65.46	0.70	71.17	0.70	75.46	0.70
Durham	77.69	0.59	81.78	0.59	86.93	0.59	90.27	0.60
Dyfed-Powys	28.00	0.49	28.17	0.49	30.12	0.50	32.23	0.50
Essex	152.99	1.62	157.94	1.62	169.34	1.63	173.67	1.64
Gloucestershire	55.55	0.56	58.78	0.57	61.48	0.57	63.66	0.57
Greater Manchester	374.55	2.52	384.68	2.52	417.66	2.53	433.15	2.54
Gwent	37.23	0.55	37.64	0.55	40.90	0.56	43.29	0.56
Hampshire	178.39	1.78	185.16	1.79	197.87	1.80	208.08	1.80
Hertfordshire	100.61	1.04	102.27	1.04	108.85	1.04	114.58	1.04
Humberside	106.20	0.88	110.26	0.88	117.34	0.88	124.65	0.89
Kent	178.10	1.58	179.96	1.59	188.38	1.60	198.30	1.61
Lancashire	173.85	1.42	174.78	1.42	188.91	1.43	196.55	1.43
Leicestershire	94.60	0.93	101.21	0.93	107.59	0.94	111.45	0.95
Lincolnshire	60.34	0.65	60.97	0.66	64.98	0.67	68.22	0.67
Merseyside	235.53	1.37	241.29	1.37	267.38	1.36	269.90	1.37
Metropolitan[3]	1,731.70	7.32	1,838.70	7.36	1,923.90	7.38	1,983.50	7.42
Norfolk	81.58	0.80	86.60	0.80	90.79	0.81	94.37	0.82
North Wales	41.36	0.66	41.11	0.67	44.71	0.67	47.08	0.67
North Yorkshire	72.69	0.75	71.68	0.76	78.89	0.76	80.61	0.76
Northamptonshire	59.46	0.63	62.21	0.64	69.79	0.64	70.71	0.65
Northumbria	209.79	1.39	211.02	1.39	226.21	1.39	233.28	1.40

Police authority	2001-02 Government Grant[1] (£ million)	2001-02 Resident population (million)	2002-03 Government Grant[1] (£ million)	2002-03 Resident population (million)	2003-04 Government Grant[1] (£ million)	2003-04 Resident population (million)	2004-05 Government Grant[1] (£ million)	2004-05 Resident population (million)
Nottinghamshire	123.97	1.02	129.84	1.02	136.54	1.03	142.04	1.03
South Wales	88.02	1.20	89.25	1.21	93.45	1.21	103.17	1.22
South Yorkshire	167.09	1.27	168.77	1.27	184.86	1.27	191.87	1.28
Staffordshire	105.23	1.05	106.36	1.05	112.87	1.05	117.62	1.05
Suffolk	62.24	0.67	62.02	0.67	69.57	0.68	71.81	0.68
Surrey	83.35	1.06	87.48	1.06	93.59	1.06	96.78	1.07
Sussex	149.10	1.50	153.68	1.50	168.05	1.51	180.99	1.51
Thames Valley	210.13	2.10	219.41	2.10	233.34	2.11	237.32	2.12
Warwickshire	46.98	0.51	48.67	0.51	51.91	0.52	53.90	0.53
West Mercia	108.63	1.16	109.21	1.17	114.12	1.17	117.77	1.18
West Midlands	379.35	2.57	388.14	2.58	415.20	2.58	433.31	2.58
West Yorkshire	287.07	2.08	288.26	2.09	310.30	2.10	329.12	2.11
Wiltshire	60.89	0.61	60.78	0.62	64.68	0.62	65.85	0.63
England and Wales total	5,038.79	52.35	5,173.15	52.56	5,548.65	52.79	5,770.08	53.04

Police authority	2005-06 Government Grant[1] (£ million)	2005-06 Resident population (million)	2006-07* Government Grant[1] (£ million)	2006-07* Resident population (million)	2007-08* Government Grant[1] (£ million)	2007-08* Resident population (million)
Avon and Somerset	183.81	1.53	185.92	1.54	184.21	1.55
Bedfordshire	73.11	0.58	74.15	0.59	76.21	0.59
Cambridgeshire	85.26	0.75	82.33	0.75	85.58	0.76
Cheshire	124.28	0.99	130.88	1.00	136.13	1.00
Cleveland	99.54	0.55	101.32	0.55	105.29	0.55
Cumbria	68.71	0.50	72.43	0.49	72.29	0.49
Derbyshire	119.38	0.98	117.32	0.99	119.81	0.99
Devon and Cornwall	189.16	1.63	190.95	1.64	199.38	1.65
Dorset	73.19	0.70	81.17	0.71	82.66	0.71
Durham	95.28	0.60	94.36	0.59	97.68	0.59
Dyfed-Powys	33.61	0.51	32.69	0.51	34.17	0.51
Essex	181.81	1.65	180.43	1.65	187.91	1.66
Gloucestershire	68.00	0.58	67.93	0.58	71.35	0.58
Greater Manchester	462.73	2.55	479.73	2.54	484.16	2.55
Gwent	44.44	0.56	44.27	0.56	45.70	0.56
Hampshire	239.16	1.81	222.35	1.82	221.75	1.83
Hertfordshire	117.84	1.05	121.12	1.06	127.33	1.06
Humberside	132.49	0.89	135.00	0.89	134.90	0.89
Kent	203.93	1.62	193.45	1.63	219.23	1.65
Lancashire	205.41	1.44	207.98	1.44	215.90	1.44
Leicestershire	118.17	0.95	124.81	0.95	126.03	0.96
Lincolnshire	71.17	0.68	66.54	0.69	72.47	0.70
Merseyside	279.85	1.37	276.08	1.36	287.30	1.36
Metropolitan	1,928.50	7.51	2,019.00	7.51	2,115.40	7.56
Norfolk	99.27	0.82	100.08	0.83	102.25	0.84
North Wales	49.47	0.68	48.07	0.68	50.28	0.68
North Yorkshire	83.73	0.77	86.24	0.77	79.39	0.77
Northamptonshire	72.37	0.65	75.49	0.66	78.53	0.66
Northumbria	250.55	1.41	249.17	1.39	260.01	1.39
Nottinghamshire	148.94	1.04	143.48	1.04	145.55	1.04
South Wales	107.45	1.22	91.93	1.23	94.82	1.23
South Yorkshire	202.82	1.29	205.49	1.28	211.15	1.28
Staffordshire	122.43	1.05	122.05	1.05	126.77	1.05
Suffolk	74.76	0.69	73.73	0.69	75.57	0.70
Surrey	100.80	1.08	104.76	1.08	110.12	1.08
Sussex	180.95	1.52	156.10	1.53	189.14	1.54
Thames Valley	249.35	2.14	260.52	2.14	261.98	2.15
Warwickshire	56.16	0.53	54.57	0.53	56.91	0.53
West Mercia	122.50	1.19	126.05	1.19	131.49	1.19

Police authority	2005-06[1] Government Grant[2] (£ million)	2005-06[1] Resident population (million)	2006-07[3] Government Grant[2] (£ million)	2006-07[3] Resident population (million)	2007-08[4] Government Grant[2] (£ million)	2007-08[4] Resident population (million)
West Midlands	466.12	2.59	471.41	2.59	487.88	2.59
West Yorkshire	347.12	2.12	345.62	2.12	348.95	2.13
Wiltshire	70.26	0.63	68.77	0.64	73.03	0.64
England and Wales total	6,075.37	53.38	6,066.75	53.45	6,271.23	53.68

[1] Revenue funding includes all grants inside aggregate external finance (AEF) (i.e. revenue grants paid for councils' core services) and includes formula grant and all specific grants.
[2] Welsh Government grant includes Home Office police grant, floor funding and additional support provided to ensure Welsh police authorities receive at least a minimum increase in grant in line with English authorities.
[3] In 2005-06 figures were adjusted for comparison purposes following the transfer of pensions and security funding from general grant in 2006-07.
[4] 2006-07 Government grant figures are provisional outturn figures. 2007-08 figures are budget figures.
[5] The data for Metropolitan police authority from 2000-01 onwards is not available from DCLG as they are collected as consolidated data from GLA. Data used is compiled from Home Office data for allocated grants.
Source:
DCLG - from English Police Authorities/WAG - from Welsh Police Authorities. Population figures sourced by DCLG from ONS (2006-07 and 2007-08 figures are projected)

Police: Firearms

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many operations firearms were issued to police officers in England and Wales in each year since 1997; in how many of these operation shots were fired by police officers; and how many police officers were qualified to carry firearms in each of the last nine years. [176307]

Mr. McNulty: The number of police operations in which firearms were authorised to be used in each force area in the last 10 years, and the number of authorised firearms officers in those forces, are shown in the following tables. The number of incidents where a conventional firearm was used is also shown.

	Number of operations in which firearms were authorised									
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Total	12,379	11,842	10,928	10,915	11,109	13,991	14,827	16,657	15,983	18,891
Avon and Somerset	312	139	88	90	65	195	262	311	333	247
Bedfordshire	345	323	260	190	294	237	301	442	475	575
Cambridgeshire	54	96	43	75	71	114	57	104	241	201
Cheshire	288	216	299	386	545	419	451	397	358	367
Cleveland	1,026	103	35	76	28	37	170	453	530	657
City of London	308	307	147	125	3	40	131	364	404	323
Cumbria	72	68	52	24	30	71	77	72	152	112
Derbyshire	109	147	176	178	167	275	401	369	287	305
Devon and Cornwall	160	133	61	65	151	101	96	112	71	84
Dorset	36	54	69	79	174	184	193	231	223	263
Durham	131	103	114	114	40	89	83	156	144	291
Essex	331	505	590	497	435	323	312	275	296	432
Gloucestershire	41	51	52	52	48	165	185	127	176	229
Gtr Manchester	214	165	160	224	357	580	518	507	461	478
Hampshire	245	217	129	103	114	198	162	208	237	289
Hertfordshire	96	82	75	73	86	112	172	195	185	187
Humberside	291	472	317	193	158	297	187	183	206	362
Kent	236	423	92	85	83	115	137	207	163	219
Lancashire	333	338	616	267	242	232	238	318	241	240
Leicestershire	155	89	109	222	217	300	268	295	260	363
Lincolnshire	58	52	57	155	336	477	392	386	294	220
Merseyside	671	675	484	489	825	1,020	628	751	733	669
Metropolitan	2,439	2,578	2,742	2,862	1,862	2,447	3,199	3,563	2,964	4,711
Norfolk	166	128	185	239	226	175	200	178	195	175
Northamptonshire	64	77	51	57	58	43	138	148	158	137
Northumbria	1,360	823	683	465	708	1,440	1,275	1,140	977	611
North Yorkshire	65	102	69	612	72	92	100	147	185	183
Nottinghamshire	84	306	266	255	233	384	452	459	408	394
South Yorkshire	155	302	135	237	127	258	463	484	546	749
Staffordshire	257	240	209	174	203	232	281	255	216	171

Number of operations in which firearms were authorised

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Suffolk	180	193	174	165	176	163	270	251	153	202
Surrey	133	87	60	143	221	245	247	203	151	222
Sussex	235	330	123	185	353	248	204	280	187	190
Thames Valley	215	227	158	110	153	179	167	195	289	427
Warwickshire	97	152	291	194	233	130	149	164	124	180
West Mercia	106	132	130	110	36	117	91	197	162	122
West Midlands	270	227	305	362	485	822	902	1,377	1,264	1,044
West Yorkshire	617	630	662	813	822	757	604	575	853	1,335
Wiltshire	26	26	24	19	66	45	58	63	88	139
Dyfed Powys	17	27	38	17	18	28	29	28	51	63
Gwent	89	86	64	39	30	20	17	40	81	94
North Wales	233	310	386	371	195	302	259	197	223	350
South Wales	59	101	148	255	363	283	281	250	236	279

Number of authorised firearms officers (AFOs

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Total	6,738	6,585	6,308	6,262	6,064	5,776	5,763	6,096	6,243	6,584
Avon and Somerset	165	161	153	150	135	116	84	122	118	117
Bedfordshire	46	42	50	46	45	48	53	58	56	59
Cambridgeshire	90	80	80	77	73	56	71	60	60	50
Cheshire	70	82	70	75	74	81	89	75	76	73
Cleveland	86	84	78	80	75	85	80	95	100	100
City of London	88	81	55	73	74	73	72	86	89	86
Cumbria	108	122	98	98	94	92	87	89	90	89
Derbyshire	110	100	87	77	81	80	69	70	74	75
Devon and Cornwall	151	147	82	119	100	108	115	132	123	122
Dorset	74	72	72	66	67	57	59	60	64	62
Durham	138	144	96	101	101	86	102	97	103	100
Essex	228	217	235	228	195	180	184	186	202	205
Gloucestershire	82	84	79	77	72	71	80	82	93	92
Gtr Manchester	209	182	217	218	240	219	202	205	187	245
Hampshire	106	112	110	111	100	87	94	94	92	97
Hertfordshire	42	41	43	52	44	46	47	50	53	52
Humberside	90	102	102	97	102	96	96	96	101	92
Kent	150	150	130	136	136	113	93	90	94	94
Lancashire	132	125	132	143	132	138	129	122	115	123
Leicestershire	104	94	90	90	85	69	68	51	53	59
Lincolnshire	82	85	75	78	80	91	87	78	86	87
Merseyside	147	165	121	96	103	78	84	94	93	129
Metropolitan	2,035	1,971	1,951	1,977	1,940	1,805	1,823	2,060	2,134	2,331
Norfolk	98	102	109	110	114	104	109	114	125	119
Northamptonshire	92	92	92	75	77	51	56	52	50	56
Northumbria	173	126	123	114	109	125	99	90	93	98
North Yorkshire	108	95	83	59	66	66	64	60	56	78
Nottinghamshire	128	129	120	116	137	136	131	138	138	149
South Yorkshire	110	108	90	100	98	92	100	98	122	116
Staffordshire	78	86	92	81	67	71	63	67	76	70
Suffolk	82	96	101	98	90	90	80	96	88	84
Surrey	76	61	69	71	72	62	48	53	49	51
Sussex	180	146	156	131	118	120	141	134	130	129
Thames Valley	185	194	179	187	185	156	180	172	176	180
Warwickshire	41	38	44	54	45	50	51	46	53	55
West Mercia	155	159	139	129	130	125	131	139	141	152
West Midlands	88	95	92	93	83	111	110	124	134	145
West Yorkshire	131	114	128	110	117	116	132	140	130	150
Wiltshire	134	105	88	89	71	71	78	80	74	72
Dyfed Powys	70	71	67	65	61	77	62	58	79	68
Gwent	70	59	64	68	66	57	60	71	74	86
North Wales	72	90	97	92	67	83	75	73	65	57
South Wales	134	176	169	155	143	138	125	139	134	130

Number of incidents where conventional firearms were used

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Incidents	5	3	5	7	9	11	16	4	5	9
Percentage of incidents compared with number of authorised operations	0.040	0.025	0.046	0.064	0.081	0.079	0.067	0.024	0.031	0.048

Police: Lost Working Days

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officer working days were lost due to (a) stress and (b) illness in each police force in each of the last five years. [172861]

Mr. McNulty: The available data are for the amount of police officer working time lost to sickness. Breakdowns for the type of sickness are not collected centrally. Data are available for 2002-03 onwards.

Police Officer sickness absence data for 2002-03 onwards are available on the Home Office website, located at:

http://www.police.homeoffice.gov.uk/performance-and-measurement/performance-assessment/

For 2002-03 and 2003-04, the data are given in the 2003-04 Police Performance Monitoring report, in the form of police officer days lost per person per year.

For 2004-05 onwards, the data are given in the annual Police Performance Assessment reports, in the form of average number of police officer hours lost per person per year.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) police community support officers and (b) police officers there were in (i) England and Wales and (ii) each police force area in each of the last three years. [176316]

Mr. McNulty: Figures for numbers of police community support officers and police officers as at 31 March by police force area are published each year in the Home Office Statistical Bulletins 'Police Service Strength, England and Wales'. They are accessible online at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pubsstatistical.html

Police: Pay

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what commitments on pay and conditions were made to staff transferring from other police services to the Serious and Organised Crime Agency; and if she will make a statement. [179337]

Mr. Coaker: The terms applying to staff from the precursor agencies that formed the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) were regulated by the Transfers to SOCA Scheme 2006, made under Schedule 3 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005.

The terms of transfer were in accordance with the Cabinet Office Statement of Principles (COSOP) which reflects the provisions of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Act 1981. The core principle under COSOP is that on transfer staff should not be in a worse position than under their previous conditions of employment.

Commitments were given, and communicated to staff in the lead up to SOCA's inception, that any incremental progression arrangements would be honoured and that the purchasing power of their salaries would be maintained. Police officers were able to retain certain allowances; retained membership of the Police Pension Scheme; and maintenance of their pay review date (1 September).

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will next meet staff representatives of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency to discuss pay and conditions; and if she will make a statement. [179338]

Mr. Coaker: I will be meeting members of the Public and Commercial Services Union by the end of February.

Police: Sick Leave

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officer working days were lost to sickness in each (a) police force in England and Wales and (b) London borough in each of the last five years. [174810]

Mr. McNulty: The available data for the amount of police officer working time lost to sickness, are for 2002-03 onwards at the police force level only. Police Officer sickness absence data for 2002-03 onwards are available on the Home Office website, located at:

http://www.police.homeoffice.gov.uk/performance-and-measurement/performance-assessment/

For 2002-03 and 2003-04, the data are given in the 2003-04 Police Performance Monitoring report, in the form of police officer days lost per person per year.

For 2004-05 onwards, the data are given in the annual Police Performance Assessment reports, in the form of average number of police officer hours lost per person per year.

Prostitution

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research she has commissioned on the extent and nature of all forms of commercial sexual exploitation in off-street settings. [179222]

Mr. Coaker: We have not commissioned any formal research on this. Our co-ordinated prostitution strategy included a specific commitment to undertake action research into off-street prostitution, and through Pentameter 1 and 2 we have collated a considerable amount of information about the extent and nature of off-street prostitution in the United Kingdom.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advocacy services are available to support women in prostitution who become victims of serious violent and sexual crime. [179223]

Mr. Coaker: Prostitution is inherently dangerous and the safety of those involved is of the utmost importance. Our co-ordinated prostitution strategy recognises the importance of advocacy services for those involved in prostitution, who are often at increased risk of being the victims of serious or sexual violence.

As part of wider work to reduce sexual violence, we have funded 38 Independent Sexual Violence Adviser posts across the country, to provide support for the victims of this horrendous crime. Although all of these Advisers will be available to those involved in prostitution who have been the victims of sexual violence, we have also funded a specific post in the Armistead Project in Liverpool. An evaluation is currently under way and will report this summer. However, anecdotal information from the project suggests that the post has increased reporting and engagement in the criminal justice process among this particularly vulnerable group, through advocacy, information provision and general support.

The cross-Government Action Plan for Sexual Violence and Abuse also recognises those involved in prostitution as a particularly vulnerable group, and includes specific measures to improve our response to those who are the victims of serious sexual violence. This includes the provision of personal safety training, delivered by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust to projects working with individuals who sell sex, and personal safety leaflets, which provide practical advice about staying safe. In partnership with Crimestoppers we have also launched a national 'ugly mugs' campaign, which is aimed at increasing the circulation of information about those who perpetrate crimes against those involved in prostitution, and increasing reporting of these crimes.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what specialised *(a)* drug treatment programmes, *(b)* mental health services and *(c)* housing-related support have been made available to those involved in prostitution in each of the last three years. [179224]

Mr. Coaker: Our co-ordinated prostitution strategy provides a framework for local areas to develop their own responses to prostitution, so that local strategies can respond to local prostitution markets. Where prostitution is identified as an issue, local authorities should work in partnership with other agencies to ensure that they respond effectively. This response should include the appropriate provision of services for those involved in prostitution in terms of harm minimisation and developing routes out, specifically in relation to drug treatment, mental health services and housing-related support. These services are commissioned locally and we do not hold any central information about the nature or extent of provision.

We plan to examine the local implementation of the Government's strategy, which will include the provision of dedicated services. The results of this exercise will feed in to the development of commissioning guidance for local partnerships.

Visas: Overseas Students

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of students in the UK on student visas who are not complying with the visa length of stay requirements. [178053]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 14 January 2008]*: As the then Home Secretary set out in his evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 23 May 2006, following the dismantling of routine embarkation controls beginning in 1994, no government have been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally, and that remains the case.

A clear goal has been set to reintroduce systems to count everyone in and out of United Kingdom (UK). The e-Borders programme, scheduled to commence this year, will strengthen and modernise our border control including providing an electronic record of all those entering and leaving the UK. We expect to count 95 per cent. of all passengers in and out of the country by the end of 2010.

In the meantime, targeted embarkation controls continue to take place at major ports to identify failed asylum seekers and other immigration offenders who are leaving the UK, and the Border and Immigration Agency is reviewing its capacity to extend these.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing Countries: AIDS

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department is providing to tackle AIDS in developing countries in 2007-08; how much of this funding is going to children affected by AIDS; and if he will make a statement. [180913]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The precise value of HIV and AIDS funding in 2007-08 will not be known until the end of the current financial year.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress he has made in increasing the access of people with AIDS in developing countries to generic medicines; and if he will make a statement. [180915]

Mr. Malik: The Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM), UNITAID and the US Government's President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) are the largest funders of HIV treatment for low and middle income countries. Each allows countries to purchase generic medicines. PEPFAR, UNITAID and the GFATM provide guidelines for the quality assurance of antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) purchased with their support.

The UK has made a commitment to the GFATM of up to £1 billion up to 2015 subject to performance. The UK has also made a commitment to UNITAID of up to £760 million over 20 years subject to performance.

The GFATM estimates that it has provided treatment for 1.8 million people over five years. It has strongly supported the purchase of generic ARVs by countries. However, the GFATM does not currently publish a total figure for the proportion of ARVs purchased with its funding that are generics.

For HIV treatment, UNITAID provides funding primarily for paediatric and second line ARVs. UNITAID also provides funding for diagnostic tests and treatment to prevent the transmission of HIV from mothers to their children. UNITAID specifically aims to increase access to quality low-price and generic ARVs through its funding.

PEPFAR's supply chain management system reports that it increased its purchasing of generic versus branded ARVs from 72 per cent. between April and September 2006 to 88 per cent. (by volume) from January to March 2007.

Developing Countries: Trade Barriers

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on reducing trade barriers to goods from developing countries. [180916]

Mr. Thomas: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development is in regular contact with his EU counterparts, both informally and during formal encounters in Brussels. The most prominent recent discussions on reducing trade barriers to goods from developing countries have related to the adoption of a series of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) between the European Union and some 78 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACPs). EPAs will allow full access to European markets for ACP country goods as of this year for those who sign them, apart from a few interim arrangements. My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State held important and extensive talks on EPAs with his EU counterparts before and at the General Affairs and External Relations Council in Brussels on 19-20 November 2007.

Overseas Aid

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the percentage of his Department's funding for microfinance which reaches families living on the equivalent of less than US$1 a day. [180967]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development is committed to tackling poverty and reducing the number of people living on less than US$1 a day. All of our programmes, including our financial sector programmes, are designed to help the world's poorest people.

A review of DFID's largest financial sector programmes showed that in 2006 more than nine million people benefited from microfinance initiatives that received support from DFID in that year. DFID programmes use different, country specific, measures of poverty for measuring their impact. Calculating an aggregate figure, across all programmes, for the proportion of families living on less than US$1 per day would incur a disproportionate cost. DFID regularly carries out evaluations of its programmes to ensure that they are reaching the poorest people.

Pakistan: Education

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps he has taken to encourage the Government of Pakistan to spend a higher percentage of its national income on education; and if he will make a statement. [179890]

Mr. Malik: The 10-year Development Partnership Arrangement (DPA), signed by the Prime Ministers of the UK and Pakistan in November 2006, sets out a number of commitments by the Government of Pakistan to poverty reduction. In education, the Government's commitment are

> "to good quality primary education for all, particularly girls and children in difficult circumstances".

In the context of the DPA, one of the indicators that DFID has used to make decisions about budget support is education spending as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP). This increased by 21 per cent. between 2004-05 and 2005-06, exceeding the jointly agreed target of 13 per cent. More generally, in the Fiscal Responsibility and Debt Limitation Act 2005, the Pakistan Government have made a commitment to double spending in both education and health as a percentage of GDP by 2015.

Sub-Saharan Africa: AIDS

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to assist women in sub-Saharan Africa in combating HIV/AIDS. [180208]

Mr. Malik: The UK is the second largest bilateral funder of HIV and AIDS, having committed £1.5 billion between 2005 and 2008 and one of the largest donors on health. Women are highlighted as a priority in the UK AIDS strategy "Taking Action" and since its launch, the UK was central to securing international agreement on universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support at the 2005 G8 summit and subsequent UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV and AIDS.

DFID will continue to support key international institutions and partnerships to address the needs of women affected by HIV and AIDS. For example, DFID has committed £1 billion to the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria until 2015, subject to performance.

DFID will continue to work through its country programmes to fund prevention, treatment, care and support for women. For example, in Nigeria DFID will commit £100 million over six years to reduce the transmission of HIV, and mitigate the impact of AIDS on the lives of the most vulnerable. The programme will support women, girls, young people, orphans and vulnerable children and other vulnerable groups through collaboration with the Ministry of Women's

Affairs, civil society organisations and UN agencies. DFID will also work to integrate HIV and AIDS with maternal and child health and strengthen countries maternal health services. From 2007, DFID will invest £25 million over five years to improve maternal and newborn health in Zimbabwe. The programme will reduce the number of maternal deaths and reduce the number of children becoming infected or dying from HIV infection.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Backdated Pension Payments

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy to ensure that where backdated pension payments of over £100 arise from the correction of omitted home responsibilities protection or the payment of Class 3 national insurance contributions in respect of one or more years between 1996-97 and 2001-02 such payments automatically include interest; if he will investigate whether interest has routinely been added to such payments in such circumstances in the past; and if he will make a statement. [170276]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* All backdated payments of £100 or more arising from the omission of home responsibilities protection or, in the case of a person who reached pension age before 24 October 2004, payment of voluntary contributions for one or more of the years 1996-97 and 2001-02, should be automatically considered for compensation under the terms of the Departmental Guide to Financial Redress for Maladministration a copy of which is obtainable at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2003/frm/

If the hon. Member has identified instances where compensation appears not to have been considered in these circumstances I would be grateful if he could let me have details of the individuals concerned.

Benefits: Offenders

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many prisoners released *(a)* in 2007 and *(b)* in the last five years are on jobseekers allowance; and what the cost to the public purse has been of ex-offenders claiming jobseekers allowance in each such year; [179720]

(2) how many prisoners released in the last five years were receiving housing benefit on the most recent date for which figures are available; and what the cost to the public purse was of paying such benefits in the last financial year. [179721]

Mr. Plaskitt: This information is not available.

Better Off in Work Credit

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to extend the time the proposed better off in work credit will be available beyond 26 weeks; and if he will make a statement. [175769][1]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* As the Prime Minister announced at the TUC Conference, the In Work Credit will be rolled out across the country from October 2008. We have no current plans to extend the credit beyond 26 weeks.

Children: Daycare

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to identify and address barriers to taking up formal child care by *(a)* low income groups, *(b)* lone parents, *(c)* workless households with two adults and *(d)* ethnic minorities. [177966]

Caroline Flint: DWP works closely with colleagues in the Department for Children, Schools and Families in the development of the Government's child care strategy, to increase the supply, and improve the affordability, of formal child care for everybody, including low income groups, people in workless households and people from ethnic minorities.

In addition, Jobcentre Plus Childcare Partnership Managers are engaged with child care services at the local level to ensure that Jobcentre Plus staff are fully apprised of the issues around formal child care and developments in the local market. Advisers are then better able to advise their customers on the availability and benefits of formal child care.

Departmental Surveys

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what surveys his Department has conducted of its customers in the last 10 years; and if he will place in the Library copies of such surveys. [177969]

Mr. Plaskitt: For information up to February 2007, I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1049W.

Since 2005 Jobcentre Plus has undertaken a survey of its customers every two years. The 2007 Jobcentre Plus satisfaction survey report is due to be published later this year; copies will be placed in the Library on publication.

A customer satisfaction survey for the Pension Service's International Pension Centre was conducted last year. It is due for publication later this year; copies will be placed in the Library on publication. The Pension Service is now in the final stages of conducting its latest survey and the results will be published in July 2008.

The Child Support Agency conducted a client satisfaction survey last year. The results are due to be published later this year; copies will be placed in the Library on publication.

A copy of the Disability and Carers Service Customer Service Survey 2006-07 has been placed in the Library.

1. *[Official Report, 31 January 2008, Vol. 471, c. 3MC.]*

Employment Schemes: Lone Parents

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the starting date for the implementation of the £60-per-week added support for lone parents to obtain and keep employment is for each Jobcentre Plus office branch in London. [177076]

Caroline Flint: In work credit has already been introduced in all Jobcentre Plus London districts except the North East London district. The amount of credit was increased in London from £40 to £60 per week in July 2007.

The £60 per week in work credit will be introduced in the North East London district from 28 January 2008, and implemented in all remaining Jobcentre Plus offices at the national rate of £40, from 7 April 2008.

Fireworks: Safety

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance the Health and Safety Executive has given to local authorities on municipal *(a)* bonfires and *(b)* firework displays. [176258]

Mrs. McGuire: While not aimed solely at local authorities, the Health and Safety Executive's "Working together on firework displays" publication is relevant to anyone organising a firework display and to display operators. It was developed in association with stakeholders and includes practical guidance on safety arrangements for bonfires, as well as fireworks. A copy of the publication has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

HSE has also promoted straightforward fireworks guidance on its website. The site urges people not to over-react to the risks but instead to adopt simple, sensible precautions. The pages can be accessed at:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/explosives/fireworks

Housing Benefit

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in receipt of housing benefit in each local authority in the UK who do not have access to a bank account. [180616]

Mr. Plaskitt: DWP has made no such estimate.

A person's access to a bank account is not pertinent information for a housing benefit claim. Consequently, it is not recorded in the Department for Work and Pensions administrative data.

Housing Benefit: North East Region

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average level of housing benefit was for tenants of *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* registered social landlords and *(c)* private sector landlords in (i) North East and (ii) North Lincolnshire in each of the last five years. [179718]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the following table.

Average weekly amount of housing benefit by tenure type, in North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire, as at February each year

	North East Lincolnshire	North Lincolnshire
Local authority tenants		
2003	38.99	37.74
2004	39.67	37.93
2005	41.39	39.64
2006	—	41.85
2007	—	44.00
Private sector tenants (excluding RSL)		
2003	65.42	52.36
2004	56.37	52.55
2005	58.41	53.81
2006	65.72	53.29
2007	66.91	53.80
Registered social landlord (RSL) tenants		
2003	58.65	63.94
2004	57.39	55.65
2005	54.55	58.90
2006	47.32	60.79
2007	51.04	63.60

'—' Denotes suppressed amount as case loads are below 10.

Notes:

1. The average amounts have been rounded to the nearest penny.
2. The data refer to benefit units which may be a single person or a couple.
3. Figures exclude extended payments.
4. NE Lincolnshire transferred its housing stock to an RSL on 21 March 2005.

Source:

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. taken in February 2003 to February 2007.

Jobcentre Plus: Data Protection

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what data sharing protocols are in place for Jobcentre Plus negotiations with *(a)* customer advocates and *(b)* intermediary organisations. [173275]

Caroline Flint: The Department has guidance for all staff on disclosing information to advocates and intermediaries. We have a duty to ensure that information is not improperly disclosed, but this must not interfere with the customers' right to use and advocate or intermediary to help them conduct their business.

This guidance also applies to staff in all the Department's Agencies, including Jobcentre Plus.

For customers with communication difficulties or disabilities, for example, the involvement of an advocate or intermediary not only helps them to access our services, but also helps us to obtain the information we need.

The guidance covers the steps to be taken when deciding whether to disclose information about a specific customer. When contact is made by telephone or in person, and it can be established, using judgment based

on the information that the caller already holds about the customers business, and the type of questions they ask, that the caller is an advocate or intermediary who is clearly acting on behalf of the customer, then the customer's consent can be considered implicit. If our staff have any doubt about the bona fides of the caller, they must ask for written authority from the customer before disclosing any information. Where requests for information are made in writing, a written authority from the customer is required.

Staff are told never to disclose information that the customer's advocate would reasonably be expected to know, such as addresses, dates of birth, phone numbers, names of household members and bank account details.

The full guidance can be accessed on the Department's website at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/advisers/repsguide.pdf

Jobseeker's Allowance: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals in Peterborough constituency had been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in excess of 12 months as at 31 December 2007; and if he will make a statement. [178093]

Mr. Plaskitt: As at December 2007 there were 250 people in the Peterborough parliamentary constituency with a jobseeker's allowance claim of over 12 months duration.

Labour Party: Elections

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he *(a)* informed the Permanent Secretary in the relevant Department of the donations he received as part of his campaign for the Deputy Leadership of the Labour Party and *(b)* registered them with the Cabinet Office in accordance with the Ministerial Code. [179966]

Mr. Hain *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* In accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Code, a list of Ministers' relevant interests declared to their Permanent Secretary will be published in due course.

Low Incomes: Scotland

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of households in Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk whose income is below 60 per cent. of median UK household income; and if he will make a statement. [178084]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not available below the level of Government Office Region.

Our child poverty statistics, published in the Households Below Average Income series, allow a breakdown of child poverty by Government Office Region.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will reply to the letter of 26 November 2007 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mr. R.R. Hart. [179262]

Mr. Plaskitt: I can confirm that a response to this letter was issued to the right hon. Friend on 14 January 2008.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will reply to the letter of 3 December 2007 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mr. A. Khashan. [179331]

Mr. Plaskitt: I can confirm that a response to this letter was issued to my right hon. Friend on 16 January 2008.

National Insurance: Foreigners

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new national insurance registrations *(a)* of non-UK citizens and *(b)* of people from each of the 10 countries from which the greatest number of registrations were received there were in the city of Sheffield in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06 and (iii) 2006-07. [168761]

Caroline Flint: The information is not available prior to 2005-06. The available information is in the following tables.

National insurance number registrations in respect of non-UK nationals in Sheffield local authority

Year of registration	*Number of registrations*
2005-06	4,400
2006-07	5,130

National insurance number registrations in respect of non-UK nationals in Sheffield local authority

Country of origin	*Number of registrations*
2005-06	
Poland	600
Slovak Rep	440
India	390
Pakistan	300
China Peoples Rep	230
Malaysia	190
Rep of Lithuania	120
Iran	120
Eritrea	120
Zimbabwe	110
2006-07	
Poland	1,110
India	590
Slovak Rep	470
Pakistan	360
China Peoples Rep	230

National insurance number registrations in respect of non-UK nationals in Sheffield local authority

Country of origin	Number of registrations
Malaysia	160
Nigeria	110
France	90
Czech Rep	90
Zimbabwe	90

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Numbers are based on 100 per cent. data from the national insurance recording system (NIRS).
4. Local authority is assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.
5. Local authority counts are based on the most recently recorded address of the NINO recipient.

Source:
100 per cent. sample at 17 June 2006 and 14 May 2007 from the national insurance recording system (NIRS).

New Deal for Young People: Cleethorpes

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the destination was upon leaving of individuals who participated in the new deal for young people in Cleethorpes constituency. [179717]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is in the following tables.

Immediate destination of individuals on leaving the NDYP in Cleethorpes parliamentary constituency[1]

	Number	Percentage
Sustained employment	1,100	51.4
Employment and benefits	60	2.8
Benefits		
Jobseeker's allowance	120	5.6
Income support	60	2.8
Incapacity benefit	30	1.4
Income support and incapacity benefit	150	7.0
Other	50	2.3
Other known	130	6.1
Off benefits/unknown	430	20.1

[1] Cumulative data to May 2007

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Percentages are of total leavers (2,140)
3. Immediate destination is measured within two weeks of leaving new deal, using information from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS).
4. People recorded as leaving to employment and benefits have evidence of both employment and have an active benefit.
5. 'Benefits—Other' includes all benefits which have not been included individually in the table, eg pension credit.
6. 'Other known' includes people going back into education and people moving abroad.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

Leavers to sustained employment: Immediate destination of individuals on leaving the NDYP in Cleethorpes parliamentary constituency[1]

	Number/percentage
Total of individuals leaving NDYP in Cleethorpes	2,140
Total of individuals leaving NDYP in Cleethorpes with a known destination	1,710
Total of individuals leaving NDYP in Cleethorpes into sustained employment	1,100
Individuals leaving NDYP in Cleethorpes into sustained employment as a percentage of those individuals leaving NDYP in Cleethorpes with a known destination	64.3

[1] Cumulative data to May 2007.

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Percentages are of total leavers (2,140)
3. Immediate destination is measured within two weeks of leaving new deal, using information from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS). People recorded as leaving to employment and benefits have evidence of both employment and have an active benefit.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

New Deal for Young People: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of individuals participating in the new deal for young people in Peterborough constituency were referred to the employment option after the conclusion of the gateway period. [178428]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 15 January 2008]:* All participants in the employment option of new deal for young people have to go through the Gateway.

The information requested is in the following table.

Number of individuals currently participating in new deal for young people in Peterborough parliamentary constituency (May 2007)

Stage of participation at the end of the month	Number participating	Percentage of all participants
Gateway	170	65.4
Options		
Employment	30	11.5
Full Time Education and Training	20	7.7
Voluntary Sector Environment Task Force	40	15.4
Follow through	260	100
Total		

Notes:
1. '—' = nil or negligible;
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Stage of participation at the end of the month: People participating in Gateway includes those awaiting their first Gateway interview. The Employment option can be accessed at any stage of the new deal programme.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

Occupational Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of the working age population that belonged to an employer-sponsored defined benefit pension scheme in *(a)* the public sector and *(b)* the private sector in each year since 1997. [167759]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is presented in the following table:

Estimates of the percentage of the working-age population who belong to an employer-sponsored defined benefit pension scheme in the public sector and private sector by year

	Defined benefit scheme		
	Public	*Private*	*Total*
1991	12	16	28
1995	12	14	26
2000	12	12	25
2004	13	10	23
2006	14	9	23

Notes:
1. Pension scheme membership figures were taken from the Occupational Pension Scheme Survey. Data for years 1991, 1995, 2000 and 2004 were produced by the Government Actuary's Department (GAD). Data for 2006 were produced by the Office for National Statistics. 2006 is the latest year published. The coverage of the survey is the UK.
2. Population figures were taken from Table 1 of the mid-year Population Estimates produced by the Office for National Statistics. 2006 is the latest year published.
3. The working age population is defined as males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59.
4. To be eligible for membership of an occupational pension scheme, including defined benefit schemes, a person must be an employee working for an employer offering such a scheme.
5. Results may not sum to totals shown due to rounding.

Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of successful pension tranches *(a)* conducted in each of the last 10 years and *(b)* that will be conducted in 2008. [174805]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is in the following table.

Successful Pension Traces: 2005-08

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Totals	30,458	40,160	43,036 (to end of November 2007)

Notes:
1. Figures before April 2005 are not available as prior to this the Pension Tracing Service was carried out by the Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority (OPRA).
2. The Pension Service is on course to achieve the PSA target of 60,000 successful traces during 2007-08.

Data source:
Pension Tracing System

Personal Income

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of families have an annual income of less than *(a)* £60,005 and *(b)* £25,000, broken down by constituency. [178436]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not available below the level of Government office region.

Social Security Benefits: Employment

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on training Jobcentre Plus personal advisers to carry out the Better Off Calculations; how many hours of training are required before a personal adviser may carry out a Better Off Calculation; how many personal advisers have been so trained; and if he will make a statement. [178295]

Caroline Flint: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 23 January 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how much the Department has spent on training Jobcentre Plus personal advisers to carry out the Better Off Calculations; how many hours of training are required before a personal adviser may carry out a Better Off Calculation and how many personal advisers have been so trained. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Information about the amount spent on training Personal Advisers to carry out Better Off Calculations or about the number of Personal Advisers who have been so trained is not routinely collected and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Specific training on completing Better Off Calculations is presented in a nine-hour facilitated training event and forms part of an extensive range of learning to equip Personal Advisers to use the Better Off Calculator effectively.

All Personal Advisers undertake comprehensive training that includes, for example, skills for gaining customer commitment, helping customers into work, advising about benefits and tax credits, and dealing with tax credits within a better off calculation.

I hope this is helpful.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the smallest sum of money lost by his Department through fraud in respect of which a prosecution was mounted in each of the last five years. [180979]

Mr. Plaskitt: This information is not centrally collated and would be available only at disproportionate cost.

For overpayments under £2,000, cautions or administrative penalties are generally issued.

Social Security Benefits: Islington

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the take-up rate was for claimants in Islington North constituency of the newly returned to work benefit in the last 12 months. [176882]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* From November 2006 to October 2007, the latest period for which data are held, 80 people in Islington North constituency began a claim for in work credit.

State Retirement Pensions: Females

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many divorced women over state pension age were receiving *(a)* a basic state pension at the full rate, *(b)* a partial basic state pension and *(c)* no basic state pension in the latest period for which figures are available. [175577]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 7 January 2008]*: Information on the numbers of divorced women in receipt of state pension is not available. It is not required for payment of benefit on the Pension Service computer system and is often not completed on forms that collect the data.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children in Care: Teenage Pregnancy

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many looked after girls under the age of *(a)* 16 and *(b)* 18 years gave birth in 2007; [179404]

(2) how many mothers aged 16 to 19 years were not in education, employment or training in the most recent period for which figures are available. [179410]

Kevin Brennan: There were 360 children looked after aged 12 to 18 years and over who were mothers at 31 March 2007. Of these:

(a) 20 gave birth to their first child aged under 16 years

(b) 60 gave birth to their first child aged under 18 years

However 130 mothers looked after at 31 March did not report the date of birth of their first child and some could have been born in 2007. Note that figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

The proportion of young mothers aged 16 to 19 years who are in education, employment or training (EET) is very low compared with 16 to 19 years old as a whole. The Teenage Pregnancy Strategy consequently includes a target to increase the proportion in EET to 60 per cent. by 2010. 23 per cent. of teenage mothers were in EET for the period 1997-99. This rose to 32 per cent. for the period 2005-07.

Children: Autism

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has for specialist schools for children with autism. [180092]

Kevin Brennan: The Government recognise the important and continuing role special schools for children with autism play in making provision for this cohort of children. Decisions on whether to open schools for children with autism are taken by local authorities and voluntary and independent organisations. The "Good Practice Guidance" on autistic spectrum disorders, which the Department published in 2002, and the guidance on "Planning and Developing Special Educational Provision" (2007) both recommend to local authorities that there should be a range of provision to meet the range of children's needs, including special schools which provide for children with a particular type of special educational need.

Children: Health Services

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families where the Nurse Family partnership pilots are taking place; which programmes of this type Ministers have visited in the US; when the pilots will start and when they are planned to end; what estimate he has made of the cost of the pilots; when the *(a)* first and *(b)* final evaluation of the pilots will be made; how longer term outcomes from the pilot will be assessed; how many families he estimates will be involved in the pilots; and what additional training and recruitment of health visitors is taking place as part of the pilots. [177197]

Beverley Hughes: We are piloting the Family Nurse Partnership (called "Nurse-Family Partnership" in the US) on 10 sites in England—Barnsley, Derby City, County Durham and Darlington, Manchester, Slough, Somerset, Southend, Southwark, Tower Hamlets and Walsall.

From 4 to 11 December 2006, the then Cabinet Office Ministers, Hilary Armstrong MP and Pat McFadden MP, visited the Prevention Research Centre, Denver, Colorado, to learn about the Nurse-Family Partnership and similar initiatives.

The 10 Family Nurse Partnership Pilot sites began operating from March 2007 and will run as Pilot sites until 31 March 2009.

A budget of £7 million was allocated across 2006-07 and 2007-08 to support and deliver the pilot project. From this sum, direct allocations to sites totalled £248,395 in 2006-07 and £3,171,342 in 2007-08.

An interim evaluation report of the Pilot Project's first year will be published this spring. The final evaluation report of the Pilot is expected to be available in spring 2009, although evaluation of the second year of the pilot has not yet been commissioned.

From 2008-09 to 2010-11 the Government will be implementing a research study to assess longer term impacts of the pilot programme.

The 10 pilot sites were required to recruit a total of 1,025 families within the first eight months of operation. Over the two years of the Pilot Project a larger number of families are likely to receive services for all or part of the pilot period, as some families leave and new ones are recruited in their place. Therefore, it is not possible to estimate the total number of families who will be involved in the Pilot Project.

Practitioners delivering the programme are trained in use of the Family Nurse Partnership materials and the theory of the intervention. In addition, they are being provided with training in developing therapeutic relationships and motivational interviewing. The total number of practitioners delivering the Family Nurse Partnership (family nurses and supervisors) is 57. There has been no additional recruitment of health visitors to support delivery of the Pilot Project.

Children: Performing Arts

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what rights of appeal an individual has against a refusal to grant a licence under the Children (Performances) Regulations 1968;

when these regulations were last reviewed; and what plans he has to review the regulations. [181188]

Beverley Hughes: There is a right of appeal under section 39(6) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1963 to a magistrates court against the refusal to grant a performance licence. Some limited reviews took place in the late 1990s which resulted in the passing of amending regulations in 1998 and 2000. There are no immediate plans to review or amend these regulations further, but the Government do plan to make available clear guidance on these issues and on the regulation of child employment more generally, in the course of this year.

Children: Poverty

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his responsibilities are in relation to the Joint Child Poverty Unit; and what arrangements are in place for liaison with other Departments on the work of the Unit. [178425]

Beverley Hughes: The Child Poverty Unit brings together officials from both the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Children, Schools and Families. It will report to Ministers in both Departments and to a child poverty board comprised of senior officials from across Whitehall. At ministerial level, this board will report to the Cabinet Committee on Domestic Affairs (Families, Children and Young People).

The Unit will play a lead co-ordinating role, as the Government pursue their multi faceted child poverty strategy which includes transport, health and regeneration as well as employment, skills and the tax and benefit system, on the way towards making our ambitious but vital goal of eradicating child poverty by 2020 a reality.

The Unit works closely with the Treasury, who are the lead Department for the 2010 child poverty target delivery agreement, with officials from the Unit and Treasury in regular dialogue.

The Unit is also currently setting up working groups with officials across a number of Government Departments and local government offices.

Children's Centres

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Sure Start children's centres are open; and how many he expects to be open by *(a)* 31 January, *(b)* 29 February, *(c)* 31 March, *(d)* 30 April, *(e)* 31 May and *(f)* 30 June 2008. [180886]

Beverley Hughes: There are 1,934 operational children's centres as of 18 January. Local authorities are responsible for the provision of Sure Start children's centres in their areas. Local authorities are currently reporting to the Department's delivery partner, Together for Children, on their estimated dates for designation of further children's centres during 2008. TfC's own estimate, based on their work with local authorities, is that 2,500 centres will be open by 31March.

Phase 3 of the Sure Start children's centres programme begins in April 2008 and ends in 2010. Some of these centres will not involve major capital work and have much shorter lead times. Local authorities have not yet been asked to report their estimates for the total number of centres to be open by the end of April, May and June.

Christmas

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* postage of Christmas cards in 2007. [176907]

Kevin Brennan: The Department spent £2,653 on Christmas cards, and £307.52 on postage.

Dyslexia: Screening

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) whether his Department has any plans to provide dyslexia screening for all school children; [180074]

(2) whether his Department has assessed *(a)* the cost and *(b)* the merits of providing dyslexia screening for all school children. [180058]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* All local authorities, schools, and early years settings must have regard to the special educational needs code of practice which provides advice on carrying out statutory duties to identify, assess and make provision for pupils' special educational needs. Children with dyslexia should have their needs identified and support put in place in the same way as children with any other type of special educational need (SEN).

To identify and disseminate best practice in improving outcomes for children with dyslexia, we are working with the British Dyslexia Association, Dyslexia Action, Xtraordinary People and the Professional Association of Teachers of Students with Specific Learning Difficulties on the "No to Failure" Project. This project is supporting schools in three local authority areas to be "trailblazers", where children are being screened for dyslexia and individual specialist tuition is provided to those who are identified as having dyslexia. The impact of this approach on outcomes is being evaluated. The project is also evaluating the cost and the impact of providing specialist dyslexia training for teachers, developing examples of good practice which can be extended nationally, and raising awareness of dyslexia as a learning difficulty. We are providing up to £900,000 funding over three years to support this project.

As set out in the Children's Plan (cm 7280), we will develop a pilot which will evaluate the impact of additional intensive reading tuition for children identified as needing this through the 'Every Child a Reader' programme. If specialist provision demonstrates significant impact, we will look at how assessment and specialist dyslexia support could be rolled out nationwide as best practice.

Education: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) for what reasons the 2004 Public Service Agreement Target 1 on children's social and emotional development was revised in light of the 2005 Foundation Stage Profile Results; and what the revised target is; [176989]

(2) for what reasons the 2004 Public Service Agreement Target 2 on the use of formal childcare in low income families was revised; and what the revised target is. [176990]

Beverley Hughes: The technical notes that accompanied the 2004 PSA White Paper and the 2005 DFES autumn performance report, which set out the Department's progress towards its public service agreement targets, made clear that the levels for targets 1 and 2 were provisional. The 2005 report stated that the final target levels for PSA 1 would be confirmed when the 2005 results were available and the level for PSA 2 would be confirmed in spring 2006.

Progress on PSA1 is measured through Foundation Stage Profile results which was introduced in academic year 2002-03 and was expected to take a number of years to bed in. The provisional PSA1 target was for 50 per cent. of children reaching a good level of development by age five; and no level was set for the inequalities element of the target. The decision to use 2005 results to set the baseline was to allow time for teachers to develop experience in carrying out the observational assessment and for moderation arrangements to be developed. The final target levels for PSA1 were set in April 2006 as 53 per cent. of all children reaching a good level of development and the gap between children living in the 30 per cent. most disadvantaged areas and the rest closing by four percentage points from 16 per cent. to 12 per cent.

The provisional PSA 2 target, used the DWP Family Resource Survey (FRS) as a baseline, and stated that

"by 2008, increase the take up of formal childcare by lower income working families by [50 per cent. provisional, to be confirmed in spring 2006]."

This equated to an increase in take up by some 86,000 families. Changes to the FRS survey in 2005-6 meant it was not possible to establish a satisfactory baseline and trajectory using that measure. In November 2006, the target was finalised using the then Department for Education and Skills (DFES) survey of parents' use of childcare series 2005 to 2008 to set the baseline and measure progress. The finalised target being

"by 2008, to increase the number of children in lower income working families using formal childcare by 120,000."

Free School Meals: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the take-up of free school meals in *(a)* Portsmouth, *(b)* Southampton and *(c)* Hampshire local education authorities was in each of the last five years; what the estimated number of children eligible was in each year; and what steps he is taking to increase the take-up. [179746]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested is given in the following tables:

Take-up of free school meals in Portsmouth, Southampton and Hampshire local authorities 2003 to 2007 at January each year—table A: maintained nursery and primary schools

	Number on roll	Pupils taking free school meals	Percentage taking free school meals	Number known to be eligible for free meals	Percentage known to be eligible for free meals
2003					
Portsmouth	15,200	2,100	13.9	2,600	16.8
Southampton	17,200	3,000	17.7	3,700	21.7
Hampshire	101,000	7,100	7.0	8,700	8.6
2004					
Portsmouth	14,800	2,200	14.9	2,800	18.6
Southampton	16,600	3,000	18.1	3,700	22.0
Hampshire	99,900	7,400	7.4	9,200	9.2
2005					
Portsmouth	14,500	2,000	13.5	2,600	17.9
Southampton	16,400	2,700	16.4	3,600	22.2
Hampshire	98,500	6,900	7.0	8,800	8.9
2006					
Portsmouth	14,200	1,800	12.5	2,300	16.2
Southampton	16,100	2,700	17.0	3,400	21.3
Hampshire	97,400	6,500	6.7	8,300	8.6
2007					
Portsmouth	13,900	1,700	12.2	2,200	15.7
Southampton	16,100	2,500	15.8	3,400	20.9
Hampshire	96,300	6,000	6.3	8,200	8.6

Table B: maintained secondary schools

	Number on roll	Pupils taking free school meals	Percentage taking free school meals	Number known to be eligible for free meals	Percentage known to be eligible for free meals
2003					
Portsmouth	10,200	1,000	10.0	1,500	14.9
Southampton	12,200	1,500	12.0	2,000	16.6
Hampshire	72,600	3,200	4.3	4,600	6.3
2004					
Portsmouth	10,200	1,100	10.7	1,500	15.1
Southampton	12,300	1,600	12.7	2,100	17.1
Hampshire	72,600	3,500	4.8	4,900	6.7
2005					
Portsmouth	9,900	1,000	10.2	1,500	15.3
Southampton	12,000	1,300	10.8	2,000	17.0
Hampshire	72,600	3,300	4.6	4,900	6.8
2006					
Portsmouth	9,900	900	9.4	1,500	15.2
Southampton	11,500	1,300	11.6	2,000	17.0
Hampshire	72,700	3,500	4.9	4,800	6.6
2007					
Portsmouth	9,800	800	8.4	1,400	14.7

Table B: maintained secondary schools

	Number on roll	*Pupils taking free school meals*	*Percentage taking free school meals*	*Number known to be eligible for free meals*	*Percentage known to be eligible for free meals*
Southampton	11,300	1,300	11.5	1,800	16.3
Hampshire	71,900	3,200	4.5	4,600	6.4

Source:
School Census 2003-07

Both tables include middle schools as deemed and dually registered and boarding pupils. Totals are rounded to the nearest 100. Figures for 2007, and accompanying notes, were published as part of the Statistical First Release: Schools and Pupils in England: January 2007, which can be found at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000744/index.shtml

Increasing take-up of school lunches is a priority for this Department and for the School Food Trust (SFT). The SFT has a target to increase take-up of school lunches, from a 2005-06 baseline, by 4 percentage points by March 2008 and by 10 percentage points by autumn 2009. In addition, school lunch take-up is now an indicator in both the Local Government National Indicator Set, from which local authorities and their partners will agree their own targets in Local Area Agreements; and Public Service Agreement 12 'Improve the health and well-being of children and young people' of the 2007 comprehensive spending review.

Nursery Schools: Teesside

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children in *(a)* Teesside and *(b)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency are in receipt of 15 hour entitlement to free nursery care; [179617]

(2) what estimates he has made of the number of children in *(a)* Teesside and *(b)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency who will be affected by the funding allocated to improve nursery schools in the region. [179618]

Beverley Hughes: All three and four-year-olds in England are able to access 12½ hours a week of free early education for 38 weeks of the year. The available information on the number of part-time funded places filled by three and four-year-olds in *(a)* Teesside and *(b)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency is shown in the following table.

Local authority area	*Three-year-olds*	*Four-year-olds*
Middlesbrough	1,700	1,600
Redcar and Cleveland	1,500	1,500
Stockton-on-Tees	2,000	2,100
Teesside	6,200	6,200
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland parliamentary constituency area	1,000	930

From 2010, all children will be entitled to 15 hours a week of free early years provision for 38 weeks of the year and access will be more flexible. The extension will be rolled out across the country over the next three years. Middlesbrough is a pathfinder local authority and will begin delivering 15 hours a week from September 2008. Nationally, we expect 25 per cent. of children in all local authorities to be able to access 15 hours in 2009 with the remainder being eligible in 2010.

In addition to revenue funding to support roll out of the extended free entitlement, £642 million capital funding has been made available nationally over the period 2008-11 to improve quality in early years settings and to ensure that all children, including disabled children, are able to access provision. £378,220,601 child care sufficiency and access revenue funding has also been made available over the same period to ensure that local authorities can fulfil their duties to secure sufficient child care for parents in work and training and to provide information and advice to parents and providers; and to increase take-up of child care and early education, especially among disadvantaged groups. It is for local authorities to determine how this funding is allocated based on local needs and circumstances.

Pupil Exclusions: Appeals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what advice he has sought on whether decisions to exclude children from school may be challenged in the courts; and if he will make a statement. [179957]

Kevin Brennan: It has long been the case that any of the decision making parties in an exclusion (head teacher, governing body and, for permanent exclusions, an independent appeal panel) can have their decision challenged by parents by application to the High Court for a judicial review. An application for judicial review would not normally be granted until all other avenues for appeal had been exhausted.

Pupils: Disabled

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in respect of which *(a)* disabilities and *(b)* diseases his Department has issued guidance to local authorities on best practice in management of pupils. [179500]

Kevin Brennan: A list of guidance relating to disabilities and diseases that the Department has produced is available at http://www.teachernet.gov.uk

The main guidance for local authorities on pupils with disabilities relates to fulfilling their statutory duties. The "Special Educational Needs Code of Practice" provides practical advice to local authorities, maintained schools, early education settings and others on carrying out their statutory duties to identify, assess and make provision for children's special educational needs. The resource "Implementing the Disability Discrimination Act in schools and early years settings" was sent to every local authority and provides them with practical tools to improve their effectiveness in making reasonable adjustments to include disabled pupils and in reviewing and revising their accessibility plans. The resource includes a section to help schools develop their disability equality scheme.

Relating to diseases, joint non-statutory guidance with the Department of Health "Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Year Settings" explains what schools can do to help children with medical conditions; with the Council for Disabled Children "Including me: managing complex health needs in schools and early years settings" contains practical examples and case studies on supporting these children to maintain their health and access the curriculum and the positive difference it makes to their lives; with the Health Protection Agency, guidelines on minimising the risk from infection to children and staff and most recently "Planning for a human influenza pandemic".

School Meals: Finance

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what representations he has received from local authorities on Government funding for infrastructure to support the provision of hot school meals; and if he will make a statement; [179300]

(2) what funding his Department will provide for each local authority to meet targets for provision of hot school meals. [179301]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 15 January 2008]:* We have received representations from a wide range of authorities about funding for the infrastructure to support the provision of hot school meals.

Capital funding for schools this year is £6.4 billion, rising to over £8 billion by 2010-11. Nearly all of this money is available for use to install or improve kitchen and dining areas in schools where this is the local priority. In addition, we are making available to local authorities £150 million of targeted capital funding between 2008 and 2011, to support the installation of new kitchens in schools where currently there are none, and where there is exceptional need.

Providing a hot meal does not require every school to have a kitchen. There are several ways of reheating food on school premises, such as using microwave ovens; or schools may use a centralised preparation and delivery service. The Government have invested £220 million between 2005-06 to 2007-08 to assist authorities and schools in improving school food and providing a hot school meal.

Further funding of £240 million over the three years 2008-09 to 2010-11 will also be available to local authorities and schools to help them manage the direct costs of providing a school lunch.

Schools: Newcastle Upon Tyne

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children aged 11 to 16 years there were in local education authority maintained schools in the city of Newcastle upon Tyne in each year since 1997. [180891]

Jim Knight: The requested information is given in the table and relates to the number of pupils aged 11 to 15 at the start of the academic year (some pupils will turn 16 throughout the year).

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools, pupil referral units[1,2]: Number (headcount) of pupils aged 11 to 15—as at January each year: 1997 to 2007—Newcastle upon Tyne local authority

	Pupils aged 11 to 15[3,4]			
	Maintained primary and secondary schools	Maintained special schools	Pupil referral units[5]	Total maintained schools
1997	13,692	359	48	14,099
1998	13,779	327	58	14,164
1999	14,005	317	56	14,378
2000	14,111	251	94	14,456
2001	14,126	254	53	14,433
2002	14,176	254	53	14,483
2003	14,232	251	67	14,550
2004	13,918	246	106	14,270
2005	13,867	248	91	14,206
2006	13,822	253	98	14,173
2007	13,473	253	142	13,868

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[3] Includes only those pupils aged 11 to 15. Age is taken from the start of the academic year.
[4] Age of pupil as at 31 August each year.
[5] Also included pupils with other providers.

Secondary Education: Sports

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of secondary school pupils played four or more hours of school sport per week in the latest period for which figures are available; [178941]

(2) what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils played some form of competitive inter-school sport in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; [178942]

(3) what the average time spent playing school sport by secondary school pupils was in each of the last five years, broken down by Government region. [178561]

Kevin Brennan: The annual PE and School Sport Survey was introduced in 2003/04 and collects data from schools in school sport partnerships relating to the percentage of pupils participating in at least two hours high quality PE and school sport in a typical week. The survey does not collect data relating to the proportion of pupils playing four or more hours of sport or the average time spent on PE and school sport.

The 2007 PE and School Sport Survey found that 86 per cent. of 5-16 year olds were participating in at least two hours high quality PE and school sport each week.

Over the last four years, the percentage of pupils in primary and secondary schools who took part in inter-school competition during the academic year is as follows:

	Percentage	
	Primary	Secondary
2003/04	35	32
2004/05	41	32
2005/06	46	32
2006/07	51	34
2006/07	[1]36	34

[1] Including Years 1-3, which was included in the survey in this year.

From this year, we will also be collecting data on the percentage of pupils participating in a further three hours per week of sporting activity.

Prior to 2003/04, no data on PE and school sport was collected.

Special Educational Needs

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to increase parental awareness of dyslexia and other special educational needs. [180072]

Kevin Brennan: Through the Education Act 1996, local authorities are required to arrange for the parent of any child with special educational needs in their area to be provided with advice and information about matters relating to those needs. The Special Educational Needs Code of Practice says that local authorities must make arrangements for parent partnership advice services, and it sets out minimum standards for these services. These minimum standards have been built upon through our guidance entitled "Parent Partnership Services - increasing parental confidence" which we published in December last year.

We fund the Council for Disabled Children to provide a National Parent Partnership Network, which supports parent partnership services with information, communication, training and development.

We are providing £64,000 this financial year, and £86,000 next financial year to enable the British Dyslexia Association to enhance their helpline's provision of information and advice for teachers and parents on best practice in identifying and supporting children with dyslexia.

Special Educational Needs: Kent

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received on the conduct of special needs investigations in *(a)* the Kent county council and *(b)* the Swale borough council areas; what guidance his Department has issued on the conduct of such investigations by local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [180456]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* The Department is not aware of any special needs investigations by Kent county council or the Swale borough council areas.

The Department is aware that Kent county council is undertaking a review of specialist provision and support for children with special educational needs in mainstream schools and has published consultation documents. The Education and Inspections Act 2006 provides that before publishing any proposals to make changes to local school organisation, proposers must consult all interested parties and in doing so must have regard to the Secretary of State's guidance. Guidance can be found on the Department's website at

www.dcsf.gov.uk/schoolorg

We understand that following a complaint, Kent county council has looked at the way consultation documents were sent to parents and other interested parties in the Swale area and that steps are being taken to ensure that copies are made available to all parents and others concerned.

Under the Education Act 1996 all local authorities should keep under review the arrangements made by them for special education provision. School organisation proposals are a matter for local determination and the Department for Children, Schools and Families has no role in the decision making process.

Sure Start Programme: Greater London

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was allocated to support the work of Sure Start in London in each year since inception, broken down by London constituency. [180600]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is not available by constituency. The amounts allocated to local authorities in London for Sure Start are shown in the table.

The amounts are for all Sure Start Children's Centres, including Sure Start Local Programmes, and include both revenue and capital. Data for years prior to 2003-04 is not readily available at local authority level.

The capital funding included for the 2003-08 period is for the wider Sure Start, early years and child care agenda. It is for authorities to decide how much to allocate to children's centres.

Capital funding for Sure Start Local programmes was not allocated to specific years and is therefore shown under the 'non year specific' heading in the table.

Sure Start children's centres allocations (revenue and capital) £

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Non year specific
City of London	0	0	0	143,695	205,638	0
Camden	3,515,999	5,032,556	5,249,206	6,908,564	7,864,073	5,335,699
Greenwich	3,082,275	5,958,168	6,146,133	7,770,627	8,774,260	3,735,804
Hackney	4,482,238	8,653,578	8,899,435	11,292,810	12,016,491	7,141,093
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,866,767	2,651,341	2,757,257	4,380,396	5,295,069	2,272,153
Islington	3,574,813	6,571,362	6,816,873	8,218,011	8,712,783	5,897,520
Kensington and Chelsea	1,267,000	1,950,981	1,970,328	2,983,146	3,553,335	1,776,721
Lambeth	3,792,759	7,576,234	7,782,699	10,186,071	11,459,087	4,151,380
Lewisham	3,287,622	6,183,562	6,368,766	8,861,044	10,133,921	3,196,646
Southwark	4,774,849	8,702,001	8,964,062	10,591,698	11,511,562	6,762,437

Sure Start children's centres allocations (revenue and capital): £

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Non year specific
Tower Hamlets	4,351,054	8,164,307	8,341,668	9,922,615	10,819,977	3,299,427
Wandsworth	1,333,200	1,877,290	2,026,699	5,096,228	7,069,865	2,190,676
Westminster	1,808,869	2,835,848	2,996,467	4,600,314	5,492,550	2,527,499
Barking and Dagenham	2,125,370	4,648,575	4,816,102	6,814,406	7,815,938	3,931,000
Barnet	481,505	846,740	957,740	4,510,116	7,083,859	800,000
Bexley	750,000	1,493,078	1,512,297	3,196,283	4,522,070	869,859
Brent	2,237,633	3,950,008	4,006,272	5,778,884	6,957,445	3,977,413
Bromley	691,390	1,103,613	1,121,330	3,932,335	6,085,018	1,075,000
Croydon	755,000	1,408,751	1,428,098	5,940,669	9,055,468	1,069,687
Ealing	1,534,194	3,055,072	3,093,617	6,217,609	8,314,283	2,150,000
Enfield	1,311,845	3,227,226	3,260,842	5,481,481	7,115,677	623,183
Haringey	3,397,961	6,356,228	6,567,685	8,493,589	9,667,008	5,495,244
Harrow	0	0	0	1,821,593	3,049,062	0
Havering	753,000	1,235,755	1,254,846	2,812,661	4,056,151	358,511
Hillingdon	761,221	989,057	927,922	3,801,144	5,957,258	1,178,583
Hounslow	744,600	1,316,927	1,336,007	4,574,088	6,448,632	1,074,454
Kingston Upon Thames	0	0	0	1,250,720	2,160,587	0
Merton	594,500	833,910	833,910	2,704,592	4,064,425	1,075,000
Newham	5,247,279	10,569,316	10,835,683	13,442,938	14,646,199	5,368,193
Redbridge	844,800	1,680,091	1,701,739	3,767,978	5,194,369	1,189,290
Richmond upon Thames	0	0	0	1,572,478	2,750,330	0
Sutton	503,225	1,071,284	1,196,284	2,758,736	3,959,637	111,000
Waltham Forest	2,388,450	5,398,257	5,567,012	7,403,546	8,860,991	3,660,203
Total	62,259,418	115,261,115	118,736,978	187,231,070	230,673,019	82,253,675

Truancy

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many unauthorised absences there were from schools in the last year for which records are available. [179823]

Kevin Brennan: The latest available information relates to autumn term 2006 and spring term 2007, for primary schools 4,361,430 half days were missed due to unauthorised absence, for all secondary schools (including city technology colleges and academies) 10,973,640 half days were missed due to unauthorised absence.

The latest available rates for pupil absence are shown in the table.

Maintained primary and secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies[1], pupil absence by type of school, autumn term 2006 and spring term 2007, England

	Number of day pupils of compulsory school age[2]	Number of pupil enrolments[3,4]	Percentage of half days missed[5]			
			Authorised absence	Unauthorised absence	Overall absence	Overall absence autumn term 2005 and spring term 2006[6]
Maintained Primary Schools	3,306,940	3,428,390	4.73	0.52	5.26	n/a
Secondary Schools[7]	2,954,940	3,016,240	6.30	1.48	7.78	8.16
Total	6,261,870	6,444,630	5.47	0.97	6.44	n/a

n/a = Not available.

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] The number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.

[3] Pupil numbers are as at January 2007. Includes pupils aged five to 15 with sole and dual (main) registration. Excludes boarders.

[4] Number of pupil enrolments in schools between 1 September 2006 and 9 April 2007. Includes pupils on the school roll for at least one session who are aged between five and 15, excluding boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they moved schools during the school year or are registered in more than one school).

[5] There were some 32,498 cases from primary schools, 17,238 cases from maintained secondary schools, CTS and academies for whom absence data were missing. These cases have been excluded from the total number of pupil enrolments.

[6] The overall absence rate, including both authorised and unauthorised absence for autumn term 2005 and spring term 2006.

[7] Includes maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies.

Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
School Census.

Young Offenders: Custodial Treatment

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of 16 year olds who had been in custody for more than one year was entered for GCSE examinations in each year since 2001; and what proportion of 16 year olds in custody gained five A* to Cs at GCSE in each of those years. [174267]

Beverley Hughes: Under the Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS), developed across England in August 2006, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) recently began collecting data on GCSE achievements of young people in young offender institutions. LSC data shows that young people under-18 in young offender institutions achieved the following GCSEs from 1 April 2007 to September 30 2007:

Mathematics, 18 GCSE's at grades A* to C, and 91 below grade C.

English, 29 GCSEs at grades A* to C and 56 below grade C.

Other subjects, 307 GCSEs at grades A* to C and 162 below grade C.

The figures cannot be broken down by length of time in custody.

The achievements of young people in custody who are still registered at learning providers in the community will be attributed to the learning provider with which they are registered, rather than the custodial establishment's LSC provider. The figures for GCSE achievements of young people in secure children's homes or secure training centres are not collected centrally. Data is not collected centrally on how many young people are entered for GCSEs.

Youth in Action

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what elements of the Youth in Action programme are operating in the UK. [181086]

Beverley Hughes: The Youth in Action programme was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council of 15 November 2006. In common with all member states of the European Union, the programme was fully implemented in the UK on 1 January 2007 to run until 31 December 2013.

Youth Justice Board: Public Appointments

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the reasons are for the length of time taken to appoint a new chair of the Youth Justice Board; and if he will make a statement. [180286]

Beverley Hughes: The Secretary of State for Justice and the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families issued a written ministerial statement on Tuesday 15 January 2008 announcing the appointment of Frances Done CBE as chair of the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales. The appointment will be for three years from 1 February 2008 to 1 February 2011.

HEALTH

Accidents: Cycling

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions in each primary care trust in Greater London there were of *(a)* cyclists and *(b)* cyclists under the age of (i) 11 and (ii) 16 years involved in a road accident in each year since 2000. [179345]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 15 January 2008]:* The information is not held in the format requested.

A table shows a count of finished admission episodes in each Primary Care Trust (PCT) of treatment in Greater London from 2000-01 to 2006-07 for cyclists injured in traffic accidents will be placed in the Library.

Please note that not all PCTs are recorded in the table. This is due to either the PCT not having any data, or the PCT not being recorded in an official count, and therefore being categorised as 'unknown'.

Alcoholic Drinks: Death

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people died as a result of alcohol-related illness within the Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust in 2007. [179625]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available in the format requested. However, the following tables show the male and female mortality rates per 100,000 population and the total number of deaths from alcohol specific and alcohol related conditions in 2005 for the three local authorities (LAs) of Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge.

	LA		
	Barking and Dagenham	*Havering*	*Redbridge*
Male mortality from alcohol specific conditions—directly standardised rate (DSR)* per 100,000 population	9.0442	6.4726	6.3169
Number of male deaths specifically due to alcohol	19	22	23
Female mortality from alcohol specific conditions—DSR per 100,000 population	3.8875	1.7104	1.4579
Number of female deaths specifically due to alcohol	8	7	5

Source:
Deaths from alcohol-specific conditions (all ages), directly standardised rate (DSR)* per 100,000 population, 2003-05. North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO) from Office for National Statistics mortality data and mid-year population estimates.

	LA		
	Barking and Dagenham	*Havering*	*Redbridge*
Male mortality from alcohol attributable conditions—DSR* per 100,000 population	42.3608	33.2077	42.1731

	LA		
	Barking and Dagenham	Havering	Redbridge
Number of male deaths attributable to alcohol	33	44	53
Female mortality from alcohol attributable conditions—DSR per 100,000 population	19.3319	19.2518	18.5277
Number of female deaths attributable to alcohol	25	44	37

Source:
Deaths from alcohol-attributable conditions (all ages), directly standardised rate (DSR)* per 100,000 population, 2005. (NWPHO from Office for National Statistics mortality data and mid-year population estimates).

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many alcohol related emergency admissions to Colchester General Hospital there were in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* sex. [180366]

Dawn Primarolo: Data is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the count of finished admission episodes (FAEs) for emergency admission by age at start of episode and gender for Essex Rivers National Health Service Trust, which operates from two sites, Colchester General and Essex County Hospitals.

		Under 18	18 and over	Unknown
2006-07	Female	21	226	—
	Male	22	421	1
2005-06	Female	16	209	—
	Male	14	454	3
2004-05	Female	11	128	—
	Male	13	306	3
2003-04	Female	13	93	—
	Male	10	272	1
2002-03	Female	7	70	—
	Male	10	237	—
2001-02	Female	*	86	—
	Male	*	166	1
2000-01	Female	*	81	—
	Male	6	158	—
1999-2000	Female	*	80	—
	Male	13	124	1
1998-99	Female	*	55	—
	Male	6	104	—

		Under 18	18 and over	Unknown
1997-98	Female	8	73	—
	Male	10	159	—

Notes:
Data Quality
HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts, and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data is also received from a number of Independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
FAEs
An FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
Admission method codes used
21 = Emergency: via Accident and Emergency (A&E) services, including the casualty department of the provider
22 = Emergency: via general practitioner (GP)
23 = Emergency: via Bed Bureau, including the Central Bureau
24 = Emergency: via consultant outpatient clinic
Assessing growth through time
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.
Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
Low Numbers
Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced with '*' (an asterisk).
All Diagnoses count of Mentions
These figures represent a count of all mentions of a diagnosis in any of the 14 diagnosis fields in the HES data set. Therefore, if a diagnosis is mentioned in more than one diagnosis field during an episode, all diagnoses are counted.
Diagnosis codes used
F10—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol
K70—Alcoholic liver disease
T51—Toxic effect of Alcohol
Ungrossed Data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Source
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

Alcoholic Drinks: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many alcohol related emergency admissions to hospitals in Tamworth constituency there were in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* sex. [179393]

Dawn Primarolo: The count of finished admission episodes for alcohol related emergency admissions to hospitals in the former Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth Primary Care Trust (PCT) area in each year since 1997-98 for which data are available, broken down by age and sex, is shown in the following table.

	Age				
	Under 18		Over 18		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Unknown
2006-07	8	12	95	175	—
2005-06	10	14	86	177	—
2004-05	*	9	90	159	—
2003-04	16	9	77	157	—
2002-03	11	7	69	113	*
2001-02	15	15	64	114	—
2000-01	9	7	55	122	—
1999-2000	13	6	73	162	*
1998-99	7	6	65	131	—
1997-98	15	11	74	145	—

Notes:
1. For reasons of confidentiality numbers between 1 and 5 have been suppressed and shown as "*"
2. Data quality
HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 national health service trusts, and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
3. Finished admission episodes (FAEs)
A FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
4. Admission method codes used:
21 = Emergency: via accident and emergency (A and E) services, including the casualty department of the provider
22 = Emergency: via general practitioner
23 = Emergency: via Bed Bureau, including the Central Bureau
24 = Emergency: via consultant out-patient clinic
28 = Emergency: other means, including patients who arrive via the A and E department of another healthcare provider
5. Assessing growth through time
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.
Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
6. All diagnoses count of mentions
These figures represent a count of all mentions of a diagnosis in any of the 14 diagnosis fields in the HES data set. Therefore, if a diagnosis is mentioned in more than one diagnosis field during an episode, all diagnoses are counted.
7. Diagnosis codes used:
F10 = Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol
K70 = Alcoholic liver disease
T51 = Toxic effect of Alcohol
8. Ungrossed data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (ie the data are ungrossed).
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the Information Centre for health and social care

Ambulance Services: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many ambulances have been in operation in each London borough in each year since 1997. [172373]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information requested is not held centrally.

However, we have been informed by the London Ambulance Service that there were a total of 410 ambulances and 11 response cars in the ambulance fleet in London in 1999, and 400 ambulances and 143 response cars in 2007. Information is only available for 1999 and 2007 and cannot be provided by individual London borough. These figures are for the total ambulance fleet and do not relate to the number of vehicles at any one time.

Antibiotics: Research

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many grants were awarded to UK universities for antibiotic-related research in each of the last five years. [179603]

Dawn Primarolo: In the five year period from 2002-03 to 2006-07 the Department's national research and development programmes funded some 21 awards to UK universities for antibiotic related research.

Implementation of the Department's research strategy Best Research for Best Health is resulting in an expansion of our research programmes and in significant new funding opportunities for health research. The Liverpool Biomedical Research Centre, formed last year, will for example undertake research on microbial diseases for which a five year centrally funded budget of some £11.7 million has been approved. The infection research themes being pursued by other biomedical research centres will also include research on antibiotics.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government supports medical and clinical research. The MRC is an independent body that receives its grant-in-aid from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

The MRC awarded 15 grants and fellowships to universities for antibiotic related research in the five years from 2002-03.

Barnet Primary Care Trust: Hearing Aids

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for a digital hearing aid in *(a)* Barnet Primary Care Trust and *(b)* at Edgware Hospital in the latest period for which figures are available; how many patients are waiting (i) for the fitting of an aid and (ii) for repairs; what steps are being taken to improve the service; and if he will make a statement. [179060]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information requested is not held centrally. The Department will collect referral-to-treatment data on direct access audiology—including the fitting of hearing aids—for the first time from April 2008.

The Department continues to work with the national health service to improve audiology services. A national audiology framework was published in March 2007, and the Department is working directly with the most challenged organisations.

Bridlington Hospital: Cleaning Services

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1309W, on Bridlington hospital cleaning services, when the deep clean of the hospital will be completed; and what the expected cost is. [180887]

Ann Keen: All trusts were required to submit and agree their deep clean plans with primary care trusts in their area by 14 December 2007 and this process has been monitored and assessed by strategic health authorities (SHAs). I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement given by the Secretary of State for Health, on 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 38-39WS. Further information on the implementation of the deep clean of the national health service is available from SHAs. All deep cleans will be complete by the end of March 2008.

Cancer

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what funding has been allocated for the National Cancer Survivorship Initiative for each of the next three years; [180505]

(2) what funding has been allocated for the National Survey of Awareness of Cancer for each of the next three years; [180506]

(3) what funding has been allocated for the National Cancer Equality Initiative for each of the next three years; [180510]

(4) what funding has been allocated for the National Cancer Intelligence Network for each of the next three years. [180511]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* The relevant Impact Assessment gives further details of the estimated costs and savings for the recommendations and initiatives announced in the Cancer Reform Strategy. A copy of the assessment has been placed in the Library. The total resources required to deliver the Strategy are being made available to the national health service through primacy care trust (PCT) allocations. General PCT allocations are not, however, broken down into specific budgets for individual initiatives.

These initiatives will also involve collaboration with many non-Departmental organisations and charities, in addition to the NHS, who provide an invaluable contribution over and above that funded through PCT allocations.

Chiropody: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the availability of NHS chiropody services for pensioners in Tamworth. [179498]

Dawn Primarolo: Information is not held centrally.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what items of his Department's *(a)* revenue and *(b)* expenditure are uprated using (i) the consumer prices index, (ii) the retail prices index and (iii) other measures of inflation. [179936]

Mr. Bradshaw: The levels of expenditure and income for the Department are set as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

For Business Planning purposes, the Department normally uses the relevant Gross Domestic Product Deflators as provided by HM Treasury to estimate the future pay bill. For non-pay costs and income, business managers are expected to use specialist/local knowledge and judgment to assess future costs and this may include reference to published indices on a case-by-case basis.

Departmental Assets

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to paragraph 10, page 59 of his Department's resource accounts for 2006-07, if he will break down the £836,000 his Department lost on the disposal of fixed assets by asset disposed of. [178282]

Mr. Bradshaw: The loss on the disposal of fixed assets of £826,000 can be analysed as follows:

write-off of fixtures and fittings of £157,000 following the vacation of Eileen House and Hannibal House as part of the rationalisation of the Department's London office accommodation; and

following a management review of balance sheet valuations, 26 different software development projects, six information technology (IT) hardware projects, and six minor IT purchases with a total value of £669,000 were written-off.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether any of his Department's special advisers also work for organisations outside his Department. [178479]

Mr. Bradshaw: Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the "Model Contract" and "Code of Conduct for Special Advisers", copies of which are available in the Library.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is on recycling. [174403]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has a policy to recycle as much of its waste as possible. In recent years our performance in this area has been substantially in excess of the Sustainable Development in Government, and Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate targets.

All our general waste is sent to a materials recycling facility, where it is segregated and sent for recycling. We also seek to reallocate or recycle as much of our redundant Information Technology kit and furniture as possible.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the participation rates of drug users in treatment programmes in Barnet are; what the performance of such programmes has been against targets in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [177979]

Mr. Bradshaw: Data taken from the national drug treatment monitoring system reports that 885 people from Barnet entered drug treatment in 2006-07. Barnet drug action team set a local delivery plan stretch target of 834 entering treatment in 2006-07, exceeding their target by 51.

Of the 885 people, 83 per cent. (734) successfully completed or were retained in treatment for 12 weeks or more, which exceeds Barnet's stretch target of 75 per cent.

A client will have been successfully treated if they have left a treatment plan drug free within 12 weeks, were referred onto aftercare e.g. supported housing; completed their own personal treatment plan within 12 weeks which would not necessarily mean drug free; as well as were retained in treatment for 12 weeks or over.

Drugs: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many illicit drug-related emergency admissions to hospitals in Tamworth constituency there were in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* sex. [179395]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not centrally collected.

Drugs: Young People

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people under the age of 18 years have been treated for a drug-related illness in each London primary care trust in each of the previous five years. [178923]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the number of people under the age of 18 treated for a drug-related illness in each London primary care trust in each of the previous five years, is not collected centrally.

Edgware Hospital

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to *(a)* expand and *(b)* improve services at Edgware Hospital as a consequence of the re-organisation of Barnet and Chase Farm Hospital NHS Trust; and if he will make a statement. [179011]

Mr. Bradshaw: The provision of services at Edgware Hospital is a matter for the local national health service.

However, we have been informed that Barnet Primary Care Trust (PCT) has recently developed a variety of services at Edgware Hospital which has helped to improve local access.

We have also been informed that the PCT will look to make further use of community hospital facilities in the light of the recent public consultation exercise on the future of acute services in Barnet, Enfield and Haringey.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made with changes to the Dennis Scott Unit at Edgware Hospital. [179070]

Mr. Bradshaw: The provision of services at Edgware hospital is a matter for the local national health service.

However, we have been informed that Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust started the current refurbishment programme of the Dennis Scott Unit at Edgware hospital in 2007, and plans to have the works completed by 2009.

Edgware Hospital: NHS Treatment Centres

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made with plans for independent treatment services at Edgware hospital; and if he will make a statement. [178063]

Mr. Bradshaw: In terms of the national Phase 2 independent sector treatment centre procurement, Edgware Community hospital is being considered as a potential site—among a number of other sites—for service delivery through the London North scheme. Discussions on the scheme, including potential sites for service delivery, continue between the Department and the local national health service.

General Practitioners: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioners *(a)* aged over 65 years and *(b)* aged over 70 years are in practice in Barnet; and if he will make a statement. [179020]

Mr. Bradshaw: The table shows the number of general practitioners aged over 60 years and 70 years in practice in Barnet.

All general medical practitioners (GMPs) (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] by specified age bands for selected area, as at 30 September 2006

549 *Barnet Primary Care Trust—2006*	*Number (headcount)*
All GMPs (excluding retainers and registrars)[1]	218
of which	
Over 65	9
Over 70	2

[1] GMPs (excluding retainers and registrars) includes GP providers and GP others.

Source

The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

General Practitioners: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were seen by GP services, excluding out of hours services in *(a)* Enfield and *(b)* Enfield North constituency in each of the last 10 years. [169690]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held centrally.

General Practitioners: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve access to GP services in Staffordshire. [179495]

Mr. Bradshaw: North Staffordshire primary care trust (PCT) and South Staffordshire PCT will both be receiving additional investment from the £250 million access fund announced by the Secretary of State (Alan Johnson) on 10 October 2007 to procure a new general practitioner-led health centre each. These health centres, open 8 am to 8 pm seven days a week, will offer flexible appointments, walk-in and other services for either registered or non-registered patients.

Stoke PCT has been identified as one of the 25 per cent. of PCTs with poorest provision. Therefore they will receive new investment for new general practitioner (GP) practices and a health centre from the access fund.

In addition, the North Staffordshire Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT) project, which covers the areas of North Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent PCTs, is helping to improve access to GP services in that part of Staffordshire by developing modern, purpose-built primary care premises situated where patients can easily reach them. To date, four primary care centres have been opened under this LIFT project and two more are currently under construction.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest number of patients registered with a GP in Staffordshire was in (i) 1997 and (ii) the most recent period for which figures are available. [179496]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested. This is because the general practitioner (GP) census collects the number of patients who are registered to a practice rather than a specific GP, therefore while it is possible to calculate an average GP list size, it is not possible to ascertain individual GP list sizes.

Data on GP numbers and registered patients has been set out in the following table.

Number (headcount)

	1997	*2006*
Total Staffordshire[1]		
Total practices	200	184
GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)[2]	519	604
Registered patients	1,037,719	1,067,590
Average GP list size	1,999	1,768
Average practice list size[3]	5,189	5,802
Largest practice list size[3]	25,439	19,130

[1] Data presented for organisations in existence in the specified years covering Staffordshire.
[2] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes GP providers and GP others. Data as at 1 October 1997, 30 September 2006.
[3] GP census collects the number of patients who are registered to a practice rather than a specific GP.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.

Health Inequalities

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what indicators his Department uses to measure health inequalities. [180440]

Dawn Primarolo: The headline measures of infant mortality and life expectancy at birth are used to measure progress on the health inequalities national public service agreement target.

The "difference in all age all cause mortality between the England average and the fifth of areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators" is also used as a proxy for the inequalities gap in life expectancy at birth.

In addition, the Department measures progress on 12 cross-government headline indicators for health inequalities, listed as follows:

death rates from the big killers—cancer and circulatory disease;
teenage conception rate;
road accident casualty rates in disadvantaged communities;
numbers of primary care professionals;
uptake of flu vaccinations;
smoking among manual groups and among pregnant women;
educational attainment;
consumption of fruit and vegetables;
proportion in non-decent housing;
physical education and school sport;
children in poverty; and
homeless families living in temporary accommodation.

Progress on the headline indicators is reported in the 'Tackling Health Inequalities: Status Report on the Programme for Action-2006 Update of Headline Indicators', a copy of the Report has been placed in the Library.

Health Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times each member of his ministerial team has visited *(a)* an ambulance service trust, *(b)* a pharmacy, *(c)* a hospital ward and *(d)* an optician service since appointment. [166381]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Secretary of State (Alan Johnson) and other Ministers visit the full range of health and social care services, not all of which are captured in the following table.

The following table sets out how many times the Secretary of State and his ministerial team have visited an ambulance services trust, a pharmacy, a hospital ward and an optician service. This covers the period 28 June to 20 November 2007.

Health Minister	*Ambulance trust*	*Pharmacy*	*Hospital ward*	*Optician*
Secretary of State	1	1	13	0
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Ann Keen)	0	1	7	1
Minister of State (Mr. Bradshaw)	1	2	13	0

Health Minister	Ambulance trust	Pharmacy	Hospital ward	Optician
Minister of State (Dawn Primarolo)	0	1	0	0
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Lord Darzi)	0	0	12	0
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Mr. Ivan Lewis)	0	0	2	0
Total	2	4	39	1

Health Services: Foreigners

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many foreign national patients were treated at *(a)* Barnet and Chase Farm, *(b)* Royal Free and *(c)* Northwick Park hospitals; how many such patients at each hospital were expected to pay for their treatment; how many have paid; how much has been paid in (i) each of the last two years and (ii) 2007-08 to date; and if he will make a statement. [179092]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information requested is not held centrally.

Anyone who is not ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom is considered an overseas visitor and is subject to the "National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989", as amended. These regulations place a responsibility on NHS hospitals to establish whether a person is ordinarily resident, or exempt from charges under one of a number of exemption categories, or liable for charges.

Health Services: Life Check Programme

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what services will be available to patients under his Department's life check programme; [178263]

(2) how much has been spent on his Department's life check programme; [178264]

(3) when he expects to make the life check programme available on a national basis; [178326]

(4) how many people have received check-ups under his Department's life check pilots; [178327]

(5) in which pilot areas the mid-life NHS life check will initially be introduced; [179118]

(6) what progress he has made in evaluating and developing the early years, adolescent and mid-life NHS life check. [179127]

Dawn Primarolo: The national health service LifeCheck programme is based on a commitment in the 'Our Health, Our Care, Our Say' White Paper and three LifeChecks for teenagers, early years and mid-life are currently under development.

Using a straightforward questionnaire approach, the LifeChecks will assess current lifestyle behaviour, provide information on what to change, how to change and assist users in setting behaviour change goals. The LifeChecks will provide information about local services and a way of sharing the results of the questionnaire with health professionals. They will initially be available through the NHS Choices website.

More than £2 million has been spent on the national health service LifeCheck programme so far. This was for staffing costs, research, development, web site hosting, piloting and evaluation.

During the successful piloting of the TeenLifeCheck more than 17,000 persons have taken part and TeenLifeCheck is currently being revised to take account of the findings. This is expected to be ready for national roll out in 2008.

The Early Years LifeCheck is currently being readied for a two-month pilot. Subject to the findings of the pilot, we would anticipate that the tool would be readied for national roll out in 2008.

Development plans for the new Mid-life LifeCheck are currently being assessed in order to complement the Prime Minister's vision for the NHS. This includes interfacing with and adding value to the new preventative health check-ups. Further plans will be announced in due course.

Health Trainers

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts *(a)* run a health trainers scheme and *(b)* plan to fund a scheme in 2008-09. [180684]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 21 January 2008]*: The following table provides information on the primary care trusts (PCTs) that run a Health Trainer Scheme.

PCT	Programme in place
Derbyshire County	Yes
Leicester City	Yes
Leicestershire County and Rutland	Yes
Lincolnshire	Yes
Northamptonshire	1
Nottingham City	Yes
Nottinghamshire County and Bassetlaw	1
Bedfordshire	Yes
Cambridgeshire	2
East and North Hertfordshire	2
Great Yarmouth and Waveney	Yes
Luton Teaching	Yes
Mid Essex	2
Norfolk	Yes
North East Essex	Yes
Peterborough	Yes
South East Essex	2
South West Essex	2
Suffolk	2
West Essex	2
West Hertfordshire	2
Barking and Dagenham	Yes
Brent Teaching	Yes
Camden	Yes
City and Hackney	Yes
Croydon	Yes
Enfield	Yes
Epping Forrest	1
Greenwich Teaching	Yes

PCT	Programme in place
Hammersmith and Fulham	[1]
Haringey Teaching	[1]
Harrow	[1]
Havering	Yes
Hounslow	Yes
Islington	Yes
Kensington and Chelsea	Yes
Lambeth	Yes
Lewisham	Yes
Newham	Yes
Southwark	Yes
Tower Hamlets	Yes
Westminster	Yes
County Durham	Yes
Gateshead	Yes
Hartlepool	Yes
Middlesbrough	Yes
Newcastle	Yes
North Tees	Yes
North Tyneside	Yes
Northumberland Care Trust	Yes
Redcar and Cleveland	Yes
South Tyneside	Yes
Sunderland Teaching	Yes
Blackburn and Darwen Teaching	Yes
Blackpool	Yes
Bolton	Yes
Bury	Yes
Central and Eastern Cheshire	Yes
Central Lancashire	Yes
Cumbria	[1]
East Lancashire	Yes
Halton and St. Helens	Yes
Knowsley	Yes
Leigh and Wigan and Ashton	Yes
Liverpool	Yes
Manchester	Yes
Middleton and Rochdale and Heywood	Yes
North Lancashire	[1]
Oldham	Yes
Salford Teaching	Yes
Sefton	Yes
Stockport	[1]
Tameside and Glossop	Yes
Trafford	[1]
Warrington	[1]
Western Cheshire	Yes
Wirral	Yes
Offender health	Yes
Berkshire, East	Yes
Berkshire, West	Yes
Hampshire	Yes
Isle of Wight NHS	Yes
Milton Keynes	[1]
Oxfordshire	Yes
Portsmouth City Teaching	Yes
Southampton City	Yes
Brighton and Hove City	Yes
East Sussex Downs and Weald	[1]
Eastern and Coastal Kent	[1]
Surrey	Yes
West Kent	[1]
West Sussex	Yes
Bath and North East Somerset	Yes
Bournemouth and Poole	[2]
Bristol	Yes
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	Yes
Devon	Yes
Dorset	[2]
Gloucestershire	[1]
North Somerset	[1]
Plymouth Teaching	[2]
Somerset	[1]
Swindon	[1]
Torbay Care Trust	Yes
Wiltshire	[1]
Birmingham, East and North	Yes
Coventry Teaching	[1]
Dudley	[1]
Heart of Birmingham Teaching	Yes
Herefordshire	[1]
Sandwell	Yes
Shropshire County	[1]
Solihull	[1]
South Birmingham	[1]
South Staffordshire	Yes
Stoke on Trent	[1]
Telford and Wrekin	Yes
Walsall Teaching	Yes
Warwickshire	Yes
Worcestershire	[1]
Barnsley	Yes
Bradford and Airedale	Yes
Calderdale	Yes
Doncaster	Yes
East Riding of Yorkshire	Yes
Hull	Yes
Kirklees	Yes
Leeds	Yes
North East Lincolnshire	Yes
North Lincolnshire	[1]
North Yorkshire and York	[1]
Rotherham	Yes
Sheffield	[1]
Wakefield District	Yes

[1] PCT has advised programme is in place, but Health Trainer Scheme is not yet fully operational.
[2] information not currently held centrally by the Department.

Notes
1. Not all are directly employed by the NHS locally(breakdown not collected centrally)
2. Not all are funded solely by the NHS eg joint funding with local authority (breakdown not collected centrally)
3. Health Trainers in HM Prisons have been included

Source
The Health Trainer National Implementation Team

It is not possible at this stage of the planning process to identify those PCTs that are planning to fund Health Trainer Schemes in 2008-09. Individual PCTs will be in the process of making decisions about where they allocate resources including how many health trainers they will need to meet the needs of their local population.

Healthcare Associated Infections Improvement Team

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget for his Department's Healthcare Associated Infections Improvement Team was in each of the last five financial years for which figures are available. [179123]

Mr. Bradshaw: The budget for the healthcare associated infections improvement team is set out in the following table. The team was established as part of the Department's methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)/cleaner hospitals programme team in 2005, though it has only had a dedicated budget for the last two years. This is because, in its first year, the improvement team was an integral function of the broader MRSA cleaner hospitals programme team, which funded improvement activity as part of its generic role.

	Budget (£)
2005-06	[1]1,295,000
2006-07	2,780,000
2007-08	3,737,300

[1] This figure relates to the Department's budget allocation to the MRSA/Cleaner Hospitals Programme Team as a whole.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff were employed in his Department's Healthcare Associated Infections Improvement Team in each of the last five financial years for which figures are available, broken down by payband. [179125]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of staff employed in the Department's healthcare associated infections improvement team is set out in the following table. In the improvement team's first two years, (between 2005-07), it was comprised entirely of staff seconded from national health service trusts, the NHS Business Services Authority and consultants. As such, departmental pay bands were not applicable. Last year, the team included one member of staff on the Department's 'fast stream' pay band.

	Staff employed in the healthcare associated infections improvement team
2005-06	34
2006-07	54
2007-08	124

HealthSpace

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what resources he plans to commit from central budgets to support the implementation of HealthSpace. [179128]

Mr. Bradshaw: Central spending in 2007-08 on the HealthSpace project is expected to total some £2.605 million. Current expenditure planning assumes this figure will rise to more than double that amount in 2008-09. These sums represent the cost of the staff and technical support required to continue implementation and further development of the project by NHS Connecting for Health.

Heart Diseases: South Lakeland and Westmorland Hospital

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many times thrombylitic drugs have been administered by ambulance staff in South Lakeland in each of the last five years; [180583]

(2) how many times thrombylitic drugs have been administered by staff at the coronary care unit at the Westmorland General Hospital in each of the last five years. [180585]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* Data for patients treated with thrombolysis drugs at Westmorland General Hospital has been set out as follows:

	Number
2003-04	42
2004-05	25
2005-06	22
2006-07	22
2007-08 (to end September 2007)	18

Source:
Department of Health Myocardial Infarction National Audit Project

Information on the number of times thrombolytic drugs have been issued by ambulance staff in South Lakeland is not held centrally. This data can instead be obtained from the North West Ambulance Service Trust.

Hospitals: Cleaning Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many hospitals in England have completed a deep clean since 23 September 2007; [180251]

(2) on what date prior to 14 December 2007 the deep cleaning plan by Peterborough and Stamford hospitals Foundation NHS Trust was submitted to the East of England strategic health authority; [180415]

(3) when the Alfred Bean hospital in Driffield will receive its deep clean. [180276]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* All trusts were required to submit and agree their deep clean plans with primary care trusts in their area by 14 December 2007 and this process has been monitored and assessed by strategic health authorities (SHAs). I refer the hon. Members to the written ministerial statement given by the Secretary of State for Health on 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 38-39WS. Further information on the implementation of the deep clean of the national health service is available from SHAs. All deep cleans will be complete by the end of March 2008.

Hospitals: Complaints

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints were *(a)* made and *(b)* upheld (i) at local level and (ii) by the Health Service Commissioner arising from (A) Barnet and Chase Farm Hospital, (B) Royal Free Hospital, (C) Northwick Park Hospital and (D) Barnet Primary Care Trust for (1) each of the last two years and (2) 2007-08 to date; and if he will make a statement. [179058]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not collected in the format requested. The following table shows the number of written complaints about hospital and community services for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 for Barnet Primary Care Trust (PCT), Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust, North West London Hospitals NHS Trust and Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust. Information regarding the NHS Ombudsman is not collected centrally.

		Local resolution[1]		
	Total[2] *complaints*	*Concluded within target*	*Concluded outside target*	*Still being pursued*
2004-05				
Barnet PCT	82	76	6	-
Royal Free NHS Trust	791	462	230	99
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust[3]	900	509	311	80
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	403	262	138	3
2005-06				
Barnet PCT	76	63	13	-
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	839	421	336	82
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust[3]	869	265	567	37
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	417	268	146	3
2006-07				
Barnet PCT	68	63	5	-
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	775	392	255	128
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust[3]	753	482	263	8
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	296	206	90	-

[1] Up to 2005-06 Hospital and Community Health Services complaints were collected where the local resolution action time limit was 20 working days. In 2006-07 there was a change to the resolution time limit. From 1 April 2006 to 31 August 2006 complaints were collected where the local resolution action time limit was 20 working days and from 1 September 2006 to 31 March 2007 complaints were collected where the local resolution action time limit was 25 working days.
[2] Denotes zero.
[3] North West London Hospitals NHS Trust includes Northwick Park Hospital.

Note:
Data collected at trust level only.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care, Workforce and Community Health Statistics—dataset KO41a

Hospitals: Discharges

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* delayed discharges and *(b)* emergency readmissions there were in each quarter from January 2002 to the most recent date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [178416]

Mr. Bradshaw: Currently, the best estimates of re-admission rates are those released by the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development (NCHOD). These estimates are derived from hospital episode statistics (HES) data and are published in full on the NCHOD website at www.nchod.nhs.uk, a relevant extract shows the available information. There are eight years data from 1998-99 to 2005-06 at primary care trust (PCT) level and trust level, for the age groups 0-15; 16-74 and 75 and over. The data is presented both in raw form and also standardised for changes in age, sex, method of admission and case type and exclude discharges for those coded as death, day cases, maternity spells, mental health specialties and those with a mention of cancer or chemotherapy for cancer anywhere in the spell. Full definitions are on the NCHOD website.

Other analyses from this source, including quarterly data, could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Delayed transfers of care, England: total delayed discharges

Quarter	*Number of patients of all ages occupying an acute hospital bed with delayed discharge*
2001-02	
Q4	5,473
2002-03	
Q1	5,489
Q2	5,385
Q3	4,586
Q4	4,147
2003-04	
Q1	4,173
Q2	4,267
Q3	3,220
Q4	2,821
2004-05	
Q1	2,610
Q2	2,703
Q3	2,487
Q4	2,359
2005-06	
Q1	2,380
Q2	2,253
Q3	2,139
Q4	2,177
2006-07	
Q1	2,408
Q2	2,306
Q3	2,190
Q4	2,536
2007-08	
Q1	2,173
Q2	2,008

Source:
Department of Health form: Local Delivery Plan Return Commissioner

Percentage of emergency readmission to any hospital in England occurring within 28 days of discharge from hospital

Indirectly age, sex, method of admission of discharge spell, diagnosis (ICD 10 chapter/selected sub-chapters within medical specialties) and procedure (OPCS 4 chapter/selected sub-chapters within surgical specialties) standardised rates. Standardised to persons 2002-03

Age group	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01	1999-2000	1998-99
0-15	8.88	8.57	8.24	8.28	8.15	8.00	7.94	7.80
16-74	8.62	8.26	7.84	7.50	7.44	7.33	7.21	7.04
75+	13.55	12.97	12.13	11.54	11.08	10.91	10.64	10.31

Notes:

1. Numerator data

The number of finished and unfinished continuous inpatient (CIP) spells that are emergency admissions within 0-27 days (inclusive) of the last, previous discharge from hospital (see denominator), including those where the patient dies, but excluding the following: those with a main specialty upon readmission coded under mental health specialties; and those where the readmitting spell has a diagnosis of cancer (other than benign or in situ) or chemotherapy for cancer coded anywhere in the spell.

The date of the last, previous discharge from hospital, and the date and method of admission from the following CIP spell, are used to determine the interval between discharge and emergency readmission.

The numerator is based on a pair of spells, the discharge spell and the next subsequent readmission spell (this spell must meet the numerator criteria). The selection process thus carries over the characteristics of the denominator for the discharge spell and applies additional ones to the readmission spell.

The following fields and values are used for the numerator. The numerator is the number of denominator CIP spells where: Diagnosis of cancer is not coded in any position in the readmission spell; AND the first episode in readmission CIP spell ADMIDATE minus last episode in admission CIP spell DISDATE < 27 days inclusive (discharge date and admission date, includes negatives); AND the first episode in the readmission CIP spell has: ADMIMETH = 21, 22, 23, 24 or 28 (admission method); AND DIAG_01 does not begin with 'O' (primary diagnosis) AND MAINSPEF not 700-715, 501, 560, 610 (main specialty).

Fields used from the first episode in a spell where there is a valid organisation of residence code include: SPELLRESPCTC, SPELLRESLADSTC, SPELLRESSTHAC. Other organisational levels (E, GOR, ONS Areas, Counties) are aggregates of the SPELLRESLADSTC field. Fields used from the last episode in a spell include: PROCODETC (provider code, unmapped). Provider clusters are aggregates of the PROCODETC field.

Counts are by: age/sex/method of admission of discharge spell/diagnosis (ICD 10 chapter/selected sub-chapters within medical specialties) and procedure (OPCS 4 chapter/selected sub-chapters within surgical specialties)/organisation of residence in CIP spell (values for England are aggregates of these) where: age bands for the respective age specific indicators are: <1, 1-4, 5-9,10-15,16-64, 65-74, 75-84, 85+; 16-64, 65-74, 75-84, 85+; sex is 1, 2 (male and female); admission method is elective or non-elective; diagnosis (within medical specialties); procedure (within surgical specialties).

HES for CIP spells intersecting the respective financial year, plus those up to 28 days in the next financial year, England. The Information Centre for health and social care. Individual finished consultant episodes are linked to other episodes where all are part of one continuous spell of care for a patient (see CIP spell construction sections in Annex 4 (Methods section of the Clinical and Health Outcomes Knowledge Base www.nchod.nhs.uk) for details). A spell may contain HES data from another year only when one of its episodes spans years. For example, a spell which finished during April may contain admission information from an episode which started during the previous March.

The numerator (readmissions) consists of CIP spells (see denominator) that include both finished and unfinished (i.e. finished episodes from following years) episodes i.e. readmissions can be finished and unfinished CIP spells. Where there is more than one readmission within 28 days, each readmission is counted once, in relation to the previous discharge.

Readmissions that end in death are included in the numerator.

Patients within the mental health and maternity specialties as well as those with a diagnosis of cancer have been excluded because emergency readmission is often considered a necessary part of care.

Spells are attributed to the organisation of residence, based on the numerator.

The indicator includes discharges occurring after transfer to another Trust. Discharges are counted to the first valid organisation coded in the spell for residence based aggregates, and to the discharging trust for trust based aggregates.

There is variation in the completeness of hospital records and quality of coding.

2. Denominator data

The number of finished CIP spells within selected medical and surgical specialties, with a discharge date up to 31 March within the year of analysis. Day cases, spells with a discharge coded as death, maternity spells (based on specialty, episode type, diagnosis), and those with mention of a diagnosis of cancer or chemotherapy for cancer anywhere in the spell are excluded. Patients with mention of a diagnosis of cancer or chemotherapy for cancer anywhere in the financial year, or the last quarter of the previous financial year are excluded. Mental health specialties are also excluded.

The following fields and values are used for the denominator. The first episode in the CIP spell has: ADMIMETH = 11, 12, 13, 21, 22, 23, 24, 28, 31, 32, 81, 82, 83, 84 or 89 (admission method); AND EPITYPE = 1 (episode type); AND CLASSPAT = 1 (patient classification); AND AGE = 0-15 or 7001-7007 (Ind_4D), 16-74 (Ind_4A), 75+ (Ind_4D); AND DOB not 01/01/1900 or 01/01/1901 (date of birth); AND SEX = 1 or 2 (sex); AND EPIORDER = 1 (episode order); AND EPISTART is valid (episode start date); AND DIAG_01 does not begin with 'O' (primary diagnosis); AND the last episode in the CIP spell has: DISDATE is valid and < 04/03/YYYY+1 (discharge date); AND EPITYPE = 1 (episode type); AND MAINSPEF not 700-715, 501, 560, 610 (main specialty); AND DISMETH = 1, 2 or 3 (discharge method).

Spells with any mention of a diagnosis of cancer (ICD10 codes C00-C97, D37-D48) or chemotherapy for cancer (ICD10 code Z51.1) are also excluded from the denominator, as are patients with mention of a diagnosis of cancer or chemotherapy for cancer anywhere in the financial year, or the last quarter of the previous financial year.

Additionally, the following exclusions are applied (main specialty, first valid procedure and primary diagnosis): AND (episode where the first valid procedure took place MAINSPEF = 100, 101, 110, 120, 130, 140, 141, 142, 143, 150, 160, 170, 180 or 502 AND first valid procedure is not NULL) OR (first episode in CIP spell MAINSPEF 100, 101, 110, 120, 130, 140, 141, 142, 143, 150, 160, 170, 180 or 502 OR (first episode in CIP spell MAINSPEF = 190, 191, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 320, 330, 340, 350, 360, 361, 370, 371, 400, 401, 410, 420, 421, 430, 450, 460, 800, 810 or 823 and first episode in CIP spell DIAG_01 is not NULL)).

There is an additional 3 step piece of logic which is designed to ensure that the spells are allocated to the most appropriate group for standardisation.

Step A) Look for spells where there is a valid procedure and surgical specialty (taken from the episode where the procedure was found).

Step B) Excluding spells selected in step A, select spells where main specialty in the first episode is surgical, these spells are standardised under the 'no procedures' basket.

Step C) Excluding those spells selected in step A and step B, select spells where main specialty of the first episode is medical.

Those spells selected in A) are standardised by procedure subgroup. Note that procedures beginning with 'Y' or 'Z' are standardised in the 'no procedure' basket.

Those spells selected in C) are standardised by diagnosis subgroup.

Lists of specialties and sub-groups used for filtering/standardisation:

Medical Specialties: '190', '191', '300', '301', '302', '303', '304', '305', '310', '311', '312', '313', '314', '315', '320', '330', '340', '350', '360', '361', '370', '371', '400', '401', '410', '420', '421', '430', '450', '460', '800', '810' '823'. Surgical Specialties: '100', '101', '110', '120', '130', '140', '141', '142', '143', '150', '160', '170', '180', '502'.

Fields used from the first episode in a spell where there is a valid organisation of residence code include: SPELLRESPCTC, SPELLRESLADSTC, SPELLRESSTHAC. Other organisational levels (E, GOR, ONS Areas, Counties) are aggregates of the SPELLRESLADSTC field.

Fields used from the last episode in a spell include: PROCODETC (provider code, unmapped). Provider clusters are aggregates of the PROCODETC field. Counts are by: age/sex/method of admission of discharge spell/diagnosis (ICD 10 chapter/selected sub-chapters within medical specialties) and procedure (OPCS 4 chapter/selected sub-chapters within surgical specialties)/organisation of residence in CIP spell (values for England are aggregates of these).

Where age bands for the respective age specific indicators are: <1, 1-4, 5-9, 10-15, 16-64, 65-74, 75-84, 85+; 16-64, 65-74, 75-84, 85+; sex is 1, 2 (male and female); admission method is elective or non-elective; diagnosis (within medical specialties).

HES for CIP spells intersecting the respective financial year, England. The Information Centre for health and social care.

There is variation in the completeness of hospital records and quality of coding (see Data Quality sections in Annex 4 (Methods section of the Clinical and Health Outcomes Knowledge Base www.nchod.nhs.uk) for details). Quality of coding shows the proportion of diagnoses not coded. There may also be variation between hospitals in the way that they code diagnoses to the fourteen diagnosis fields in each episode, particularly primary diagnosis. For instance, they may code in the order in which the diagnoses were made, or according to their perceived importance or complexity. This may affect the group/subgroup within which a particular spell is selected for standardisation in this indicator. Similarly, there may be variation in which procedure is coded to the first position.

The denominator consists of CIP spells that cover all continuous, consultant episodes for the same patient, including those following a transfer to another hospital. Denominator CIP spells must start with an admission episode and finish with a (live) discharge episode in the year of analysis.
CIP spells with a discharge code of death are excluded from the denominator because readmission is not possible.
3. Statistical Methods
The indicator is indirectly standardised by age, sex, method of admission and diagnosis/procedure. The person-based rate is standardised by using England age, sex, method of admission and diagnosis/procedure rates as standards. We defined the diagnosis and procedure groups for standardisation at ICD10/OPCS 4 coding chapter, sub-chapter or 3 digit level where the readmission rate was significantly different from that of the next higher level in two consecutive financial years and there were at least 50 discharges in each year.
4. Interpretation of indicator
Type of indicator—This is a generic, cross-sectional annual comparative indicator of outcome. In the absence of an absolute standard, comparative data are useful for monitoring in relation to rates achieved in comparable organisations.
Effect of case-mix/severity—A number of factors outside the control of hospitals, such as the socio-economic mix of local populations and events prior to hospitalisation, may contribute to the variation shown by the indicators. Differences in case-mix, severity of illness, comorbidities and other potential risk factors also contribute to the variation. The data available do not allow adjustment for any of these factors. This may pose less of a constraint at geographical organisation level than at hospital level. We have tried to deal with this constraint by presenting the data in clusters that are similar with respect to institution or organisation type. An attempt has also been made to take into account differences between organisations in the mix of diagnoses within medical specialties and procedures within surgical specialties. No attempt has been made to assess whether the readmission was linked to the discharge in terms of diagnosis. A patient discharged after an operation may be readmitted into a community hospital with a wound or chest infection. There are many different possibilities and over-specifying may lead to readmissions being missed. Gender-specific data standardised to person rates are available. Analyses at England level by the Index of Multiple Deprivation are presented. Other potential confounding factors—A continuous inpatient spell may include transfers to other hospitals, e.g. for rehabilitation. The patterns of providing care may vary between NHS hospital trusts in terms of whether patients are transferred elsewhere before final discharge. Planned transfers, for example for rehabilitation, may affect discharge destination figures and readmission rates.
Variation between hospitals in average length of stay may lead to variation between hospitals in the proportion of complications occurring in hospital, as opposed to in the community after discharge from hospital. Readmissions may reflect self-discharge against medical advice, and levels of primary care and community resources available to manage care outside hospital. Readmissions may not be linked clinically to the previous spell and may be appropriate for the clinical care of the patient. There may be variation between Trusts in the way emergency admissions are coded. Routine data do not allow for all of these aspects to be identified and removed from the indicator, however, this may be done through local audit.
Sources:
HES and National Statistics
The Information Centre for health and social care
Compendium of Clinical and Health Indicators/Clinical and Health Outcomes Knowledge Base www.nchod.nhs.uk or www.nchod.nhs.uk, released May 2007

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of patients on out-patient waiting lists were seen within 13 weeks in each year since 1990-91 until 2006-07, as given by *(a)* Korner and *(b)* the Hospital Episodes Statistics data. [174780]

Mr. Bradshaw: The percentage of patients who were seen within 13 weeks, in each year since 1993-94 are outlined in the following table. Waiting times for out-patient appointments were not collected prior to 1994. Out-patient Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) Data were collected for the first time in 2003-04.

It should be noted that Korner data measures the numbers still waiting at the end of a period, while HES measures the time waited for patients admitted during a year. HES figures do not take into account any adjustments for patient cancellations or did not attends.

Percentage of general practitioner referrals for first consultant led out-patient appointment seen within 13 weeks

	Percentage of patients seen in under 13 weeks	
Financial year	*Korner*	*HES*
1993-04	81.8	n/a
1994-05	82.6	n/a
1995-06	83.4	n/a
1996-07	83.7	n/a
1997-08	81.8	n/a
1998-09	78.9	n/a
1999-2000	75.3	n/a
2000-01	76.2	n/a
2001-02	77.0	n/a
2002-03	77.6	n/a
2003-04	80.2	n/a
2004-05	83.4	n/a
2005-06	90.9	81.6
2006-07	98.1	89.3
2007-08 (to date)	99.7	n/a

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of patients on in-patient waiting lists were seen within six months in each year from 1990-91 until 2006-07, as given by *(a)* the Hospital Episodes Statistics database and *(b)* Korner data. [174781]

Mr. Bradshaw: The figures are shown in the following tables.

It should be noted that Korner data measures the numbers still waiting at the end of a period, while Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) measures the time waited for patients admitted during a year. HES figures do not take into account periods of suspension for medical and social reasons.

Percentage of waits under six months, 1990 to 2007—Official waiting times data (Korner)

Month end March:	*Percentage on list who were waiting under 6 months*
1990[1]	58
1991[1]	61
1992[1]	70
1993[1]	72
1994	71
1995	76
1996	80
1997	75
1998	70
1999	74
2000	74
2001	76
2002	77
2003	81
2004	91
2005	95
2006	100
2007[2]	100

[1] All Korner figures from 1994 onwards are commissioner based.
[2] From April 2006, data collected in weeks, and therefore figures for March 2007 reflect waits under 26 weeks.
Source:
Department of Health, QF01, KH07 returns HES, Information Centre for health and social care

Percentage treated in under 6 months—HES

Financial year	Percentage of patients treated in under 6 months
1989-90	n/a
1990-91	86
1991-92	84
1992-93	85
1993-94	85
1994-95	84
1995-96	85
1996-97	86
1997-98	85
1998-99	82
1999-2000	85
2000-01	84
2001-02	83
2002-03	82
2003-04	82
2004-05	87
2005-06	90
2006-07	94

Note:
All HES figures are provider based.
Source:
Department of Health, QF01, KH07 returns HES, Information Centre for health and social care

Incinerators: Health Hazards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Health Protection Agency has undertaken on the health effects of the burning of household waste inside the curtilage of domestic dwellings. [176375]

Dawn Primarolo: Neither the Department nor the Health Protection Agency has undertaken specific research into burning of household waste inside the curtilage of domestic dwellings.

The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) have policy lead in this area and has carried out research into emissions of dioxins from the burning of domestic waste in 2006.

Further work in estimating dioxin emissions from domestic burning is currently being undertaken by DEFRA. Results from the ongoing work will be due some time this year.

Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis is for his statement on page 33 of his Department's National Framework for responding to an influenza pandemic, that near-normal service levels are expected in the food and supplies industries in the event of an influenza pandemic. [175036]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

DEFRA meets the food industry sector regularly to promote business continuity management, including how best to deal with the possibility of an influenza pandemic. The sector has robust and resilient business continuity plans to deal with any threat of disruption. Plans were tested earlier this year in a cross-Government pandemic flu exercise, in which the food industry participated.

Influenza: Vaccination

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which region in England experienced the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest number of influenza vaccinations administered in each winter since 1999-2000. [179497]

Dawn Primarolo: The data on influenza vaccination uptake has been provided by region since 2000, to date, for those aged 65 years and over. Data for those aged 65 years in clinical risk groups has only been collected since 2005-06 and is also provided. This information is shown in the following tables.

Vaccination uptake by region (England only) for each winter season since 1999-2000

'65 years and over

Survey year	Region	Vaccine uptake (Percentage) Low	High
2000-01	London region	60	
	Trent region		68
2001-02	North West London Health Authority	62	
	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Health Authority		70
2002-03	South East London Strategic Health Authority (SHA)	58	
	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire SHA		72
2003-04	South East London SHA	61	
	Trent SHA		73
2004-05	South East London SHA	62	
	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire SHA		74
2005-06	South East London SHA	69	
	Thames Valley SHA		78
2006-07	London SHA	70	
	North East SHA		76

Under 65 years and at risk[1]

Survey year	SHA	Vaccine uptake (Percentage) Low	High
2005-06	County Durham and Tees Valley SHA		59
	Cheshire and Merseyside SHA	42	
2006-07	South West SHA	40	
	Yorkshire and the Humber SHA		45

[1] Data for individuals aged under 65 years and in a risk group has only been collated since the 2005-06 season and therefore unavailable in previous years.
Note:
Uptake figures based on GP practices returning data to the survey and reflect vaccine uptake for individuals vaccinated at these premises.
Source:
Health Protection Informatics web-based reporting site
Influenza Immunisation Uptake Monitoring Programme Health Protection Agency/Department of Health.

King's Fund: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding was provided to the King's Fund from *(a)* his Department's budget and *(b)* the NHS budget in the last financial year. [179119]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department of Health's central funding provided £297,000 to the King's Fund in the last financial year. Information on the national health service budget is not held centrally.

Macugen

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when Macugen will become available on the NHS as a treatment for macular degeneration. [180148]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has published a second appraisal consultation document (ACD) on Lucentis (ranibizumab) and Macugen (pegaptanib) for the treatment of wet age-related macular degeneration. Stakeholders had until 14 January 2008 to provide comments on the ACD and these comments will be considered by NICE'S Appraisal Committee before the guidance is finalised. NICE expects to publish its final guidance later in 2008. Further detailed information on this appraisal is available on NICE'S website at:

http://guidance.nice.org.uk/page.aspx?o=207024

Funding for licensed treatments should not be withheld just because guidance from NICE is unavailable. In December 2006, we issued refreshed good practice guidance which asks national health service bodies to continue with local arrangements for the managed introduction of new technologies where guidance from NICE is not available at the time the treatment or technology first becomes available.

Magnetic Resonance Imagers: Eastern Region

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many MRI scanners were in use in each NHS trust in the Eastern Region in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [180859]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* The Health Protection Agency hold the data on the number and locations for MRI scanners provided to national health service organisations, and has advised that in the East of England strategic health authority area 31 MRI scanners have been installed. Information as to which scanners are in use at any given time is not available as machines may be taken out of service for maintenance or research purposes as required. The figure quoted also does not take into account any scanners which may have been purchased by individual trust or that may have been donated.

Maternity Services: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to improve maternity services for Barnet residents; and if he will make a statement. [177984]

Mr. Bradshaw: The provision of maternity services is a matter for the local national health service. However, I am informed that as part of the Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Clinical Strategy, which aims to improve local health services, the boards of Barnet, Enfield and Haringey primary care trusts (PCTs), agreed on 11 December to move Obstetrician-led maternity services from Chase Farm hospital to Barnet and North Middlesex hospitals.

This decision was taken on condition that changes to maternity services will only take place once the PCTs are satisfied that there is sufficient capacity at Barnet hospital and North Middlesex University hospital.

Medicine: Research

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding was allocated to medical research in each of the last five years. [179602]

Dawn Primarolo: Government funding for medical research is provided through the Department's national health service research and development budget and the Medical Research Council (MRC). The amounts allocated in each of the last five years are shown in the table.

£ million

	MRC[1]	*NHS Research and Development*
2003-04	430	533
2004-05	458	601
2005-06	481	617
2006-07	504	659
2007-08	552	730

[1] The MRC is an independent body that receives its grant-in-aid from the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills.

NHS: Conditions of Employment

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps have been taken to make work more family-friendly for NHS staff in the *(a)* Barnet Chase Farm hospital, *(b)* Royal Free hospital and *(c)* Barnet primary care trust; and if he will make a statement. [177895]

Mr. Bradshaw: This is a matter for the local national health service.

However, we have been informed that Barnet and Chase Farm hospitals NHS trust, the Royal Free Hampstead NHS trust and Barnet primary care trust (PCT) have a range of initiatives in place to help staff achieve a healthy work life balance. For example, Barnet and Chase Farm hospitals national health service trust and Barnet PCT provide crèches for their staff, with Barnet PCT also having a flexible working policy in place. At the Royal Free Hampstead NHS trust there is a 72-place staff day nursery for children aged six months to four years, and a working families advisor whose role is to help parents and other staff who have carer responsibilities to access services and organise their work patterns to cope.

NHS: Fees and Charges

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 723, if he will place in the Library a copy of the relevant part of each code of practice in which co-payment is ruled out. [181133]

Mr. Bradshaw: The relevant guidance are as follows:

Code of Conduct for Private Practice: Recommended Standards of Practice for NHS Consultants (2004), in particular paragraph 2.13;

The Code of Conduct for Private Practice - Guidance for NHS Medical Staff (2003), in particular paragraphs 3.22-3.23; and

Management of Private Practice in Health Service hospitals in England and Wales (1986), in particular paragraphs 22-27.

It is for national health service organisations to form policy in line with this guidance.

Copies of the codes have been placed in the Library.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of the baseline cost pressure on the NHS in (*a*) cash terms and (*b*) percentage terms resulted from increases in private finance initiative revenue costs in each financial year from 2008-09 to 2010-11. [163370]

Mr. Bradshaw: The amount by which the national health service's expenditure is expected to increase, as a result of further private finance initiative (PFI) schemes reaching completion, in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11, is included in the first line of the following table:

These annual PFI-related increases are then expressed as a percentage of the total anticipated annual increases in baseline costs in the second line.

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
PFI payments, increase on previous year (£ million)	81	133	61
PFI payments, increase on previous year (as percentage of total annual increase in the NHS baseline costs)	1.4	2.3	1.0

NHS: Procurement

Mr. Havard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance his Department has issued to collaborative procurement hubs on the composition of procurement committees; [165947]

(2) what mechanisms are in place to externally audit cost savings made through the joint procurement practices of collaborative procurement hubs; [165949]

(3) what the methodology is for calculating cost savings made by collaborative procurement hubs; and upon which formulae this methodology is dependent; [165950]

(4) whether collaborative procurement hubs are required to publish minutes of their meetings; [166014]

(5) what procedures have been put in place by the Supply Chain Excellence Programme to regulate the procurement decisions of collaborative procurement hubs. [166119]

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the role of the collaborative procurement hubs is in procuring mental health services from the voluntary and independent sector on behalf of primary care trusts; and if he will make a statement; [165788]

(2) what the role of commissioning frameworks established by collaborative procurement hubs will be; and if he will make a statement. [165789]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Supply Chain Excellence Programme launched a recommended core design for collaborative procurement hubs together with a suggested governance structure. Each hub determines the respective scope and governance arrangements consistent with procurement regulations and good practice, together with the establishment of its own stakeholder board (made up of national health service stakeholders and trust executive directors).

No formal guidance has been issued by the Department on the composition of procurement committees. Each hub has established its own procurement committees where appropriate, according to the needs of its NHS stakeholder organisations.

Collaborative procurement hubs are subject to the audit principles of their host NHS organisation.

The methodology for calculating cost savings made by collaborative procurement hubs are determined by each hub in full agreement with their stakeholder trusts to ensure local accountability.

Collaborative procurement hubs are hosted by NHS organisations and hold regular trust stakeholder board meetings. Agreed actions are recorded in minutes and published in accordance with the host publication scheme.

Collaborative procurement hubs provide trusts with guidance and direct support in relation to legally compliant and good commercial and procurement practice, as required. If a trust asks for support in procuring mental health services then hubs can provide as appropriate.

Collaborative procurement hubs do not play a role in commissioning frameworks. The role of collaborative procurement hubs is to provide the primary care trusts with appropriate commercial and procurement advice and support, in establishing access to the most effective arrangements.

Noise: Health Hazards

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has (*a*) commissioned and (*b*) evaluated on the effects of low level decibel sound on public health; and if he will make a statement. [180992]

Dawn Primarolo: A Departmental ad hoc advisory group is currently preparing a report on the effects of environmental noise on health, due to be completed early in 2008, which will examine a number of noise and health related issues, including low intensity and low frequency noise. The results of this work will feed into the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), 'Noise Strategy for England'.

In addition, Departmental officials work closely with DEFRA on a number of noise and health related matters and a number of research projects have been carried out by DEFRA around noise, including low frequency noise.

Obesity: Young People

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government are taking to tackle obesity rates of people under the age of 21; and if he will make a statement. [179666]

Dawn Primarolo: The Secretary of State for Health, (Alan Johnson) announced, on 17 October, that the Department will be developing a comprehensive cross Government strategy on obesity, to reverse the rising tide of obesity and overweight in the population, by enabling everyone to achieve and maintain a healthy weight. Our initial focus will be on children: by 2020, we aim to reduce the proportion of overweight and obese children to 2000 level. This new ambition also contributes to the new child health public service agreement (shared with Department for Children, Schools and Families). The Government will shortly be publishing a cross-Government strategy to tackle obesity and meet the new ambition. This will build on both existing work and new evidence from the Government office for Science Foresight Report.

Osteoporosis: Preventive Medicine

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Answer of 19 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 639W, to the hon. Member for Pudsey, on osteoporosis: preventive medicine, if his Department will take steps to assess the implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance for osteoporosis in postmenopausal women. [180637]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 21 January 2008]*: We have no plans to assess the implementation of the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance for osteoporosis prevention in postmenopausal women.

Primary care trusts have a legal obligation to provide funding for treatments recommended by NICE within three months of the guidance being issued.

NICE guidance is also included in "Standards for Better Health", which sets out the Government's high-level expectations for the health service. Adherence to NICE technology appraisals is one of the core standards against which national health service organisations are assessed in the Healthcare Commission's annual health check.

Part IX Of The Drug Tariff

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2007 *Official Report*, column 1207W to the hon. Member for Eddisbury, on drugs: consultants, what the terms of consultancy contracts in relation to the review of Part IX of the Drug Tariff are, with particular reference to performance-related elements. [180912]

Mr. Bradshaw: The specific terms of any contract for services between the Department and its advisers are commercial in confidence.

However, in relation to the Part IX review, we can confirm that there are no performance-related elements in the contract.

Patient Choice Schemes: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made in the implementation of patient choice for hospital treatment for Barnet residents, with particular reference to ease of making appointments; and if he will make a statement. [178996]

Mr. Bradshaw: The latest published figures from the National Choice Survey (July 2007) show that 48 per cent. of patients in Barnet Primary Care Trust were aware of choice at referral (against a national figure of 38 per cent.) and 46 per cent. of patients were offered choice (against a national figure of 43 per cent.).

We do not hold data on the ease of making appointments. However, the number and percentage of Barnet Primary Care Trust's general practitioner (GP) referrals to first out-patient appointments booked through the choose and book system was (a) 13,634 (20 per cent.) in 2006-07 and (b) 14,364 (25 per cent.) in the first nine months of 2007-08 (April to the end of December). This compares with national averages of 27 per cent. in 2006-07 and 39 per cent. in 2007-08 to date.

Patients: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients from Barnet are waiting for treatment; how many there were at the end of *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 1996-97; and if he will make a statement. [177901]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the total number of patients waiting for in-patient treatment and patients waiting more than 26 weeks in the Barnet primary care trust (PCT) area for 2006-07 and 1996-97 and the latest available figures for November 2007 can be found in the following table.

	Month	*Area*	*In-patient waiting times for 26 weeks*	*Total number of people waiting for in-patient treatment*
2007	November	Barnet PCT	0	3,586
2006-07	March	Barnet PCT	0	3,603
1996-97	March	Barnet health authority	1,684	7,321

Today waiting times are at a record low; patients can expect a maximum 13 week wait for their first out-patient appointment and a maximum six month wait for an operation.

The latest data shows that over half of admitted patients (patients who require admission to hospital for treatment) and over three quarters of non-admitted patients are treated within 18 weeks.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients from Barnet had NHS operations and other treatment *(a)* overseas and *(b)* outside London (i) in each of the last two years and (ii) in 1997; and if he will make a statement. [179106]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held in the format requested. The following table shows the number of patients in Barnet Primary Care Trust area who received treatment outside of London for the years 2002-03, 2005-06 and 2006-07. These are the only years for which data is available.

Please note that the data is not collected in the format requested, as records only show operations that took place outside of London, and not necessarily overseas. Furthermore, 2002-03 are the latest records available.

Count of finished consultant and admission episodes for Barnet PCT of residence where operations and other treatments were received outside of the London strategic health national health service hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS

	Finished admission episodes	*Finished consultant episodes*
2006-07	1,465	1,582
2005-06	1,539	1,676
2002-03	1,210	1,287

Notes:

Finished admission episodes (FAE)

A FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)

An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. The figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.

Data Quality

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts, and PCTs in England. Data is also received from a number of Independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

Ungrossed Data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:

HES, The Information Centre for health and social care

Pharmacy

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made in providing additional services at pharmacies *(a)* in Barnet and *(b)* elsewhere; and if he will make a statement. [179072]

Dawn Primarolo: In 2006-07, 96 local enhanced services were provided by community pharmacies in contract with Barnet Primary Care Trust. Nationally, 20,996 such services were provided.

We will publish a pharmacy White Paper in due course. This will set out our future proposals for developing quality pharmacy services for national health service patients and consumers and any legislative reform necessary.

Primary Care Trusts

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will hold discussions with *(a)* Shropshire primary care trust, *(b)* Telford and Wrekin primary care trust and *(c)* Shrewsbury and Telford NHS hospital trust on security of patient health records. [176973]

Mr. Bradshaw: Each national health service trust is legally responsible for the data that is in its possession and must comply with all relevant legislation. The Department has published clear rules and guidelines for NHS trusts on compliance with this legislation and on the management of personal data. This takes the form of a series of Codes of Practice on confidentiality, security and records management, supported by numerous good practice guidelines. An online resource—the NHS Information Governance Toolkit—makes this guidance accessible to all parts of the NHS and all major NHS organisations are required to provide an annual performance assessment against the standards derived from the three codes of practice.

In view of this it would not be proportionate for departmental Ministers to meet these individual NHS organisations at the present time.

Queen's Hospital Romford: Waiting Lists

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of *(a)* outpatients and *(b)* inpatients were treated within their target waiting time at Queen's Hospital, Romford in 2007. [179654]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the percentage of out-patients treated within their target waiting time at the Barking, Havering and Redbridge hospitals NHS trust, which includes Queen's Hospital, Romford from January to November 2007.

Patients waiting for a first out-patient appointment following a general practitioner referral

Month ending	*Total out-patients waiting*	*Patients waiting over 13 weeks*	*Percentage over 13 weeks*
January 2007	12,219	0	0.0
February 2007	11,564	0	0.0
March 2007	11,191	0	0.0
April 2007	12,476	0	0.0
May 2007	12,285	0	0.0
June 2007	13,732	0	0.0
July 2007	13,687	0	0.0
August 2007	13,376	1	0.0
September 2007	13,087	0	0.0
October 2007	11,463	0	0.0
November 2007	10,288	0	0.0

The following table shows the percentage of in-patients treated within their target waiting time at the Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust, which includes Queen's Hospital, Romford from January to November 2007.

Patients waiting for an in-patient admission

Month ending	*Total waiting*	*Patients waiting over 26 weeks*	*Percentage over 26 weeks*
January 2007	13,827	0	0.0
February 2007	8,981	0	0.0
March 2007	8,480	0	0.0
April 2007	8,082	13	0.2
May 2007	7,980	1	0.0
June 2007	7,801	0	0.0
July 2007	7,470	4	0.1
August 2007	7,327	4	0.1
September 2007	7,073	2	0.0
October 2007	6,655	3	0.0
November 2007	6,417	1	0.0

Note:
Waiting times targets are monitored using counts of patients still waiting at the end of each month, therefore figures show number at end of each month who have already waited above the waiting target time.
Source:
Department of Health KH07 and QM08

Surgery: Greater London

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients at *(a)* Barnet and Chase Farm, *(b)* the Royal Free and *(c)* Northwick Park Hospital had operations cancelled at short notice (i) in each of the last two years and (ii) in 1997; on how many occasions in each case patients failed to give notice of cancellation; and if he will make a statement. [178953]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not held in the format requested.

The following table shows cancelled operations for non-clinical reasons at Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust, Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust and North West London hospitals NHS Trust.

Cancelled operations for non clinical reasons

National health service trust	*Number of last minute cancellations for non clinical reasons in the quarter*		
	2001-02[1]	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	1,206	279	294
Royal Free Hampstead National Health Service Trust	148	460	268
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust[2]	499	480	457

[1] Earliest available data at NHS trust level.
[2] Northwick Park Hospital is part of North West London Hospitals NHS Trust
Source:
Department of Health form QMCO

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* operations and *(b)* out-patient appointments were carried out in (i) each of the last two years and (ii) the current year to date at (A) Barnet hospital, (B) Royal Free hospital and (C) Edgware hospital; and if he will make a statement. [179056]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested.

The data for operations carried out is held at trust level only and data for 2007-08 is not yet available.

The latest data published in January 2008 shows that in October 2007 over half of admitted patients and over three quarters of non-admitted patients were seen within 18 weeks.

The second table shows the number of out-patient appointments carried out for the Barnet and Chase Farm NHS trust and the Royal Free Hampstead NHS trust for the dates requested.

First, subsequent and total (first + subsequent) attendances seen for Barnet and Chase Farm NHS trust and Royal Free Hampstead NHS trust since 2005-06

	Period		*Barnet and Chase Farm hospitals NHS trust*	*Royal Free Hampstead NHS trust*
2005-06	Q1	First attendances seen	22,760	27,945
		Subsequent attendances seen	43,920	60,544
		Total attendances seen	66,680	88,489
	Q2	First attendances seen	24,223	26,664
		Subsequent attendances seen	46,010	58,122
		Total attendances seen	70,233	84,786
	Q3	First attendances seen	23,817	26,895
		Subsequent attendances seen	46,150	58,262
		Total attendances seen	69,967	85,157
	Q4	First attendances seen	24,068	26,040
		Subsequent attendances seen	47,693	59,684

First, subsequent and total (first + subsequent) attendances seen for Barnet and Chase Farm NHS trust and Royal Free Hampstead NHS trust since 2005-06

	Period		Barnet and Chase Farm hospitals NHS trust	Royal Free Hampstead NHS trust
		Total attendances seen	71,761	85,724
2006-07	Q1	First attendances seen	22,539	27,607
		Subsequent attendances seen	46,160	58,264
		Total attendances seen	68,699	85,871
	Q2	First attendances seen	22,673	29,352
		Subsequent attendances seen	45,128	67,765
		Total attendances seen	67,801	97,117
	Q3	First attendances seen	22,275	30,364
		Subsequent attendances seen	45,778	70,618
		Total attendances seen	68,053	100,982
	Q4	First attendances seen	21,668	32,932
		Subsequent attendances seen	46,571	75,658
		Total attendances seen	68,239	108,590
2007-08	Q1	First attendances seen	20,268	33,247
		Subsequent attendances seen	45,516	74,452
		Total attendances seen	65,784	107,699
	Q2	First attendances seen	[1]19,937	35,967
		Subsequent attendances seen	[1]44,117	75,882
		Total attendances seen	64,054	111,849

[1] Based on estimated data.

Notes:
1. We collect data at trust level, not for individual hospitals. Both Edgware hospital and Barnet hospital are managed by and provide services for Barnet and Chase Farm hospitals NHS trust. Royal Free hospital is managed by and provides services for Royal Free Hampstead NHS trust.
2. QM08 and QAR Prov are collected on a quarterly basis: Q1 – June, Q2 – September, Q3 – December, Q4 – March.

Source:
2005-06 – 2006-07 Department of Health Form QM08
2007-08 Department of Health Form QAR

The following table shows the number of operations carried out in the last two complete years at Royal Free Hampstead NHS trust, Barnet and Chase Farm hospital NHS trust and Barnet primary care trust.

	Royal Free Hampstead NHS trust	Barnet and Chase Farm hospitals NHS trust	Barnet primary care trust
2006-07	49,899	49,408	49,408
2005-06	40,376	44,635	44,654

Notes:
1. Count of Finished Consultant Episodes (FCE) that include an OPSC4 procedure/intervention (2006-07 A01 – X97 or A01 – X59 prior to 2005-06) at Royal Free Hampstead NHS trust, Barnet and Chase Farm hospital NHS trust and Barnet primary care trust.
2. NHS Hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS, 2004-05 – 2006-07.
3. Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)
An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. The figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
4. Finished Consultant Episode (FCE) with an Operative Procedure
A count of FCEs with an operative procedure is the number of FCEs where the procedure was mentioned in any of the 12 (four prior to 2002-03) operative procedure fields in a HES record. A record is only included once in each count, even if the procedure is mentioned in more than one operative procedure field of the record. Please note that more procedures are carried out than finished consultant episodes with an operation. For example, patients under-going a cataract operation would tend to have at least two procedures – removal of the faulty lens and the fitting of a new one – counted in a single finished consultant episode.

Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what meetings he had with trades union officials since 1 July 2007; on what dates; and with which trades unions. [179853]

Mr. Bradshaw: Ministers meet many people as part of the process of policy development. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* financial position and *(b)* effectiveness of management of the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust; and if he will make a statement. [179561]

Dawn Primarolo: The financial position of national health service trusts is subject to continual monitoring.

According to the quarter two figures, the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust is forecasting a £5 million surplus at the end of 2007-08. The cash generated from this surplus will be used to partially re-pay a loan granted to the trust by the Department to cover historic deficits.

The Department performance manages NHS organisations through the strategic health authorities who provide leadership and support to ensure that trusts and primary care trusts operate effectively and deliver improved performance. Working within this performance management regime the Department has not made an assessment of the effectiveness of management of the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust.

Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust: Debt

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria were applied to assess the eligibility of the Royal Wolverhampton and University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS trusts for the writing-off of their historic debt; for what reasons the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust has had its historic debt written off; and if he will make a statement. [179562]

Dawn Primarolo: In 2006-07, the Department introduced a more transparent rules based financial regime. As part of this new regime, the Department considered the cash needs of each national health service (NHS) trust.

Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust was able to demonstrate the ability to pay back its loan, and therefore the Department granted the loan. However, two trusts within the West Midlands Region (the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, the University Hospitals of Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust), were not given a loan because they could not afford to meet the repayments.

These two trusts were classified as being 'financially challenged' and departmental officials have worked in partnership with the West Midlands strategic health authority (SHA) on a review process to identify long-term financial solutions for them. In January 2008, bespoke solutions to ensure these trusts are able to regain financial balance were proposed. The solutions do not involve the Department writing off any historic deficits, but they do contain an element of financial support that is to be provided by the local SHA.

JUSTICE

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991: Prosecutions

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there have been under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 since 1997, broken down by offence; and if he will make a statement. [177714]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

The following tables show the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts (Table 1) and found guilty at all courts (Table 2) for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Acts 1989 and 1991, England and Wales 1997 to 2006[1, 2]

[1] Data provided on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table 1

Offence description	*Principal statute*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Failure to comply with an order to keep a dog under proper control etc. Dangerous dog not kept under proper control.	Dangerous Dogs Act 1989. Dogs Act 1871 Sec 2.	492	455	401	462	375	336	335	352	306	232
Breeding or breeding from a fighting dog.	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(a).	1	6	1	2	1	6	4	15	3	2
Selling, exchanging, offering, advertising or exposing for sale a fighting dog.	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(b).	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Allowing a fighting dog to be in a public place without a muzzle or a lead.	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(d).	12	7	11	9	4	3	2	2	3	1
Abandoning, or allowing to stray, a fighting dog.	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(e).	3	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Possession, without exemption, of a Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa or other designated fighting dog.	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(3).	15	23	12	5	4	6	1	5	11	8

Table 1

Offence description	*Principal statute*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1)	259	434	449	458	490	537	560	597	645	703
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be out of control in a public place, no injury being caused	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1)	175	248	254	266	278	284	329	290	278	278
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non- public place and injure any person	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3)	22	28	34	48	50	38	52	48	44	54
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place causing reasonable apprehension of injury to a person	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3)	10	12	9	24	20	18	20	11	24	19
Failing to give up a dog for destruction of having custody of a dog when disqualified	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 4(8)	7	6	30	23	39	29	20	22	16	12
Total		996	1,219	1,203	1,298	1,261	1,258	1,323	1,342	1,331	1,309

Table 2

Offence description	*Principal statute*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Failure to comply with an order to keep a dog under proper control etc. Dangerous dog not kept under proper control	Dangerous Dogs Act 1989 Dogs Act 1871 Sec 2	98	106	101	84	101	105	128	177	139	108
Breeding or breeding from a fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(a)		5				3	2	14	1	1
Selling, exchanging, offering, advertising or exposing for sale a fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(b)										
Allowing a fighting dog to be in a public place without a muzzle or a lead	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(d)	8	2	6	6	2	2		1	3	
Abandoning, or allowing to stray, a fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(e)	2		1							
Possession, without exemption, of a Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa or other designated fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(3)	9	8	5	2	2	2	1	2	7	5
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1)	121	239	262	260	285	300	302	350	403	458
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be out of control in a public place, no injury being caused	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1)	88	125	126	130	157	150	171	167	168	160
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non- public place and injure any person	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3)	5	13	19	32	31	30	33	25	25	29
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place causing reasonable apprehension of injury to a person	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3)	4	8	5	13	14	7	10	5	9	11
Failing to give up a dog for destruction of having custody of a dog when disqualified	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 4(8)	4	6	18	16	31	23	12	18	9	4

Table 2

Offence description	Principal statute	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total		339	512	543	543	623	622	659	759	764	776

Source:
Court Proceedings Database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice
Our ref: 014-08

Prison Service: Long Service Awards

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Director General of the Prison Service and *(b)* ministerial colleagues on the award of a long service and good conduct medal for prison officers with at least (i) 15 years, (ii) 18 years and (iii) any longer period of continuous service and good conduct within the Prison Service; what his policy is on the award of such a medal to Prison Service officers; and if he will make a statement. [180581]

Mr. Hanson: The permanent secretary of the Ministry of Justice is currently in discussion with the director general of the Prison Service on the proposed Long Service and Good Conduct Medal for operational Prison Service staff. The Ministry of Justice and the Prison Service fully support the introduction of this medal through a submission to the Honours and Decorations Committee. The Prison Service recommended that the proposed medal be awarded after 20 years service, but final details of the eligibility criteria will be discussed with Cabinet Office officials if the medal is awarded.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convicted prisoners have been released early as a result of prison overcrowding. [180115]

Mr. Hanson: On 19 June 2007 my noble Friend Lord Falconer of Thoroton the then Lord Chancellor announced the introduction of a presumption in favour of release from custody on licence for prisoners serving between four weeks and four years for the final 18 days of their sentence subject to meeting strict eligibility criteria and providing a release address.

Between 29 June when the scheme began and 30 November 2007 (latest available figures) about 13,750 prisoners were released on ECL.

The total number of releases by offence group, sentence length, age, gender, ethnicity and prison establishment have been published on the Ministry of Justice website for the first week of the scheme, the remainder of July, and every subsequent month since then.

The monthly published figures can be found on separate links under the following main link: http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the *(a)* expenditure and *(b)* income of prison industries in England and Wales was in each of the last 10 years; [180955]

(2) what the turnover of prison *(a)* industries and *(b)* farms was in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [180957]

Mr. Hanson: The following table sets out annual expenditure on raw materials and external income for the previous eight years (earlier data is unavailable). Expenditure on other costs is not available as the Prison Service did not record full activity costs until 2007-08. Costs do not correlate to the external income as most goods are generally manufactured for internal consumption. The estimated annual value of goods and services internally produced by prison industries and consumed within the Prison Service is around £30 million.

£000

Financial year	Expenditure by Industries and Farms on raw materials	HM Prison Service external income from Industries and Farms
2006-07	18,442	7,698
2005-06	19,749	10,128
2004-05	21,338	10,604
2003-04	26,365	10,990
2002-03	30,441	10,064
2001-02	28,954	11,598
2000-01	26,069	10,552
1999-2000	28,060	10,411

Prisons: Employment

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which prisons in England and Wales offer employment opportunities under enhanced earnings schemes; and for how many prisoners. [180956]

Mr. Hanson: All prisons offer prisoners some type of employment and purposeful activity. The amount a prisoner earns is devolved to individual governors and is subject to minimum levels as set out in Annex B of Prison Service Order 4460. There is no central record kept of prisoner's earnings and to provide the information would involve both the individual scrutiny of a significant number of documents and a large data collecting exercise—this could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Secure Training Centres: Injuries

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what injuries were sustained by boys held in Hassockfield Secure Training Centre during physical control in care in each month in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007; [175249]

(2) what injuries were sustained by boys held in Oakhill Secure Training Centre during physical control in care in each month in (a) 2006 and (b) 2007; [175250]

(3) what injuries were sustained by boys held in Rainsbrook Secure Training Centre during physical control in care in each month in (a) 2006 and (b) 2007; [175251]

(4) what injuries were sustained by boys held in Medway Secure Training Centre during physical control in care in each month in (a) 2006 and (b) 2007. [175252]

Mr. Hanson: Information on injuries resulting from restraint, provided by the Youth Justice Board, is available from April 2007. The following tables show the number of injuries requiring minor treatment, sustained by boys during restraint incidents. None of the injuries required hospital treatment.

Hassockfield

	Number
April	0
May	3
June	0
July	0
August	7
September	2
October	0

Oakhill

	Number
April	1
May	0
June	1
July	1
August	0
September	4
October	1

Rainsbrook

	Number
April	0
May	1
June	0
July	0
August	1
September	0
October	0

Medway

	Number
April	4
May	6
June	4
July	10
August	2
September	2
October	2

Note:
Data provided by the YJB. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and can be subject to change over time.

Sentencing: Ethnic Groups

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many black and minority ethnic people have been given an indeterminate sentence for public protection. [180289]

Mr. Hanson: At the end of November 2007 there were 770 black and minority ethnic prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection in all prison establishments in England and Wales.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Smuggling: Animals

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions were brought against illegal importers of animals into the UK in 2007; and what the conviction rates were in these cases. [177724]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

Prosecutions and convictions brought against illegal importers of animals are reported annually to Parliament. Data collected during 2007 are still being collated and will be reported in the 'Return of expenditure incurred and prosecutions taken under the Animal Health Act 1981 and incidences of disease in imported animals for the year 2007, which will be laid before Parliament by the end of March.

Voting Systems

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to his Written Ministerial Statement of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 32WS, on review of voting systems, on what date in January he plans to publish the Government's completed review of voting systems. [180991]

Mr. Wills: The Government have completed the review of the experience of the new voting systems introduced in the United Kingdom since 1997 and are making the review ready for publication later this month.

Young Offenders

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many juveniles had no fixed abode when they were received into prison in each of the last five years. [180291]

Mr. Hanson: Information on home addresses for young people (aged under 18) is mainly held in individual records and is not readily available.

The information would need to be retrieved manually and this could be done only at disproportionate cost.

TREASURY

Bank Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to bring forward proposals for legislation on protection of bank depositors. [180742]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury, the Bank of England and Financial Services Authority published a discussion paper, "Banking Reform: Protecting Depositors", in October 2007. Comments on that paper were requested by 5 December 2007. A consultation document outlining proposals for reforms to banking regulation and depositor protection will be published shortly, and will be followed by a 12-week consultation period after the Treasury Select Committee has published its report.

Child Benefit: Personal Records

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many individuals in HM Revenue and Customs have been formally disciplined over the recent loss of two child benefit payment discs. [180248]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC does not comment on specific internal disciplinary proceedings.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many individuals in HM Revenue and Customs have been dismissed following the recent loss of two child benefit payment discs containing 25 million personal records. [180249]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC does not comment on specific internal disciplinary proceedings.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many reports have been received to date of fraudulent activity on bank accounts belonging to people whose details were included on the two compact discs lost by HM Revenue and Customs in 2007. [180950]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC are in regular contact with the banks, financial institutions and other law enforcement agencies in order to identify any fraudulent activity relating to the data loss as soon as possible should it occur. None of them have reported any incidents of fraudulent activity attributable to the loss of the two discs that would lead them to suspect that the information has fallen into the wrong hands.

Consultants, Government departments

Mr. Walker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what contracts his Department has with external consultants; what the total value including all VAT and disbursements of these contracts are for the current financial year; how long each contract lasts; and what the forecast total value is of each contract. [163707]

Angela Eagle: The total spend on external consultants for the current financial year (1 April to 31 October 2007) in the Treasury is £2,577,500.

HM Treasury has the following current contracts for consultancy:

Contract	*Expiry*
COINS Information Services Systems	15 July 2008
Internal Audit	30 September 2008
Retrocession Agreement	[1]
Legal Services	[1]
Actuarial Consultancy	[1]
Occupational Health Consultancy Services	17 December 2007
Ad-hoc Consultancy Services	31 December 2007
Managerial training	31 January 2010
FATF President	1 July 2008
Project Support for the Thoresen Review of Generic Financial Advice: 3 contracts	[1]
Mutuals Legislation Consultancy	[1]
Supplier Management	5 February 2008
Financial Exclusion Support	23 November 2007
IS Consultancy Framework	10 October 2009

[1] Contract period is not defined by a specific date

In addition to the aforementioned contracts, the Treasury utilises pan-Government Framework Agreements for consultancy services.

The current and forecast total value of each contract can be provided only at disproportionate cost and is commercially sensitive.

EC Trade

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what percentage of total goods exported from the UK were exported to the EU in each of the last 10 years; [180269]

(2) what percentage of total UK trade was with the EU in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [180270]

Jane Kennedy: Data relating to UK trade with both EU and non-EU countries is published in the Overseas Trade Statistics by HM Revenue and Customs, which is available in the Library of the House and via

www.uktradeinfo.com

EU External Trade: Israel

Richard Burden: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions since January 2007 HM Revenue and Customs intercepted goods produced in Israeli settlements in the West Bank being imported to the UK claiming the preferences of the EU-Israeli Association Agreement; and what steps have been taken in consequence. [179256]

Jane Kennedy: Since January 2007, there have been 202 occasions where claims to preference for goods produced in Israeli settlements in the West Bank and imported into the United Kingdom have been rejected. These goods were confirmed as incorrectly claiming a preferential rate of duty under the EU/Israel Association Agreement. A demand for the full rate of import duty was sent to every importer concerned.

European Union Solidarity Fund

Mr. Paice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the UK has *(a)* contributed to and *(b)* received from the EU Solidarity Fund in each of the last 10 years. [180144]

Angela Eagle: The United Kingdom makes its contributions to the EC Budget as a whole and not to individual spending programmes or funds within it. Figures for the United Kingdom's gross contribution, after taking account of the UK abatement, to the EC Budget in 2006 can be found in table 3 (page 47) of the European Community Finances White Paper (Cm 7090) published on 22 May 2007. This table also gives an estimate of this figure for 2007.

The EU Solidarity Fund (EUSF) was established in November 2002. Last year the UK applied to the fund following the severe flooding experienced across the country in the summer. The application has been approved by the European Commission which has announced that it will propose that the UK be awarded a grant in the region of €160 million.

Immigrants: Russia

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the numbers of Russian nationals living in *(a)* London and *(b)* the UK. [180311]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 January 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question concerning how many and what percentage of people on the electoral registers in each London borough are *(a)* nationals of EU member states other than the UK and *(b)* not nationals of (i) the UK and (ii) the Republic of Ireland. (179019)

Data separately identifying British, Irish, or Commonwealth citizens are not collected centrally; these citizens are grouped together on local authority electoral returns. Therefore we are unable to produce data separately for British and Irish citizens.

The attached table provides the nearest available data to those you requested. It provides figures for 1 December 2006 for each London borough and the City of London, on the number and proportion of registered electors who qualify through EU citizenship, excluding British, Irish, Cypriot and Maltese citizens (Cypriot and Maltese citizens qualify as Commonwealth citizens). Also shown are equivalent data for those electors who qualify through British, Irish or Commonwealth citizenship.

Electoral counts for 1 December 2007 will be published on 28 February 2008.

Table 1: Number and percentage of the electorate qualifying through European Union citizenship, and number and percentage of the electorate qualifying through British, Irish, or Commonwealth Citizenship, London boroughs, 1 December 2006

London borough	Electorate qualifying through European Union citizenship[1,2]	Percentage[3] of electorate qualifying through European Union citizenship[1,2]	Electorate qualifying through British, Irish, or Commonwealth citizenship[1]	Percentage of electorate qualifying through British, Irish, or Commonwealth citizenship[1]
City of London	404	7	5,684	93
Barking and Dagenham	3,115	3	119,950	97
Barnet	10,623	5	210,254	95
Bexley	1,923	1	170,775	99
Brent	15,275	8	177,801	92
Bromley	4,720	2	229,228	98
Camden	12,987	9	133,766	91
Croydon	6,939	3	236,725	97
Ealing	16,737	8	204,785	92
Enfield	7,743	4	192,099	96
Greenwich	7,031	4	157,276	96
Hackney	9,201	7	128,149	93
Hammersmith and Fulham	12,510	10	107,283	90
Haringey	12,985	8	144,712	92
Harrow	5,721	3	159,580	97
Havering	1,506	1	177,475	99
Hillingdon	5,167	3	181,987	97
Hounslow	8,926	5	154,262	95
Islington	8,603	7	116,019	93
Kensington and Chelsea	16,058	16	85,741	84
Kingston Upon Thames	4,806	4	103,231	96
Lambeth	15,951	8	192,087	92
Lewisham	7,487	4	170,635	96
Merton	8,641	6	129,611	94
Newham	12,840	7	172,927	93
Redbridge	2,045	1	183,533	99
Richmond Upon Thames	5,983	5	119,803	95
Southwark	11,807	6	182,150	94
Sutton	3,042	2	131,359	98
Tower Hamlets	9,156	6	141,120	94
Waltham Forest	10,051	6	158,439	94

Table 1: Number and percentage of the electorate qualifying through European Union citizenship, and number and percentage of the electorate qualifying through British, Irish, or Commonwealth Citizenship, London boroughs, 1 December 2006

London borough	Electorate qualifying through European Union citizenship[1,2]	Percentage of electorate qualifying through European Union citizenship[1,2]	Electorate qualifying through British, Irish, or Commonwealth citizenship[1]	Percentage of electorate qualifying through British, Irish, or Commonwealth citizenship[1]
Wandsworth	15,144	7	204,016	93
Westminster	17,989	13	121,523	87

[1] These data are as reported by each London borough to ONS.
[2] Excludes British and Irish citizens, and also Maltese and Cypriot citizens who qualify as Commonwealth citizens.

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Northern Rock

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what provisions he has made for the accounting of *(a)* the loans advanced to Northern Rock and *(b)* the guarantees made for deposits held within Northern Rock within the national accounts; and if he will make a statement. [180032]

Angela Eagle: The loan from the Bank of England to Northern Rock will be shown as an asset of the bank and a liability of the company in the national accounts.

I refer the hon. Gentleman to the letters the Chancellor sent to the chairs of the Public Accounts Committee and the Treasury Select Committee on 11 October 2007, which the provisions of the Government's guarantee arrangements explain and which are available in the House Library.

Revenue and Customs: Databases

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what personal data held by HM Revenue and Customs has been copied to compact disc for transfer to external agencies since 15 December 2007. [180247]

Jane Kennedy: Following the child benefit data loss incident HMRC have introduced more stringent controls which require that transfers of bulk data on removable media only take place where there is adequate security protection. The transfer of personal data only takes place when it is essential to do so due to a business critical need or in order to meet the Department's legal obligations.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether data of individuals' records held by HM Revenue and Customs has been transferred without encryption between HM Revenue and Customs and external agencies since 15 December 2007. [180434]

Jane Kennedy: Following the child benefit data loss incident, HMRC have introduced more stringent controls which require that transfers of customer data only take place with adequate security protection.

For more detail on the changes made, I refer the hon. Member to Kieran Poynter's interim report that was published on 17 December 2007 and is available in the Library of the House.

Revenue and Customs: Postal Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 339W, on Revenue and Customs: postal services, how many items of post were sent by *(a)* recorded and *(b)* non-recorded post by HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last five years. [180460]

Jane Kennedy: The number of consignments of post sent by *(a)* recorded and *(b)* non-recorded by HM Revenue and Customs is as follows:

	Recorded	Non-recorded
2007-08, year to date	100,505	224,919,427
2006-07	139,728	317,341,842
2005-06	128,798	329,400,880

Details are only available from 2005-06 onwards.

Revenue and Customs: Standards

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library copies of proposals submitted in response to the HM Revenue and Customs Angels and Dragons internal communications initiative; how many proposals were received; and what the cost of the process was. [180163]

Jane Kennedy: The Angels and Dragons scheme was implemented in late 2006. There have been 3,213 ideas submitted since. Most of these have been filtered out in the early stages of the process. Many have been taken up by the relevant HMRC business area or incorporated into work already in progress. Others do not meet the criteria for Angels and Dragons and are referred to other HMRC continuous improvement schemes. Relatively few therefore reach the stage where an investment needs to be considered.

The board have so far agreed to fund the following ideas which reflect total investments to date of approximately £965,000, which reflects the cost of developing and implementing these ideas. The aim is for the portfolio of projects to generate an overall return on investment of 110 per cent. over two years.

Scanning tool for the Northern Ireland Overseas Repayment Unit

Introduction of a scanning tool to improve the handling of repayments of VAT to overseas claimants.

New Tax Credits mentoring

A specialist mentoring team to be set up in New Tax Credits contact centres.

VAT sift case tracking system

Management information tool to assist in audit visit selection.

ABC of VAT

A collection of VAT information developed into a word document.

Electronic Microfilm Retrieval

Purchase of two high volume production printers to enable microfilm requests to be submitted electronically.

Enhancement to the Employers Business Service Notes (EBS)

Amendment to the EBS notes to make them more accurate and reliable.

Particular Needs Equipment Catalogue

An electronic catalogue containing items of special needs equipment (for staff who have particular needs) which fall outside the main ordering process.

Suicide

Tim Farron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many suicides there were in the UK in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* age, *(b)* sex, *(c)* region and *(d)* ethnic origin. [181129]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many suicides there were in the UK in each of the last five years, broken down by (a) age, (b) sex, (c) region and (d) ethnic origin. (181129)

The tables attached provide the number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death, by (a) age and (b) sex in the UK, and (c) Government Office Region in England, for 2002 to 2006 (the latest year available). Figures on deaths by ethnic group are not available, as ethnicity is not recorded at death registration.

Table 1: Number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death, United Kingdom[1,2,3], by five-year age-group, 2002-06[4]

Deaths (persons)

Age group	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
15-19	214	182	206	190	178
20-24	412	436	394	390	365
25-29	588	474	453	423	424
30-34	695	672	609	593	525
35-39	719	721	752	691	671
40-44	624	649	673	677	668
45-49	534	536	576	602	593
50-54	492	483	509	499	515
55-59	418	421	438	443	481
60-64	264	281	280	317	346
65-69	245	214	259	226	222
70-74	197	202	196	180	169
75-79	158	194	192	138	153
80-84	131	141	164	159	129
85+	137	126	153	143	118
Total	5,828	5,732	5,854	5,671	5,557

[1] Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34, excluding Y33.9 (where the Coroner's verdict was pending) for England and Wales, and codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34 for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

[2] Suicide and undetermined intent deaths have not been included for children under the age of 15 years.

[3] Figures for the UK include data provided by the Registrars General for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 2: Number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death, United Kingdom[1,2,3], by sex, 2002-06[4]

Deaths (persons)

Sex	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Male	4,349	4,268	4,290	4,192	4,197
Female	1,479	1,464	1,564	1,479	1,360
Total	5,828	5,732	5,854	5,671	5,557

[1] Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34, excluding Y33.9 (where the Coroner's verdict was pending) for England and Wales, and codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34 for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

[2] Suicide and undetermined intent deaths have not been included for children under the age of 15 years.

[3] Figures for the UK include data provided by the Registrars General for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 3: Number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death, England, by Government Office Region[1,2], 2002-06[3]

Deaths (persons)

Region	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
North East	249	272	295	242	228
North West	640	637	637	677	636
Yorkshire and The Humber	454	423	472	482	403
East Midlands	362	374	386	367	358
West Midlands	466	466	454	425	411
East of England	466	450	452	448	424
London	630	659	627	620	588
South East	723	697	702	694	669
South West	452	452	489	453	460
Total	4,432	4,430	4,514	4,408	4,177

[1] Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34, excluding Y33.9 (where the Coroner's verdict was pending).

[2] Suicide and undetermined intent deaths have not been included for children under the age of 15 years.

[3] Based on boundaries as of 2007.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Abandonment of Animals Act 1960

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the operation of the Abandonment of Animals Act 1960; and what amendments have been made to this Act since 1997. [177126]

Jonathan Shaw: The Abandonment of Animals Act 1960 was repealed and replaced by the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Under the 2006 Act, it is a criminal offence to either cause unnecessary suffering to—or fail to provide for the welfare needs of—any domestic or captive animal.

Under the Act, if someone who is responsible for an animal abandons it and it is unable to fend for itself, the person responsible will have failed to ensure its welfare and therefore committed an offence. If suffering has actually occurred as a result of the abandonment, a further offence will have been committed under the Act's provisions on unnecessary suffering. The maximum fine when suffering occurs has been increased from £5,000 to £20,000.

African Horse Sickness

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials have had with the (i) British Veterinary Association and (ii) horse industry on African horse sickness; and if he will make a statement. [177128]

Jonathan Shaw: A working group has been set up, which includes DEFRA personnel and veterinary experts, to look at how best the Government and industry can work together to prepare for and manage any outbreak of African Horse Sickness. So far, there have not been any ministerial contacts with industry on this matter, but the working group is intending to meet regularly and to include interested parties from the industry in future meetings as necessary.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many scientists in his Department are working on research into African horse sickness; and how many there were in January *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [177142]

Jonathan Shaw: There are a number of veterinarians working within DEFRA, and the related agencies dealing in laboratory investigations and research, who deal with aspects of African horse sickness (AHS). This position has not altered in the last three years. No one person in any of these arms of Government is assigned full-time to AHS research. It is therefore impossible to give a specific and accurate answer to the hon. Member's question.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research has been *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated by his Department since July 2006 on the potential impact of an outbreak of African horse sickness on the UK's equine industry; what discussions (i) he, (ii) Ministers in his Department and (iii) his officials have had with representatives of the equine industry on the matter since June 2007; what the (A) location and (B) duration of each meeting was; whether a record of each meeting was kept; who attended each meeting; and if he will make a statement. [177143]

Jonathan Shaw: In order to develop and maintain our diagnostic capability for the disease, DEFRA has regular contact and arrangements in place with the Pirbright Institute for Animal Health laboratory, which is a World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) reference laboratory for African horse sickness (AHS). DEFRA is investing in three research and development contracts which relate to AHS as a vector borne disease. These are:

(1) For the epidemiology and control of orbiviral diseases in the UK, with particular reference to bluetongue and AHS—total project cost £984,000 (project ends 31 March 2008).

(2) For molecular phylogeny of Culicoides midges in relation to vector competence for bluetongue in the UK—total project cost £430,783 (project ends 30 April 2008).

(3) Concerning the spread of bluetongue and related diseases by wind-borne vector Culicoides—total project cost £566,358 (project ends 31 October 2009).

Neither the Minister nor other officials have yet met representatives from the industry to discuss the impact of an outbreak of AHS. A working group has been set up involving DEFRA personnel and veterinary experts concerned with equine health and welfare to consider how best the Government and the industry can work together to prevent and manage any such outbreak. The working group meetings are attended variously by between six and eight people, with representatives present from the Horse Trust, the Animal Health Trust, Cambridge University, the Pirbright laboratory and veterinarians from Defra Food and Farming Group. Meetings on average run for two and a half to three hours with minutes kept by a member of the group which are circulated to attendees later.

The group met on the following dates in 2007:

(a) 2 May in the Horse Race Betting Levy Board premises, London.

(b) 3 October in the SPANA building London.

(c) 17 December in Defra Page street, London.

The next meeting is planned for 7 February 2008, with other meetings to follow. It is intended that members of the industry will be invited to attend some future meetings to widen awareness among the public of AHS.

The relevant personnel in DEFRA are therefore aware of the potential seriousness of an outbreak of AHS, and are taking active steps to prepare for this.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cases of African horse sickness occurred in *(a)* Southend, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England and Wales in each year since 1990. [177145]

Jonathan Shaw: African horse sickness is an exotic disease of horses primarily confined to sub-Saharan Africa where it is enzootic. Occasional outbreaks have occurred outside this area in Northern Africa, the Middle East and in Southern Europe (Spain 1966, 1987 to 1990, and Portugal 1989). The disease is notifiable under both EU legislation and within the United Kingdom but there has never been any confirmed case of African horse sickness within the UK.

Agriculture: Derbyshire

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding streams are available to help farmers in West Derbyshire to diversify into organic and sustainable farming methods. [178546]

Jonathan Shaw: Aid for farmers who wish to convert their land to organic production is available under Organic Entry Level Stewardship (OELS). This is a 'whole farm' scheme open to farmers who manage all or part of their land organically and who are not receiving aid under the Organic Farming Scheme (OFS) which is now closed to new applicants.

Acceptance into the scheme is guaranteed providing an applicant meets all of its requirements, including ensuring that their organic land is registered with an Organic Inspection Body (OIB) before applying and that it remains continuously registered with an OIB for the five-year duration of the agreement.

OELS is the organic strand of Environmental Stewardship (ES) which is the main agri-environment scheme open to farmers and land managers in England. ES provides grant aid to farmers in order to secure environmental benefits and encourage sustainable farming through a wide range of land management options. It is administered by Natural England.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average age of farmers receiving the hill farm allowance was in each year since its introduction. [179299]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 January 2008]:* The following table is taken from the Farm Business Survey (FBS). The FBS is primarily a survey of levels of farm income rather than specific sources of income, such as Hill Farm Allowance, and is based on a sample of farms with a minimum size of half a standard labour requirement. This means it excludes farms where the labour requirement is less than half a full-time equivalent.

Average age of farmer receiving Hill Farm Allowance in England[1]

	Average age
2001	52
2002	52
2003	53
2004	52
2005	53
2006	54

[1] Farms greater than 0.5 Standard Labour Requirement

Source:
Farm Business Survey

Agriculture: Vocational Guidance

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps are being taken to promote farming as a future career for young people. [178547]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government support 'Fresh Start', the industry-led initiative which aims to encourage new entrants into the industry by signposting sources of help and support, and by promoting farming as an attractive career option. The Fresh Start academy offers new entrants training in business skills, a mentoring service, and the possibility of identifying business opportunities via a matchmaking network. Since June 2006, 16 Fresh Start academies have opened across the country. More information is available on the DEFRA website.

Animal Feed

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what dates Ministers in his Department reviewed the decision of May 2001 not to compensate swill feeders following the ban of swill feeding. [177565]

Jonathan Shaw: Ministers and officials have considered compensation for the former swill feeders (the Associated Swill Users (ASU)) on a number of occasions.

i. Following a meeting between the Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Lords) Baroness Hayman and the ASU on 2 May 2001.

ii. Following correspondence from the ASU received on 1 July 2001.

iii. Following a meeting on 4 October 2001 between officials and representatives of the ASU.

iv. Following a meeting between the Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Commons) and the ASU on 20 November 2001.

v. Following a meeting on 24 June 2003 between the ASU, some of their MPs and the Secretary of State and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Commons).

vi. Following correspondence from the ASU received on 5 May 2005.

vii. Following correspondence from George Howarth, MP received on 1 July 2005.

viii. Following a meeting on 19 July 2005 between Nick Brown, MP and the Secretary of State.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms are in place to ensure that the welfare of animals is safeguarded when they are abandoned as a result of their owners being incapacitated. [177125]

Jonathan Shaw: If someone abandoned an animal without taking all reasonable steps to ensure its welfare needs are met, they would be committing an offence under the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of animals abandoned each year; [179422]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of animals abandoned after the Christmas period in each of the last five years. [179423]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government introduced the Animal Welfare Act 2006, which came into force in England on 6 April 2007 (and in Wales on 27 March). The Act introduces an offence of failing to provide for the welfare needs of an animal; that is, a 'duty of care' which will allow action to be taken before an animal suffers.

The duty of care means that all animal owners are required to promote animal welfare and potential owners must therefore know the welfare requirements of an animal before they acquire one. Those who abandon an animal without taking all reasonable steps to ensure its welfare needs are met, will be committing an offence under the Act.

We have no estimates concerning the number of animals abandoned after the Christmas period but we are grateful to the Dogs Trust, the Royal Society for the Prevention on Cruelty to Animals and other welfare organisations for the work that they do every year to raise public awareness of this problem.

Animal Welfare: Circuses

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will ban the use of non-domesticated animals in travelling circuses; and if he will make a statement. [177345]

Jonathan Shaw: Mike Radford's report on wild animal acts in travelling circuses was released on 20 November 2007. The Working Group concluded that a ban on wild animals in circuses could not be legally justified purely on scientific grounds. In these circumstances a ban could not be made by using secondary legislation under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. Officials are currently considering the feasibility of introducing secondary legislation under the Act to promote the welfare of wild animal acts.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what regulations govern the use of wild animals in circuses; what changes he is planning to make to these regulations; and if he will make a statement. [177860]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 14 January 2008]:* The welfare of performing animals is provided for in the general provisions to avoid suffering and ensure welfare in the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

In addition, the training and exhibition of performing animals is further regulated by the Performing Animals Act (Regulation) Act 1925, which requires trainers and exhibitors of such animals to be registered with the local authority. Under the 1925 Act, the police and officers of local authorities, who may include a veterinarian, have power to enter premises where animals are being trained and exhibited. If cruelty and neglect is detected, magistrates courts can prohibit or restrict the training or exhibition of the animals and suspend or cancel the registration granted.

Mike Radford's report on wild animal acts in travelling circuses was released on 20 November 2007. Officials are currently considering the feasibility of introducing secondary legislation under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to regulate the welfare of wild animal acts, and so replace the 1925 Act.

Animal Welfare: Codes of Practice

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to his answer of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 28-9W, on animal welfare: codes of practice, how his Department will validate the objectivity of the research it has commissioned from the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust. [172800]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has commissioned a study by The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust into the welfare implications of using bits and spectacles. The results of the study will be subject to independent peer review.

Animal Welfare: Prosecutions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females have been (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted of an offence under each relevant section of the Protection of Animals Act 1911 in each year since 1977; [177122]

(2) how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females have been (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted of an offence under the Abandonment of Animals Act 1960 in each year since 1977. [177123]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested covering the years 1979-2006 are provided in the following table. Data for 1977 and 1978 are not available broken down to the level of detail requested.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for the abandonment of and cruelty to animals, England and Wales 1979-2006[1,2]

	Statute: Protection of Animals Act 1911							
	Proceeded against		*Found guilty*		*Proceeded against*		*Found guilty*	
	Male	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
1979	519	145	466	128	38	20	33	15
1980	589	213	525	189	40	24	36	21
1981	625	205	540	177	36	16	35	13
1982	582	233	518	206	43	24	39	19
1983	612	225	545	201	37	14	33	11
1984	627	244	551	209	53	34	51	31
1985	687	300	588	259	48	35	41	30
1986	707	304	603	259	38	21	35	18
1987	728	298	625	259	36	26	32	25
1988	722	298	616	258	24	20	22	20
1989	707	337	604	289	30	21	27	17
1990	814	345	661	301	40	12	29	12
1991	819	348	578	278	27	20	24	17
1992	780	366	621	301	38	24	34	20
1993	727	346	575	277	29	24	21	17
1994	621	285	499	230	17	4	13	3
1995	601	322	491	261	8	10	5	8
1996	648	318	505	258	15	10	11	8
1997	687	364	565	302	14	12	10	11
1998	690	414	557	330	23	13	18	8
1999	661	385	521	304	10	7	7	5
2000	707	365	567	292	15	11	6	7
2001	629	344	481	271	16	9	12	7
2002	654	351	491	277	12	11	11	9
2003	635	364	484	299	12	7	11	4
2004	623	359	490	296	13	6	10	4
2005	674	382	520	319	9	18	6	12
2006	623	353	470	284	10	13	7	8

[1] Data provided on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Court Proceedings Database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice Our ref: 008 and 009-07

Animals: Abuse

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted for offences of animal cruelty in (i) Lancashire and (ii) England in 2007. [179358]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 January 2008]:* Information on the number of defendants prosecuted and convicted for offences of animal cruelty in 2007 will not be available until the autumn of 2008.

Avian Influenza: Testing

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criteria he uses to identify sites for testing for the H5N1 virus; and if he will make a statement. [179931]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* Surveillance for avian influenza focuses on species of wild birds that experts believe to have a greater potential role in the spread of avian influenza viruses including ducks, geese, swans, gulls and waders. Sampling is targeted as much as possible to areas where there is an abundance of these species and domestic poultry. The aim is to focus on areas where an introduction of HPAI H5N1 would be more likely to be detected and to areas where an introduction may have more significance to poultry health. More than 6,000 birds were tested last year alone. The numbers of birds tested is in part dependent on the numbers of birds found dead by regular patrols of certain wetland reserves or reported by the public. There have been over 2,000 patrols undertaken since the start of this migration period in September/October at over 200 sites. The number of dead birds can be lower during a milder year. No cuts have been made to active patrolling or testing and in some areas patrolling has been increased due to national and international avian influenza incidents. Samples are also collected from live caught birds at several wetland sites throughout the UK and birds shot through normal wildfowling.

We adopt a partnership approach to such surveillance with over 20 organisations which own sites where testing takes place. These include the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the British Trust for Ornithology, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage, the Countryside Council for Wales, the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts and local authorities.

Additionally a separate survey takes place across the whole of the UK to monitor any unusually high levels of mortality in wild birds of any species. We also test a random sample of poultry premises from across the UK. During an outbreak, we enhance the level of surveillance that takes place in the surrounding area based on expert ornithological advice.

Avian Influenza: Vaccination

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps are being taken by his Department to ensure that sufficient vaccines are available in the UK should there be a widespread outbreak of avian influenza; and how many vaccines are necessary. [177725]

Jonathan Shaw: As part of our contingency planning for an avian influenza outbreak, and in view of uncertainties in the nature and spread of the virus, we maintain a supply of 10 million doses of vaccine. Five million doses of vaccine are stored in the UK and a further five million doses are kept on a supply contract in Spain, although the contract states that the vaccine must be delivered to the UK within seven days if required. This vaccine could be used against both H5 and H7 strains of the virus, should a veterinary risk assessment indicate it is necessary.

Currently, only birds in English zoos are permitted to be vaccinated because of their vital role in global conservation. We have also produced a delivery plan, available on the DEFRA website, which outlines guidelines for delivering a vaccination programme in birds outside zoos and is adaptable to a range of different epidemiological circumstances which would determine how many doses of vaccine were needed depending on the area to be vaccinated. This plan, which has been developed and agreed with stakeholders, would have to be approved by the European Commission in the event of a decision to vaccinate.

Bluetongue Disease

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assistance and measures are in place for farmers who fall outside the immediate surveillance zone in detecting and preventing the spread of the bluetongue disease. [177653]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government are working closely with a core group of industry stakeholders to decide on actions necessary to combat bluetongue disease across the country. To this end, a policy statement (with supporting rationale) and an economic assessment have been agreed. These set out the strategy and priorities for the winter period. The UK remains committed to a disease control approach which aims to contain the disease within the current restricted zones.

Comprehensive information is available to farmers on the DEFRA website, via our telephone Helpline and through local Animal Health offices. We have published information on detecting and preventing the spread of bluetongue disease, including how to spot the clinical signs, midge mitigating measures, and what to do if farmers suspect signs of disease. This is also available on the DEFRA website.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs why the decision was taken to source and supply the anti-bluetongue virus vaccine from one supplier. [177713]

Jonathan Shaw: Following a full assessment of the three bids submitted to supply bluetongue vaccine, which included input from veterinary experts and the farming industry, we chose Intervet as the preferred bidder on the basis of technical specification, delivery timetable and price. Intervet has been developing a bluetongue serotype 8 (BTV-8) vaccine for over a year, has an established track record in producing vaccines for other diseases, and supplies vaccine for DEFRA's avian influenza vaccine bank. Livestock keepers will be offered the opportunity to purchase vaccine from the bank and I am confident that the Intervet vaccine will offer them the best value and most effective option.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on development of *(a)* cattle and *(b)* badger vaccines for bovine tuberculosis; and if he will make a statement. [177374]

Jonathan Shaw: The research programme for producing an effective vaccine against tuberculosis in *(a)* badgers and *(b)* cattle remains broadly in line with the timetable outlined in the Krebs report (1997).

Identification of candidate vaccines and development of differential diagnostic tests started in 1999 and is ongoing. Experimental investigations of vaccination protocols are progressing, including a natural transmission study in cattle looking at various candidate vaccines. Badger vaccines are further advanced with a three and a half year vaccine field trial to gather safety data and assess the efficacy of injectable Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG), and a project on the development of oral formulations.

Badger vaccines are likely to be available sooner than cattle vaccines. An injectable badger vaccine could be available within three to five years, and an oral badger vaccine in five to seven years. It will probably be at least eight years before a cattle vaccine is available. As with all research there is no guarantee of success.

In addition to developing the vaccine itself, there are a number of important legal, commercial, regulatory and policy issues surrounding the implementation of a bTB vaccine. Work has begun to identify and address these issues so we are able to make full use of a vaccine once it becomes available.

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when he expects to make a decision on policy on badger culling; and if he will make a statement; [177375]

(2) what assessment he has made of research on the effects on cattle health of culling badgers as a response to bovine TB; and if he will make a statement. [177564]

Jonathan Shaw: The question of whether badger culling has a role to play in controlling bovine TB in cattle is complex and presents very difficult choices.

Results from the Randomised Badger Culling Trial show that small-scale badger culling can increase levels of bovine TB in cattle. However, they also suggest that co-ordinated and efficient culling carried out over areas larger than the RBCT and sustained over a number of years could prove beneficial. However, Professor John Bourne's report said that culling could not meaningfully contribute to the control of bovine TB.

The Secretary of State has been clear that the next step is for DEFRA's ministerial team to have discussions with interested parties. He has already met with former members of the Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB, including Professor John Bourne, and separately with the former Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor Sir David King.

While we are keen to make progress on reaching a decision, there is no specific timetable for doing so.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many times and in what circumstances his Department used its powers to appoint an independent valuer in cases of bovine tuberculosis; and what the outcome was regarding compensation paid on each occasion. [177631]

Jonathan Shaw: Since 1 February 2006, compensation for cattle compulsorily slaughtered for bovine TB control reasons has mainly been determined through table valuations. However, where inadequate (or no) sales data have been collected for a particular category, and a previously determined market average price is not available, the level of compensation is determined by an independent valuer.

Since table valuations were introduced, compensation has been determined in this way in approximately 2 per cent. of cases—which equates to about 635 animals between February 2006 and November 2007. When independent valuers are appointed, their decision is binding on both DEFRA and the cattle owner.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate has been made of the percentage of *(a)* badgers and *(b)* cattle affected by tuberculosis in hotspot areas. [178359]

Jonathan Shaw: The randomised badger culling trial (RBCT), which ran from 1998 to 2006 and was centred on areas of high bovine TB risk, found evidence of Mycobacterium bovis (M. bovis) infection in badgers in all RBCT areas where culling took place.

During the RBCT, patterns of M. bovis infection were also investigated in badgers killed in road traffic accidents (RTAs). The overall prevalence of M. bovis infection in RTA badgers (15 per cent.) was similar to that recorded in badgers culled in the "proactive" RBCT areas (16.6 per cent.) between 2002 and 2005. However, when a sample of the proactively culled badgers were subjected to a more detailed post mortem analysis, prevalence levels nearly doubled.

The following table lists those counties in Great Britain with a TB herd incidence greater than the national average in January to November 2007.

Worst affected counties in Great Britain	*TB incidence[1] (percentage)*
Gloucestershire	10.9
Hereford and Worcester	8.8
Gwent	7.9
Devon	6.8
Wiltshire	6.0
Powys	5.8
Shropshire	5.8
Cornwall	5.4
Avon	4.9
Staffordshire	4.7
Somerset	3.7
Great Britain	3.7

[1] Confirmed new TB herd incidents (breakdowns) as a percentage of the number of tests on unrestricted herds (not including pre-movement tests). Provisional figures, subject to change as more data become available.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment has been made of the merits of *(a)* pre-movement testing of cattle for bovine tuberculosis and *(b)* the previous rapid tracing system. [178360]

Jonathan Shaw: Pre-movement testing has not replaced the system of bovine tuberculosis (TB) tracing carried out by Animal Health following the confirmation of the disease in a herd. The two measures are complementary. Pre-movement testing is designed to reduce the risk of the disease spreading

between herds. However, it does not apply to all herds, just one and two-yearly tested herds, and no policy can be 100 per cent. effective. Tracings remain essential in containing the risk from animals which have moved out of herds that are subsequently found to be infected.

Monitoring of the impacts of TB pre-movement testing is ongoing and key statistics are produced each month and published on the DEFRA website. Evidence to date shows that new TB incidents are being prevented by pre-movement tests. Infection is also being picked up earlier in high risk herds. Between 27 March 2006 and 30 November 2007 635 reactors were detected in 344 herds in England from pre-movement tests[1].

[1] The published figures are an underestimate of the impact of the policy and show the minimum benefits only. The number of reactors identified do not take into account the benefits of herd owners utilising Government paid TB surveillance tests as pre-movement tests or the number of inconclusive reactors identified by pre-movement testing which have become reactors when retested.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many officials in his Department have worked on bovine tuberculosis and related matters in the last five years. [178365]

Jonathan Shaw: Bovine tuberculosis (bTB) is one of DEFRA's top animal health priorities. While there are teams in core DEFRA and the relevant agencies—Animal Health, the Central Science Laboratory and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency—with roles dedicated predominantly to bTB policy, delivery and research, others have roles in which bTB-related work forms only part of their responsibilities. Additionally, resources are deployed flexibly in response to changing business demands.

Therefore, a full response to the hon. Member's question could be made only at disproportionate cost to the Department.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cases of bovine tuberculosis in cattle there were, and how much compensation was paid for affected cattle, in each county in the last five years. [178369]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is as follows:

Table 1 sets out the number of cattle slaughtered under bovine tuberculosis control measures and compensation paid in Great Britain in each of the last five calendar years for which full-year data are available.

Table 2 sets out a full county breakdown of the number of cattle slaughtered over this period. A full county breakdown of the amount of compensation paid is not available.

Table 1: Cattle slaughtered under TB control measures in Great Britain and compensation paid: 2002-06[1]

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Cattle slaughtered	23,744	23,821	23,064	30,081	22,242
Compensation paid (£)	23,138,512	38,216,249	33,785,023	42,844,857	28,169,269

[1] Includes cattle slaughtered as reactors, inconclusive reactors and direct contacts. 2005 and 2006 figures are provisional, subject to change as more data become available.

Table 2: Cattle slaughtered under TB control measures in Great Britain, by county: 2002-06[1]

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
England					
Avon	798	523	567	591	325
Bedfordshire	2	0	0	0	2
Berkshire	4	4	3	2	1
Buckinghamshire	16	43	1	11	51
Cambridgeshire	0	2	0	0	1
Cheshire	393	874	425	248	149
Cleveland	1	2	1	0	4
Cornwall	2,983	2,494	2,415	3,490	1,692
Cumbria	109	275	510	168	114
Derbyshire	372	356	321	608	463
Devon	3,125	3,767	4,758	6,660	4,468
Dorset	398	408	413	450	336
Durham	37	5	3	3	0
East Sussex	107	31	48	58	125
Essex	1	1	0	0	1
Gloucestershire	2,773	1,926	1,287	2,427	1,506
Greater London	0	0	2	0	0
Greater Manchester	2	2	13	3	3
Hampshire	8	13	17	21	30
Hereford and Worcestershire	2,788	2,680	2,686	3,698	2,817
Hertfordshire	2	0	0	0	0
Humberside	6	1	9	5	27
Isle of Wight	1	1	6	0	0
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0
Kent	2	4	1	3	10
Lancashire	12	9	4	45	19

Table 2: Cattle slaughtered under TB control measures in Great Britain, by county: 2002-06[1]

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Leicestershire	42	82	104	44	90
Lincolnshire	4	4	11	66	23
Merseyside	0	0	0	20	3
Norfolk	1	1	2	0	1
North Yorkshire	37	23	169	71	11
Northamptonshire	64	19	18	26	45
Northumberland	517	27	11	31	28
Nottinghamshire	5	1	17	1	5
Oxfordshire	57	11	15	16	20
Shropshire	493	473	757	856	877
Somerset	918	1,051	932	965	915
South Yorkshire	0	1	1	0	1
Staffordshire	1,157	1,205	626	1,297	1,051
Suffolk	1	0	2	0	13
Surrey	0	2	10	1	0
Tyne and Wear	0	0	0	0	0
Warwickshire	46	34	47	129	89
West Midlands	4	1	0	1	2
West Sussex	12	15	10	3	11
West Yorkshire	0	0	4	5	3
Wiltshire	1,145	1,180	1,080	1,100	660
Total	18,443	17,551	17,306	23,123	15,992
Wales					
Clwyd	60	55	96	36	117
Dyfed	3,087	3,559	3,906	4,540	4,020
Gwent	994	1,038	542	1,000	650
Gwynedd	16	37	16	12	12
Mid Glamorgan	19	14	12	2	24
Powys	810	953	821	1,002	1,075
South Glamorgan	14	2	0	2	9
West Glamorgan	60	76	122	183	133
Total	5,060	5,734	5,515	6,777	6,040
Scotland					
Aberdeenshire	12	22	23	21	53
Angus	0	2	5	0	0
Argyll	8	7	15	2	0
Ayrshire	5	5	17	7	35
Banffshire	8	4	5	3	2
Berwickshire	4	22	4	0	1
Bute	3	5	2	0	0
Caithness	0	0	0	0	0
Clackmannan	0	5	0	0	0
Dumbartonshire	1	0	0	0	0
Dumfriesshire	18	26	2	96	91
East Lothian	4	3	5	1	1
Fife	4	2	10	0	1
Inverness-shire	4	1	2	1	0
Kincardine	0	21	0	0	2
Kinross	0	0	3	0	0
Kirkcudbright	63	27	17	13	0
Lanarkshire	1	339	0	2	2
Midlothian and Edinburgh	0	0	6	1	0
Moray	4	1	0	0	0
Nairn	43	1	2	0	0
Orkney	0	0	0	1	0
Peebles	0	1	0	0	0
Perthshire	10	5	10	8	2
Renfrew	1	0	2	1	0
Ross and Cromarty	0	3	0	0	0
Roxburgh	1	6	3	0	0
Selkirk	3	0	0	0	0
Shetland	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2: Cattle slaughtered under TB control measures in Great Britain, by county, 2002-06[1]

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Stirling	0	2	2	0	4
Sutherland	0	0	1	1	0
West Lothian	0	0	0	0	0
Wigtown	44	26	107	23	16
Total	241	536	243	181	210

[1] Includes cattle slaughtered as reactors, inconclusive reactors and direct contacts. 2005 and 2006 figures are provisional, subject to change as more data become available.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will review the tabular valuation system for compensating farmers for animals slaughtered following infection with bovine tuberculosis to make provision for organically-reared cows and steers. [178981]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government recognise that the current table valuation-based compensation system is a cause of concern to some stakeholders, including some organic cattle farmers.

While DEFRA has not ruled out the possibility of changes to the compensation system, any changes would need to be justified and take into account the interests of all parties, including taxpayers.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects a licence for the use of the BCG vaccine against bovine tuberculosis in badgers to be granted; and if he will make a statement. [178340]

Jonathan Shaw: Before it can be widely used, there is a requirement for BCG to be licensed for use in badgers. There are defined steps in achieving this licence. An experimental safety study performed to Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) accreditation was completed successfully at the Veterinary Laboratories Agency in 2004-05 and two projects are ongoing: a three year field safety study (Project CB0115) and a demonstration of the efficacy of the vaccine (Project CB0116). An independent consultant with experience in the veterinary pharmaceutical industry is monitoring the study.

In addition to these licensing projects, work is also underway on developing an oral vaccine and bait delivery systems for badgers (Project SE3223).

The earliest date a licensed injectable badger vaccine may be available is the end of 2010, and the earliest a licensed oral vaccine may be available is the end of 2013. However, as with all research, there is no guarantee of success.

Even if a licensed vaccine were available, there are a number of significant non-technical barriers to successful rollout surrounding acceptability, practicality, legality and the relative costs, responsibility for costs, and benefits of use.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Costs

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the average cost to a farmer of *(a)* veterinary bills and *(b)* labour for pre-movement testing for cattle for bovine tuberculosis. [178363]

Jonathan Shaw: Pre-movement tests are a private transaction between individual farmers and their local veterinary inspector.

The cost to the farmer of pre-movement testing has been updated in the light of experience and to reflect an independent survey on veterinary capacity and costs. The revised assessment of costs and benefits of pre-movement testing uses a value of £9.60 per animal (£7.10 veterinary cost, 50p tuberculin, £2.00 cost to farmer) as the average cost of pre-movement testing.

The updated assessment and the independent survey are both available on the DEFRA website.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average cost to the public purse is of pre-movement testing of an individual animal for bovine tuberculosis. [178364]

Jonathan Shaw: All bovine tuberculosis (TB) pre-movement tests must be arranged and paid for by the herd owner. As there are benefits to the herd owner of buying or selling cattle with some degree of disease assurance, herd owners are expected to cover the costs of the local veterinary inspectors' time to carry out pre-movement tests while Government funds the provision of tuberculin. The average cost of tuberculin per animal tested is estimated at 50 pence.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many animals had a pre-movement test for bovine tuberculosis in 2007; and how many of those were found to be reactors. [179662]

Jonathan Shaw: In England, between 1 January and 30 November 2007, 344,638 dedicated TB pre-movement tests were carried out. As a result 357 reactors were detected.

The figures are an underestimate of the impact of the policy and show the minimum benefits only. The number of reactors identified do not take into account the benefits of herd owners utilising Government paid TB surveillance tests as pre-movement tests or the number of inconclusive reactors identified by pre-movement testing which have become reactors when retested.

Cumulative pre-movement statistics (from September 2005 onwards) are updated monthly and published on the DEFRA website.

Cattle: Imports

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will reduce the number of cattle imported into the UK in order to reduce the risk of further spread of bluetongue. [178982]

Jonathan Shaw: Under the EU bluetongue regulation, susceptible animals are permitted to move out of restricted zones into free areas for intra-community trade, provided an official veterinarian of the exporting country certifies that all the necessary conditions have been met. In most cases, animals must undergo pre-movement testing and these tests must indicate negative results for virus infection. Importers also have a responsibility to import only those animals which comply with the rules and to notify Animal Health in advance of the movement; we have written to importers to remind them of their responsibilities. Animals are also permitted to move freely within the same zones established in each country, such as from the Netherlands protection zone to the UK protection zone. The UK cannot prohibit imports of animals moved in accordance with these conditions.

The recent incidents of bluetongue-positive animals being imported to the UK may highlight inadequacies in the application of these measures in EU member states. We are in contact with the relevant member state officials to establish how these animals arrived in the UK, and we have written and spoken to the Commission to ask for appropriate measures to be taken to ensure such movements are managed safely.

China: Bears

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government is taking to encourage China and Russia to improve welfare standards for bears. [177647]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has no responsibility for animal welfare issues in China or Russia.

Christmas

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* postage of Christmas cards in 2007. [176921]

Jonathan Shaw: In 2007, core-DEFRA did not produce physical Christmas cards opting instead for a selection of e-greetings cards chosen following an internal design competition and made available for all staff to use. Accordingly, no postage costs were incurred.

Climate Change

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many departmental *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* civil servants and *(c)* consultants, contractors or secondees working full-time or part-time for his Department attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali. [179194]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 January 2008]:* The number of UK Government delegates from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who attended the 13th Conference of the Parties (COP13) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bali, Indonesia, was 33. This number included officials and two Ministers, the Secretary of State and myself.

Many of these officials, in addition to representing the UK and EU in meetings, chaired international contact groups and not all of the delegation was in Bali for the whole of the two week Conference.

Countryside Stewardship Scheme: Cornwall

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what evidence has been obtained by Natural England to form a basis for ending the 10 year Countryside Stewardship agreement with Eastmoor Commoners Ltd (Cornwall); and if he will make a statement. [179752]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* Regular livestock counts on Eastmoor Common demonstrated that the stocking levels were consistently and significantly higher than the agreed levels set in their Countryside Stewardship Agreement, leading to overgrazing of the Common and the loss of any environment gains planned in the Countryside Stewardship Agreement. Eastmoor Commoners Ltd. was given guidance and advised that this would lead to ending their Countryside Stewardship Agreement, but the situation did not improve and the agreement was terminated.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in each police force area in each year since 1997. [177208]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested on prosecutions and convictions under the Dangerous Dogs Acts of 1989 and 1991 is provided in the following tables:

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Acts 1989 and 1991, by police force area, England and Wales 1997-2006[1,2]

	Proceeded against									
Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset	1	4	5	5	6	11	11	5	11	7
Bedfordshire	2	8	7	6	6	11	11	6	18	19
Cambridgeshire	5	5	13	12	12	15	15	13	19	22
Cheshire	10	11	18	18	18	9	25	15	7	14

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Acts 1989 and 1991, by police force area, England and Wales 1997-2006

	Proceeded against									
Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
City of London		2								
Cleveland	9	18	12	10	10	16	12	10	10	12
Cumbria	3	19	9	18	13	12	16	18	17	24
Derbyshire	2	2	6	7	5	8	8	8	16	6
Devon and Cornwall	16	29	52	47	64	55	55	42	30	31
Dorset	11	8	6	8	22	16	11	9	8	8
Durham	6	16	17	20	8	12	18	15	17	18
Essex	22	27	15	26	21	40	15	13	40	31
Gloucestershire	3	4	4	3	6	10	10	9	8	8
Greater Manchester	22	40	51	44	37	52	65	53	56	60
Hampshire	34	40	36	46	40	45	34	47	42	41
Hertfordshire	1	5		11	9	6	12	16	21	22
Humberside	2	8	8	16	13	7	17	13	12	11
Kent	1	2	3	2		7	3	11	27	18
Lancashire	30	26	26	22	31	25	28	27	31	41
Leicestershire	9	13	19	10	15	20	20	24	30	26
Lincolnshire	2	12	8	12	8	11	15	14	16	23
Norfolk	3	5	1	7	1	6	2	5	1	3
Merseyside	12	12	20	16	24	13	17	28	18	18
Metropolitan Police	80	81	79	92	97	86	91	97	80	102
Norfolk	3	5	1	10	3	10	4	5	5	4
North Yorkshire	11	9	9	7	14	3	8	7	13	7
Northamptonshire	6	14	12	23	11	11	20	17	9	13
Northumbria	35	45	43	42	41	38	34	51	28	41
Nottinghamshire	6	21	16	8	7	17	12	15	25	16
South Yorkshire	19	24	17	21	34	32	24	28	36	43
Staffordshire	13	17	22	13	39	26	52	47	41	18
Suffolk	5	4	4	7	6	5	3	7	8	6
Surrey	4	8	9	15	9	11	14	7	7	14
Sussex	25	27	31	27	33	16	23	28	22	22
Thames Valley	15	16	16	28	17	28	24	34	36	38
Warwickshire	3	12	4	1	4	2	2	2	3	4
West Mercia	14	25	15	28	36	30	18	16	35	37
West Midlands	16	39	40	36	48	75	65	78	58	48
West Yorkshire	14	49	48	25	29	45	58	71	73	104
Wiltshire	5	12	14	6	11	8	20	10	13	14
Dyfed-Powys	15	15	31	15	14	10	12	21	10	16
Gwent	1	10	13	32	23	29	19	22	26	15
North Wales	1	7	10	18	12	12	19	22	18	22
South Wales	10	13	13	28	30	27	28	24	22	13
Total	504	764	802	836	886	922	888	991	1,025	1,07

	Found guilty									
Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset	1	3	4	1	5	6	2	1	5	6
Bedfordshire		5	4	4	3	5	6	4	8	11
Cambridgeshire	3		8	9	6	7	10	8	12	15
Cheshire	6	6	12	15	10	5	16	11	2	8
City of London										
Cleveland	2	6	7	5	8	12	7	7	10	10
Cumbria	1	12	6	6	8	8	11	13	12	18
Derbyshire	1	1	4	4	3	2	3	6	4	3
Devon and Cornwall	8	16	27	26	42	33	29	28	21	11
Dorset	6	2	4	6	18	8	7	7	4	7
Durham	5	6	7	6	7	8	11	10	8	11
Essex	5	15	15	8	8	19	18	6	27	18
Gloucestershire	2	3	2	2	5	3	4	6	4	4
Greater Manchester	13	26	38	33	26	35	48	33	40	45
Hampshire	20	20	21	23	26	24	16	23	16	21
Hertfordshire	1	2	1	7	6		7	4	11	11
Humberside		2	1	9	6	6	13	7	10	9
Kent	1		2	2		4	2	5	14	14

Police force area	Found guilty 1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Lancashire	14	16	13	8	14	16	16	11	18	28
Leicestershire	8	7	10	3	7	13	10	13	28	14
Lincolnshire	1	4	5	9	3	6	6	11	8	13
Merseyside	5	7	11	11	17	9	5	14	12	8
Metropolitan Police	42	42	41	42	51	52	47	48	47	57
Norfolk	3	5	1	7	1	6	2	8	6	3
North Yorkshire	4	4	4	6	9	3	4	5	8	4
Northamptonshire	1	8	5	16	6	7	13	16	6	9
Northumbria	10	21	28	27	25	22	17	22	21	24
Nottinghamshire	6	12	11	6	4	10	10	7	13	8
South Yorkshire	8	18	7	10	22	13	10	18	24	28
Staffordshire	6	11	10	13	19	8	18	25	25	15
Suffolk	2	2	3	4	5	1	2	6	3	5
Surrey	3	3	6	8	6	7	5	4	4	9
Sussex	12	12	15	13	16	4	10	17	15	17
Thames Valley	7	10	8	12	4	12	9	15	25	21
Warwickshire	2	11	1	1	3	..	2	2	3	4
West Mercia	4	8	10	12	26	21	12	14	20	26
West Midlands	10	17	17	17	25	45	31	45	28	39
West Yorkshire	6	29	31	16	14	22	33	43	45	63
Wiltshire	3	8	6	3	6	7	13	9	6	9
Dyfed-Powys	5	8	18	6	7	7	10	9	4	9
Gwent	..	6	4	14	14	17	9	16	18	10
North Wales	..	5	6	12	9	7	12	17	13	15
South Wales	4	7	8	17	20	17	15	8	14	8
Total	241	406	442	459	522	517	531	582	625	668

[1] Data provided on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Court Proceedings Database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice Our ref. IOS019-08

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what responses he has received from chief constables on his 2007 review of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991; and if he will publish them. [177209]

Jonathan Shaw: 32 responses from police forces in England and Wales were received in response to our request for information on dangerous dogs legislation. It is clear that among police, there is no overwhelming support for major changes to existing law, but it is also clear from the consultation that the existing law needs to be enforced more rigorously. I will place a summary of the consultation responses in the House Libraries.

To assist the police, local authorities and the general public we are giving priority to revising the guidance that DEFRA has issued about the law on dangerous and unruly dogs. Officials are working with stakeholders from a range of backgrounds to prepare new guidance and I anticipate that it will be ready for publication in the spring of 2008.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of the number of illegal dogs under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in the UK in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [177715]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of illegal dogs under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 that entered the UK in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [177716]

Jonathan Shaw: No estimate has been made of the number of illegally held dogs in this country, including those imported to this country from overseas.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991: Greater London

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many animals were registered, in each London borough, under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in each of the last five years. [178921]

Jonathan Shaw: The number of dogs, prohibited by section 1 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, which were added to the Index of Exempted Dogs in each of the last five years is set out in the following table.

Index of Exempted Dogs, Analysis of Greater London Dogs, numbers added to Index in years 2003 to 2007

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Barnet	..	..	..	..	1
Brixton	..	..	..	..	3
Brockley	..	..	..	..	1
Bromley	..	..	..	1	..
Camberwell	..	..	..	..	1
Camden Town	..	..	..	..	1

Index of Exempted Dogs: Analysis at Greater London Dogs' numbers added to Index on years 2003 to 2007

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Carshalton					1
Chislehurst					4
Clapton					1
Cricklewood					2
Dagenham					1
Dulwich					2
East Ham					1
Greenford					1
Hammersmith					1
Hanwell					1
Harrow					3
Hayes					1
Heston					1
Holloway					1
Ilford					1
Kensington		1			
Lower Edmonton					1
Maida Vale					1
Mill Hill					1
New Southgate					1
North Kensington					4
Northolt					1
Notting Hill					1
Orpington					4
Palmers Green		1			
Peckham					2
Pimlico					1
Putney					1
Romford					2
Shepherds Bush					1
South Croydon				1	
South Lambeth				1	3
South Norwood					2
Tottenham					1
Upper Norwood					1
Wembley					2
West Kensington					1
West Norwood					4
Willesden					2
Wimbledon					1
Total for year	0	2	0	2	51

Departmental Contracts

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *a* objective and *b* value was of each contract placed with (i) Deloitte & Touche, (ii) Ernst & Young, (iii) KPMG, (iv) PricewaterhouseCoopers and (v) PA Consulting by his Department and its agencies in each year since 2004-05. [176029]

Jonathan Shaw: From information held centrally, the core Department's expenditure with Deloitte and Touche, Ernst and Young, KPMG, PricewaterhouseCoopers, and PA Consulting in each year since 2004-05 is:

£

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Deloitte and Touche	211,301.44		138,269.24	50,078.51
Deloitte M C S Ltd	2,426,828.66	2,762,458.14	1,157,656.14	4,257,593.24
Ernst and Young	319,222.57	207,405.13	63,767.26	117,580.00
KPMG	769,929.83	861,359.45	934,652.07	150,557.58
P A Consulting Group	6,250,144.71	4,689,108.39	4,326,282.61	516,030.16
PricewaterhouseCoopers	61,758.00	873,083.85	2,478,503.11	211,259.23

[1] April to December.

Information on the nature of this expenditure, and on the nature and value of similar expenditure by DEFRA's agencies and non-departmental public bodies could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether any of his Department's special advisers also work for organisations outside his Department. [178481]

Jonathan Shaw: Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the "Model Contract and Code" of "Conduct for Special Advisers", copies of which are in the Library of the House.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of the change in his Department's budget following the most recent Comprehensive Spending Review on *(a)* the agri-environment schemes funded under the Rural Development Programme for England and *(b)* marine monitoring. [177554]

Jonathan Shaw: Final budget decisions following the comprehensive spending review (CSR) have not yet been made and should be announced soon.

However, the Rural Development Programme for England programme budget will be maintained at £3.9 billion. We will need to profile expenditure over the

seven-year life of the programme to take account of the Department's budget across the CSR period, but the total amount allocated to the programme over the seven years will not be affected.

Departmental Secondment

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff have been seconded to (*a*) his Department and (*b*) the Waste Resources Action Programme in the last 12 months; from which outside body; and what the length was of the secondment in each case. [176529]

Jonathan Shaw: 38 staff have been seconded to DEFRA in the 12 months ending on 31 December 2007. This includes all staff whose period of secondment commenced before or within 2007 and ended within 2007 or has not yet ended. Their home organisation and length of secondment are shown in the following table:

Outside body	*Length of secondment - months*
AEA Energy and Environment	5
Belfast city council	48
Borough of Telford and Wrekin	16
British Energy	6
Cool Earth	5
EADS	24
EAGA Partnership	12
EDF Energy	5
ENCAM	12
ENCAM	36
Environment Agency	6
Environment Agency	6
Ernst and Young	9
Foods Standards Agency	30
Forestry Commission	29
Improvement and Delivery Agency	12
Meat and Livestock Commission	12
Natural England	10
Natural England	12
NPower	12
NPower	15
Ofgem	12
Ofgem	8
Ofgem	9
Ofgem	24
Partnerships UK	24
Policy Studies Institute	12
RPS-Planning and Development Ltd	60
RPS Planning and Development Ltd	12
SEBS	24
Swedish Energy Agency	39
The London borough of Camden	13
Transport Research Lab	12
UK Business Council	12
United Utilities	6
University of Cambridge	70
University of Surrey	15
Worcestershire county council	21

Two staff have been seconded to WRAP during the last 12 months. The details are in the table as follows:

Outside body	*Length of secondment - months*
DEFRA	9
Environment Agency	12

Disclosure of Information: Public Bodies

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what work or research is being undertaken or has been commissioned by his (*a*) Department and (*b*) its agencies in relation to the development of XML Schema to facilitate sharing of information between public authorities. [176582]

Jonathan Shaw: When developing new IT systems, DEFRA (through IBM, the service supplier) conforms with Cabinet Office UK GovTalk XML schema standards.

DEFRA has adopted a "Service Oriented Architecture" (SOA) which involves the build up of a library of XML schemas derived from DEFRA's Common Data Model to control the structured message handling of services. This technical strategy enables data sharing among users of these services which can include internal customers, Other Government Departments, NDPBs, local authorities and industry bodies.

This architecture is being utilised by the DEFRA Agency AnimalHealth in developing IT for its Business Reform Programme and is available to all other DEFRA Agencies.

Dogs

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of the number of (*a*) Japanese tosas and (*b*) cross-bred Japanese tosas in the UK in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [177718]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of (*a*) pit bull terriers and (*b*) cross-bred pit bull terriers in the UK in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [177719]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of (*a*) Dogo Argentinos and (*b*) cross-bred Dogo Argentinos in the UK in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [177720]

(4) what estimate he has made of the number of (*a*) Fila Brasileiros and (*b*) cross-bred Fila Brasileiros in the UK in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [177721]

Jonathan Shaw: The number of these dogs for each year is set out in the following table. Cross-breeds are included as they are regarded as 'types'. These are dogs held legally under the exemption scheme set up under section 1(5) of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. There are no estimates on the number of illegally held dogs.

	Live Dogs	Live Pit Bulls	Live Tosa	Live Dogo Argentino	Live Fila Brazileiro
1996	6,382	6,381	1	0	0
1997	6,191	6,190	1	0	0
1998	5,992	5,991	1	0	0
1999	5,552	5,551	1	0	0
2000	5,325	5,324	1	0	0
2001	5,099	5,098	1	0	0
2002	4,877	4,876	1	0	0
2003	4,682	4,682	0	0	0
2004	4,479	4,479	0	0	0
2005	3,170	3,170	0	0	0
2006	2,235	2,235	0	0	0
2007	1,237	1,237	0	0	0

Dogs: Animal Welfare

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what provisions are being included in the 2014 Animal Health and Welfare Strategy's vision for the protection and humane treatment of race dogs. [177651]

Jonathan Shaw: The scope of the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy includes animals used in sport. The Strategy's vision describes the world of animal health and welfare that we want to create by 2014, and includes the aim that animals in Great Britain kept for food, farming, sport, companionship, entertainment and in zoos are healthy and treated humanely.

The Government also intends to introduce new regulations under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 which will further help safeguard the welfare of racing greyhounds.

Dogs: Internet

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the trade in dangerous dogs over the internet; and if he will make a statement. [177717]

Jonathan Shaw: Under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, it is an offence to advertise the sale, exchanging or gifting of one of the four types of dog where possession is prohibited except under strictly controlled conditions. The offence covers sales over the internet. Any assessment of the internet trade would not be practical as internet trading is worldwide, and in some countries, it is legal to advertise these dogs. An offence would be committed if a person living in this country bought a prohibited dog from an overseas trader and then brought it here.

Energy: Conservation

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the reductions in *(a)* greenhouse gas emissions and *(b)* terawatt hours of domestic fuel used as a result of the implementation of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995. [181181]

Mr. Woolas: In the period 1 April 1996 to 31 March 2006, Energy Conservation Authorities (ECAs) in England have reported an overall improvement in domestic energy efficiency of approximately 19.26 per cent. as measured against a 1996 baseline. It is estimated that this equates to approximately 130 terawatt hours of domestic energy. No estimate has been made of the resulting reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. It is important to note that these figures have not been independently verified.

It is impossible to separate out the contribution of the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) from the data reported in other programmes which contribute to energy efficiency, in particular the Energy Efficiency Commitment, Warm Front and Decent Homes.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to bring forward amendments to the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995. [181182]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have recently consulted on their Review of the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) 1995, as implemented in England.

On the basis of the findings of the review, the Government identified three options for the future of HECA for consideration in that consultation:

i. Leave HECA to operate unchanged

ii. Introduction of a new standard methodology based on average Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP ratings)

iii. Repeal HECA

Responses to that consultation are currently being analysed and the Government will publish a summary of them, along with the Government's plans for the future of HECA, in due course.

English Language

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on English language classes for staff in the last year for which figures are available. [177483]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA does not centrally hold information on English Language classes for staff, and to collate those data would incur disproportionate cost.

Floods

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* commissioned on dispersed flooding; and how such research will support greater co-ordination between the Environment Agency, local authorities, water companies and other statutory bodies in their response to flooding. [181180]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA, with support from UK Water Industry Research, is currently funding 15 urban drainage pilots around the country. The pilots are examining the effectiveness of partnership working between the various drainage authorities (water companies, local authorities, the Environment Agency and Internal Drainage Boards),

and how this could be improved to find more effective solutions to surface water flooding problems.

As part of our joint research and development programme with the Environment Agency on flood and coastal erosion risk management, we have funded several research projects on urban flood risk management. These include good-practice guidance documents on using Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) and designing for exceedance in urban drainage. The joint research and development programme has been a major partner in the Flood Risk Management Research Consortium, led through the Engineering and Physical Research Council. In this Consortium, the Research Priority Area on Urban Flood Management has been a focus for practitioners and researchers to develop and pilot innovative modelling techniques for surface water flooding.

Floods: Insurance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with insurance companies on mitigation of flood risks through measures to be included in the settlements of claims for previous flood damage. [181178]

Mr. Woolas: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Environment (Hilary Benn), together with representatives across government responsible for the recovery from the flooding last summer, have a continuing dialogue with insurers including ministerial meetings and regular official-level working group meetings. In these discussions, we have highlighted the importance of enabling and incentivising householders and small businesses to adapt to flood risks, particularly through the flood resilient repair of properties where this is appropriate.

We have also engaged with the insurers and other representative bodies to identify any barriers to the wider adoption of resilient repairs and expect the dialogue with insurers to continue through the review of the statement of principles.

Food: Safety

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what responsibilities he has for food safety; what liaison his Department undertakes with the Food Standards Agency on matters of common interest; and if he will make a statement. [178355]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 14 January 2008]:* DEFRA has no direct responsibility for forming policy on aspects of food safety, but has regular contact with the Food Standards Agency (FSA) on this and a range of other issues. DEFRA and FSA relations are governed by their respective statutory functions and by a Concordat which sets out the general principles governing the DEFRA/FSA relationship and how issues should be handled to ensure effective working relationships with good communications in both directions. It is available from the DEFRA website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/fsaconcd/concord.htm

Food: Sustainable Development

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to include carbon emissions from transport under the evaluative criteria for food labels which indicate the environmental friendliness and sustainability of products; and if he will take steps to encourage the use of water-borne freight as a means of cutting these emissions. [177423]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA and The Carbon Trust are co-sponsoring the British Standards Institute to develop a methodology to measure the embedded greenhouse gas in products and services including food and drink. This could be used as a basis for an environmental label and will include the emissions from all food transport. We hope this work will encourage the reduction of emissions across the food supply chain, including water-borne freight.

Genetics: Birds

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the current status is of the licences held by *(a)* the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, *(b)* Syngenta Jealotts Hill and *(c)* Birkbeck College; and, for each establishment, what comparative assessment has been made of the DNA profile of the Diabotica kept with the DNA profiles of the bird population found in South East England. [175616]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 8 January 2008]:* I am unclear about the meaning of aspects of the question and respectfully ask my right hon. Friend to write to me with further clarification. I will then endeavour to provide a full response.

Greyhounds: Animal Welfare

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is for improving greyhound welfare; and if he will make a statement. [177346]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government are committed to introducing new regulations under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to help safeguard the welfare of racing greyhounds. In addition, the Government have made it clear to the industry that a lot needs to be done to get its house in order to help improve welfare standards for the dogs it uses in racing.

I am pleased to say that the industry has taken these demands very seriously. To facilitate much needed reform, the industry set up an inquiry under Lord Donoughue—a former Agriculture Minister—in order to establish what should be done to ensure that the industry has in place an efficient, modern and respected regulatory body. Lord Donoughue published his comprehensive report at the end of November. The Government will want to consider how the greyhound industry responds to Lord Donoughue's review. Our hope is that the industry will make a positive and swift response to his recommendations.

There will be a public consultation on our proposals for greyhound racing before approval by Parliament.

We intend to give this matter our priority, although the timing of the consultation will be dependent on the response of the industry to the recommendations made by the Donoughue enquiry.

It is already an offence under the Animal Welfare Act to destroy an animal in a manner that will cause it unnecessary suffering. In addition, the Act makes it an offence of failing to provide for the welfare needs of an animal. This will apply to owners and keepers of all animals, including racing and retired greyhounds, and will raise welfare standards throughout the dogs' lives.

Hill Farming: Labour Turnover

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many hill farmers left the industry in each of the last 10 years. [180103]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* Information on the number of farmers, partners, directors and spouses working on farms is collected in the Annual June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture. No information is collected on the number of farmers leaving the industry. The June Survey data is not split by hill and lowland farm but a breakdown of farmers in Less Favoured Areas between 1997 and 2006 are shown in the following table. These figures show net change only and therefore include gains as well as losses. The figures between certain years (in particular between 2001-02 and 2005-06) are not directly comparable due to changes in definitions and methodology as explained in the table notes.

Farmers, Partners, Directors and Spouses in Less Favoured Areas

	Number
1997	25,600
1998	28,466
1999	27,819
2000	28,671
2001	33,452
2002	32,582
2003	30,833
2004	30,955
2005	31,101
2006	36,348

Notes:

1. Less favoured areas (LFA) are areas, such as mountainous and hilly areas, within the European Union where farming is made more difficult by natural handicaps.
2. Less Favoured Area holdings were classified differently in 2006 and figures may not be comparable to previous years. Geographical grid references applied from 2006 are more robust than previous historical data.
3. Estimates are based on a sample survey and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling error.
4. Figures for 1997 to 1999 show main holdings only, from 2000 onwards minor holdings are also included.
5. Due to a register improvement exercise in 2001 labour figures prior to this date are not directly comparable with later results.
6. The introduction of the Single Payment Scheme in 2005 has led to an increase in the number of holdings registered. This impacted on the labour totals recorded through the survey in June 2006. These data for June 2006 are therefore not comparable with those from earlier years.

Source:

June Agricultural Survey

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Finance

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will allocate more resources to the Government Affairs Team of the Warm Front scheme to provide timely and substantive responses to inquiries from hon. Members. [179705]

Mr. Woolas: Resource allocation to the Warm Front Government Affairs Team is the responsibility of eaga plc as part of their contracted role as Warm Front scheme manager. Eaga are required to respond to hon. Members' inquiries within the timeline of 28 days. This is set by DEFRA for the Warm Front programme, and the vast majority of cases are responded to well within this timeframe. Particular concerns of hon. Members can be raised with Ministers.

Horses: Animal Welfare

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what legislation includes provisions relating to the tethering of horses; what amendments have been made to this legislation since it was passed; and if he will make a statement. [177572]

Jonathan Shaw: The Protection Against Cruel Tethering Act 1988 created a specific offence under the Protection of Animals Act 1911 of causing unnecessary suffering to a horse, ass or mule by the manner or condition of its tethering. The Protection Against Cruel Tethering Act was repealed and replaced by the Animal Welfare Act 2006. Under the 2006 Act, it is a criminal offence to either cause unnecessary suffering to—or fail to provide for the welfare needs of—any domestic or captive animal. If a horse is tethered in such a manner as to cause it to suffer unnecessarily, or in a way which does not meet acceptable welfare standards, then action can be taken.

Horses: Databases

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made in the development of the National Equine Database; and what the projected completion date is for this project. [177723]

Jonathan Shaw: The core element of the National Equine Database (NED), which contains basic horse and owner identification details, was launched in April 2006. This database is used by the Government to support the EU Horse Passport Legislation (2000/68EC), as well as contributing to the surveillance and control of exotic equine diseases.

Recently, the British Equestrian Federation (BEF) has, on behalf of the equine industry, agreed to take over responsibility for completing the NED project which will involve the delivery of NED Online, a website containing horse performance and pedigree information to enable the improvement of the overall quality and competitiveness of horses in the UK. We expect NED online to be launched later this year.

Institute for Animal Health: Pirbright

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what removals of contaminated soil from the Pirbright site have taken place; whether required waste shipment licences were obtained upon each occasion; what steps his Department took to ensure that each removal complied with the relevant waste management regulations; and if he will make a statement. [177563]

Jonathan Shaw: There is no evidence that loads of contaminated soil were transported from the Pirbright site, and the area where contamination might have occurred was reported to be cordoned off from the rest of the site on 8 August. However, lorries were driven over the potentially infected area and could therefore have picked up contaminated soil on their tyres. These lorry movements have been mapped and assessed. Full details of the epidemiological investigations into the outbreak can be found on the DEFRA website.

Laboratories: Security

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the outcome has been of the high-risk laboratories' review of biosecurity arrangements; and whether any changes are planned to be made to those arrangements. [177044]

Jonathan Shaw: We accepted all recommendations that apply to the Government contained in the Callaghan, Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Spratt reports. The regulatory outcome will be one that provides an assurance that the risk of accidental release of specified animal pathogens is as close to zero as possible.

Stringent new conditions have been applied to work undertaken on the Pirbright site, and a safety alert was issued to all similar laboratories immediately following the August 2007 outbreak. A follow-up round of inspections took place jointly with the HSE. The first phase of the safety alert inspection programme focused on containment level (CL) four facilities and was completed by mid-November 2007. These inspections, carried out by regulatory inspectors, revealed no breaches of the legislation and no formal enforcement action was taken. This process has provided both the regulatory bodies and the operators of the laboratories with the assurance that their facilities are well managed. The inspections have also provided a useful opportunity to provide advice and guidance on good practice.

A second phase involving regulatory visits to CL3 facilities, prioritised according to risk, is being developed, with visits planned for later this year.

Milk: Prices

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure dairy farmers are paid a fair price for their milk. [178545]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government believe that the setting of milk prices is a commercial matter to be resolved by private negotiation which should take place within the parameters set by competition law and that the market must determine prices.

National Fruit Collection

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what plans he has for the future administration, finance and control of Brogdale and of the UK's special fruit tree collection; and if he will make a statement; [180194]

(2) what criteria his Department will use to estimate best value when considering tenders to provide long-term relocation of the fruit collection at Brogdale; and what independent scientific and horticultural advice on those criteria was received by the Department; [180303]

(3) what assessment his Department has made of the potential risks of re-propagation and removal of the fruit tree collection at Brogdale to any new site; [180203]

(4) what private companies are involved in the control of the national fruit collection at Brogdale; what scientific evidence is available on the costs and benefits of a relocation of the collection; and if he will publish this evidence. [180322]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* The National Fruit Collection is currently maintained by the Brogdale Horticultural Trust and scientifically curated by Imperial College.

In response to an open competition, which allowed DEFRA to look at all the available options for the future of the collections, tenders were received and assessed by expert peer reviewers and an internal selection panel. The selection process also included visits to all prospective sites and presentations from the applicants. The selection process was carried out in line with the guidelines set out in DEFRA's Science Handbook.

Any potential relocation of the collection was considered to be a relatively low risk procedure as there are a number of suitable locations in the UK for growing fruit trees. The whole collection was moved successfully from Wisley to Brogdale in the 1950s, and fruit trees are regularly re-propagated as a matter of course.

On 19 December 2007, DEFRA announced the Collections would remain at Brogdale for the foreseeable future. From 1 April 2008, the maintenance and curation of the collection will be managed by the University of Reading, subject to agreement with the landlord to extend the lease at Brogdale.

Natural England: Rural Payments Agency

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the potential to transfer some of Natural England's scheme payment functions and staff to the Rural Payments Agency. [177625]

Jonathan Shaw: We have not made any detailed assessment of the potential for transferring functions or staff from Natural England to the Rural Payments Agency, or "vice versa". However, I am aware that Natural England's Board recently decided to explore this issue and I have told them that I shall be interested to hear their conclusions.

Nitrate Vulnerable Zones: Capital Investment

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will make it his policy to introduce capital grants to assist farmers with increased storage requirements under the Nitrate Vulnerable Zones directive; [178159]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on introducing measures to provide financial assistance to farmers to comply with Nitrate Vulnerable Zone regulations. [178161]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA does not intend to provide funding to help farmers to comply with measures required under the proposed Action Programme, as set out in the consultation on implementation of the nitrates directive in England. It has regular discussions with the Treasury on financial arrangements in relation to delivery of its policies.

We are committed to seeking a derogation from the 170kgN/ha/yr whole farm limit for livestock manure. If approved, this will significantly reduce the economic cost to the livestock industry in the short term.

We have also committed £98 million under the Rural Development Programme to the livestock sector, to improve competitiveness, animal welfare and on-farm management of nutrients.

Poultry

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how the Government plans to use the data held on the GB Poultry Register to prevent the spread of avian influenza. [177654]

Jonathan Shaw: The GB Poultry Register was created in response to an increased threat of an outbreak of the highly pathogenic strain of avian influenza (AI). It captures details of all those premises that keep 50 or more birds (even if the premises is only stocked for part of the year), with details of the location, numbers and types of birds kept and some relevant risk factors.

These data have helped to manage the risk of AI in a number of ways, and have enabled us to:

i. predict the likely spread of disease and therefore respond proportionately in an outbreak;

ii. plan and prioritise veterinary visits to control AI outbreaks in areas close to infected premises; and

iii. communicate information and advice to registered poultry keepers quickly.

We are currently consulting on a range of possible changes to the use of personal data held on the GB Poultry Register; for example, the use for other notifiable diseases. The consultation closes on 5 February 2008 and full details are available on the DEFRA website.

Protection of Animals Act 1911

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the operation of the Protection of Animals Act 1911; and what amendments have been made to this Act since 1997. [177127]

Jonathan Shaw: The Protection of Animals Act 1911 was largely repealed and replaced by the Animal Welfare Act 2006, which came into force in England on 6 April 2007 (and in Wales on 27 March). The Animal Welfare Act updates and strengthens the offences of animal fighting and causing unnecessary suffering which were contained in the Protection of Animals Act 1911. The 2006 Act also introduces an offence of failing to provide for the welfare needs of an animal – a 'duty of care' which will allow action to be taken before an animal suffers.

The provisions of the Protection of Animals Act 1911 which remain in force relate to the sale of poison grain, precautions when laying poison and the inspection of spring traps for catching hares or rabbits.

Sewers

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress his Department has made on transferring ownership of private sewers to water and sewerage companies; and if he will make a statement. [179399]

Mr. Woolas: The Government announced on 22 February 2007 that they had decided to transfer existing private sewers and lateral drains in England into the ownership of the water and sewerage companies, as the most comprehensive solution to the problems faced by householders whose properties are connected to a private sewer or drain. Transfer will apply to all private sewers and lateral drains that drain to the public network. It will bring clarity for owners, local authorities and sewerage companies. It will also significantly help address a lack of integrated management of the sewerage network as a whole, and provide greater efficiency of effort, environmental stewardship and expenditure.

The Government undertook to consult further on options for the implementation of transfer and a public consultation ran from July to October 2007 seeking views on options and also considered questions of the scope of transfer and the prevention of new private sewers.

The responses are currently being considered and will inform the regulations needed to bring transfer into effect. As required, there will be a further consultation on these regulations in 2008. Once Parliament has approved the regulations transfer will be a statutory duty for Water and Sewerage Companies in the form and to the timetable set out in the regulations.

Specified Diseases (Notification and Slaughter) Order 1992

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females have been (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted of breaking the Specified Diseases (Notification and Slaughter) Order 1992 in each year since it came into force. [177124]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not held centrally.

The information that is available on prosecutions taken under the Animal Health Act 1981 is supplied by local authorities to DEFRA and included in the return to Parliament laid before both Houses before 31 March each year.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the operation of the Specified Diseases (Notification and Slaughter) Order 1992; and what amendments have been made to the Order since its coming into force. [177144]

Jonathan Shaw: The Specified Diseases (Notification and Slaughter) Order 1992 (the Order) came into force on 1 January 1993 and reflects some of our community obligations, as set down in council directive 92/119/EEC. This Directive sets down minimum control measures considered to be effective for a range of notifiable diseases of livestock.

It is kept under review and the Order has been amended by different orders to revoke it for the following reasons:

(1) in so far as it applied to bluetongue;

(2) to add equine infectious anaemia to the list of diseases to which section 32 of the Animal Health Act 1981 applies (under which the Secretary of State may cause animals to be slaughtered);

(3) to remove the amendment to the Diseases of Animals (Ascertainment of Disease) Order 1985, which is no longer in force;

(4) and to remove viral haemorrhagic disease from the list of diseases which must be notified.

I am satisfied with the operation of the Order.

Supermarkets: Sustainable Development

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to seek a reduction in the food miles of produce in national supermarkets. [177650]

Jonathan Shaw: While research for DEFRA has shown that food miles are an incomplete measure of the sustainability of the supply of food, reductions in transport can benefit society through reduced congestion and improved air quality. DEFRA supports the Food and Drink Industry Federation's voluntary commitment, announced last October, to reduce the environmental and social costs of domestic food transportation by 20 per cent. by 2012 compared to 2002.

Sustainable Development: Public Buildings

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what responsibility he has for sustainable construction on the Government estate; and what steps he has taken to ensure sustainability is achieved. [179809]

Mr. Woolas: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, is the Minister accountable for overseeing the implementation of the "UK Government Sustainable Procurement Action Plan (SPAP)", launched in March 2007, and reports to the Prime Minister. Permanent Secretaries are accountable for their Department's overall progress and performance on implementing the SPAP.

Targets for sustainable operations on the Government estate were launched in June 2006 and reaffirmed in the SPAP. These targets include a mandate for individual Departments to conduct sustainability appraisals of office locations, and to apply the buildings research establishment environmental assessment method (BREEAM) excellent standards or equivalent, to all new builds or major refurbishments.

DEFRA applies BREEAM excellent standards to all new builds, and have undertaken sustainability appraisals for all office relocations in 2007.

Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what meetings he has had with trade unions officials since 1 July 2007; on what dates; and with which trade unions. [179855]

Jonathan Shaw: Ministers meet many people as part of the process of policy development. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

Water Companies: Fines

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on which occasions the Office of the Water Regulator imposed penalties on water companies in each of the last three years; what the *(a)* penalty, *(b)* company penalised and *(c)* reason for penalty was in each case; and to what purpose the fines have been put. [179744]

Mr. Woolas: The Water Service Regulation Authority's (Ofwat's) powers to impose financial penalties on water and sewerage companies came into effect on 1 April 2005.

In June 2007, Ofwat fined United Utilities £8.5 million (0.7 per cent. of the company's applicable turnover) for breaching rules governing trading arrangements with associate companies.

All fines are paid into the Consolidated Fund as required by section 22a of the Water Industry Act 1991.

Water: EU Action

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to implement the Water Framework Directive; what account his Department will take of the interim conclusions and recommendations of the Pitt Review in implementing the Directive; and what *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation is required to implement the Directive. [178243]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency is the competent authority for most aspects of implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The Agency is currently working with stakeholders to develop river basin management plans which will be consulted on and then finalised by

December 2009 as the Directive requires. The Government aims to achieve the objectives set out within the first river basin management plans by December 2015, and the measures to achieve this must be operational by 2012. We may consider earlier action to ensure WFD targets are met.

The WFD was transposed into English law by the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003. The existing legal framework for environmental protection, amended in some cases, provides a sufficient basis for most aspects of WFD implementation. DEFRA is reviewing existing measures relating to the physical structure of water bodies to ensure that the competent authority is able to act to safeguard morphological conditions where necessary. All legal measures have to be in place by 2009.

The WFD does not establish any objectives in relation to flood management, introduce any mechanisms for addressing flood risk or set objectives that exacerbate the risk of flooding.

The Government have accepted all the urgent recommendations from the interim report of the Pitt Review and will work with other organisations involved in taking them forward as quickly as possible.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 23 January 2008

SCOTLAND

Nuclear Power Station

7. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the planning process for applications to build a new nuclear power station in Scotland. [179994]

David Cairns: I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on a wide range of issues, including energy matters. However, responsibility for the planning process is devolved to Scottish Ministers.

Disabled Children: Financial Support

8. **Mr. Tom Clarke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on HM Treasury's review of support for the families of disabled children. [179995]

Des Browne: I speak regularly to my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer on a range of topics. The disabled children's review reported in May 2007, setting out plans to improve the services available to disabled children and their families in England.

Post Offices: Highlands and Islands

9. **Mr. Charles Kennedy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent assessment he has made of the contribution of the Post Office network to the social and economic well-being of the highlands and islands; and if he will make a statement. [179996]

David Cairns: The Government recognise the value of the Post Office network and are seeking to strike a balance between the wider benefits of the network and the cost to the taxpayer. I would urge people to participate in area plan consultations to allow the Post Office to make informed decisions.

HMS Gannet

10. **Mr. Donohoe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on the performance of the Royal Navy search and rescue team based at HMS Gannet in relation to civilians. [179997]

Des Browne: There have been no such discussions but my hon. Friend will be pleased to note that figures released by HMS Gannet state that the crews of the three Sea King search and rescue helicopters based there undertook 357 helicopter missions in 2007. This is around 100 more than the next closest UK helicopter base and an increase of 30 per cent. over last year's figures.

All those at HMS Gannet have shown great dedication and professionalism. They have assisted 349 people on these missions, making it the greatest number of missions and people saved by any single UK search and rescue unit since Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre records began in 1983.

Winter Fuel Payments

11. **Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on winter fuel payments for pensioners in Scotland. [179998]

David Cairns: I speak regularly to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on a wide range of issues. I am pleased to report that over a million winter fuel payments are made in Scotland.

Aircraft Carriers: Construction

12. **Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive and the Ministry of Defence on the development of the skills base in Scotland in preparation for construction of the two aircraft carriers. [179999]

Des Browne: The development of skills in Scotland is largely a matter for the Scottish Executive. However, the Ministry of Defence works closely with suppliers in order to develop an understanding of its long-term shipbuilding plans so that the industry can plan recruitment and training accordingly. The anticipated contract for the manufacture of the two carriers potentially presents great opportunities for yards both on the Clyde and at Rosyth and highlights that Government spending on defence has a far reaching impact on Scotland's industrial base and also, the wider economy of Scotland.

Household Debt

13. **Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will make a statement on levels of household debt in Scotland. [180000]

David Cairns: In the United Kingdom, household debt as a percentage of income is currently 169 per cent. This is in the context of rising levels of household assets and the lowest growth in total household debt for five years. Specific details on Scotland are not available.

Devolution

14. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent devolution cases the Advocate-General has considered; and if he will make a statement. [180001]

David Cairns: Since 24 October 2007, 89 devolution issues have been intimated to the Advocate-General. Of these 89 devolution issues, 52 related to criminal proceedings and 37 related to civil proceedings.

Nuclear Power Stations

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on new nuclear power stations in Scotland. [180125]

David Cairns: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland has had no such recent discussions. The decision to grant consent to construct or operate any power station, including nuclear, with a capacity in excess of 50 MW in Scotland lies with the Scottish Ministers.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Renewable Energy

Nia Griffith: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what estimate the House of Commons Commission has made of the percentage of electricity used on the parliamentary estate generated from renewable sources. [181165]

Nick Harvey: Since 1 April 2007 all the electricity consumed on the Commons part of the parliamentary estate has come from renewable sources.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of board of inquiry reports into deaths of armed services personnel in Afghanistan which occurred in September 2006; and if he will make a statement. [180071]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* We recognise that in high-profile cases the public interest is served by disclosure of the findings and recommendations of a Board of Inquiry. The main elements of such reports will normally be made available to the public via the following MOD website address, once the family has been briefed on its contents:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/BoardsOfInquiry/BoardsOfInquirybois.htm

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress he has made in securing the commitment of personnel from other European NATO member states to the international security assistance force in Afghanistan. [180124]

Des Browne: NATO nations have a made a collective commitment to Afghanistan and to meet the force levels set out in the Combined Joint Statement Of Requirements. Recent pledges made by European NATO members include additional forces from Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Poland, Romania and Turkey.

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the *(a)* quality and *(b)* quantity of (i) current and (ii) projected (A) married and (B) single living accommodation at Catterick. [180517]

Derek Twigg: Currently, single living accommodation (SLA) at Catterick Garrison is at the following grade for charge:

	Number of bed-spaces
Grade 1 (en-suite)	912
Grade 1 (not en-suite)	1,024
Grade 2	713
Grade 3	2,513
Grade 4	5,310

Under current plans, a further 3,186 SLA bed-spaces at Catterick will be at Grade 1 by 2015.

The service family accommodation (SFA) at Catterick Garrison is at the following standard for condition (SfC).

	Number of SFA
S1fC	928
S2fC	546
S3fC	74
S4fC	0

A full condition based asset survey is currently being conducted to inform future investment priorities for SFA at Catterick and elsewhere in Great Britain.

Armed Forces: Republic of Ireland

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women registered as born in the Republic of Ireland serve in the (i) Army, (ii) Royal Navy, (iii) Royal Marines and (iv) Royal Air Force as (A) commissioned officers and (B) other ranks; and what the equivalent figures were in each of the last 10 years. [181161]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the number of Republic of Ireland Nationals[1] that serve in the UK armed forces[2,3] by service, gender and rank as at 1 April each year.

[1] Nationality information has been used in place of country of birth as data on country of birth are currently unavailable.

[2] Data are for UK regular forces (trained and untrained), including nursing services and excluding full-time reserve service personnel, Ghurkhas, the home service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists.

[3] Information on nationality for Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel is only available post joint personnel administration implementation (6 October for Royal Navy and Royal Marines). Information on nationality for RAF personnel pre joint personnel administration (6 April for RAF) can be provided only at a disproportionate cost. Information in the table is for Army personnel only in 1998 to 2005; for Army and RAF personnel in 2006 and for all services in 2007. All 2007 information and 2006 RAF information is marked as provisional due to the ongoing validation of joint personnel administration data.

Service	Rank	Gender	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Royal Navy	Commissioned officers	Male	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
		Female	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
	Other ranks	Male	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	30
		Female	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Royal Marines	Commissioned officers	Male	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
		Female	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
	Other ranks	Male	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
		Female	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Army	Commissioned officers	Male	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	30	40
		Female	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
	Other ranks	Male	210	200	190	180	160	150	160	160	150	160
		Female	10	10	10	10	10	‡	‡	‡	‡	10
RAF	Commissioned officers	Male	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
		Female	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
	Other ranks	Male	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	20	20
		Female	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	10	‡

‡ Data not available
– Zero or rounded to zero
Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
DASA (Quad-Service)

Armed Forces: Scotland

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* inflow and *(b)* outflow of units based in (i) Scotland and (ii) Wales was in the latest period for which figures are available. [179678]

Derek Twigg: The inflow and outflow of personnel to and from units are not produced routinely and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what are the *(a)* combat and *(b)* un-laden weight of the (i) WMIK, (ii) E-WMIK and (iii) M-WMIK vehicles. [180097]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The *(a)* combat weight of WMIK, E-WMIK and M-WMIK vehicles will vary depending on the type of operation they are involved in. Additionally it would not be appropriate to release the combat weight of these vehicles as to do so would potentially prejudice the security and effectiveness of our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The *(b)* un-laden weight of the WMIK, E-WMIK and M-WMIK vehicles are set out in the following table:

	(b) Un-laden weight kg
WMIK	2,089
E-WMIK	2,960
M-WMIK	4,700

Chad: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will make a statement on the status of the European Security and Defence Policy mission to Chad; [179680]

(2) how many force generation conferences have taken place for the European Security and Defence Policy mission to Chad since August 2007. [179681]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Operation Commander for the ESDP mission to Chad and the Central African Republic, Lieutenant General Nash, has held five formal force generation conferences. These took place on 9 November, 14 November and 21 November, 19 December 2007 and 11 January 2008. After the fifth force generation conference on 11 January, General Nash confirmed that he now has enough forces and assets available to recommend launching the mission. The final phase of planning has now begun and is due to culminate at the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 28 January, when the operation is expected to be formally launched. EUFOR is expected to reach its Initial Operational Capability (IOC) four to six weeks after a decision to launch the operation has been taken.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what requirements his Department and its agencies place on contractors in relation to audit of personal data and IT equipment. [176626]

Derek Twigg: Contractors have a legal duty to comply with the requirements of the law of the land, including the Data Protection Act.

In addition, the Department has standard defence contract conditions which protect against disclosure of information in general, and will also apply bespoke conditions where necessary.

Departmental Databases

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many electronic databases there are containing (*a*) names, (*b*) addresses, (*c*) bank details and (*d*) other personal information about members of the public within his Department. [170830]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and cannot be provided except at disproportionate cost.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when each of his Department's electronic databases containing personal information on members of the public was first created; [170831]

(2) how many staff of each grade in his Department have access to electronic databases which contain personal information on members of the public; [170833]

(3) how many times his Department's databases containing personal information on members of the public have been accessed in each month of the last five years; [170834]

(4) how many times his Department's databases containing personal information on members of the public have been transferred (*a*) physically and (*b*) electronically in each year since 1997. [170835]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental E-mail

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to reduce the number of hard copies of e-mails printed by officials in his Department. [179474]

Derek Twigg: The MOD discourages the unnecessary printing of e-mails as part of our overall policy of managing waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle). Where electronic documents are printed it is our policy that all unrestricted waste papers are consigned to recycling activities.

An Information Management Protocol is currently being developed and this will reinforce that e-mails should not be printed unless absolutely necessary.

Departmental Redundancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of redundancies in his Department in the 12 months preceding (*a*) 30 June 2004, (*b*) 30 June 2005 and (*c*) 30 June 2006. [175341]

Derek Twigg: To provide specific information would require a Department-wide trawl to ascertain total costs for all individuals who had left the Department on redundancy terms. This could be done only at disproportionate cost.

We hold information centrally on a Department-wide voluntary early release scheme which was launched in March 2005, in connection with the civil service-wide reductions required under the 2004 spending review. The total liability cost to the Department of individuals who left or are expected to leave on voluntary terms under the MOD Early Release Scheme (2005) is as follows:

Financial year	*Amount £ million*
2005-06	41
2006-07	48
2007-08	52

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many (*a*) armoured vehicles, (*b*) aircraft, (*c*) helicopters and (*d*) weapons systems of each type have been removed from service as a result of battle damage in Iraq and Afghanistan; [171897]

(2) how many (*a*) armoured vehicles, (*b*) aircraft, (*c*) helicopters and (*d*) weapons systems have been made non-operable as a result of combat in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2003. [171898]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding the information requested as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Nuclear Weapons

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps have been taken by the Government to assess the feasibility of implementing non-nuclear strategic defence options after the expiration of the viability of the UK's current nuclear deterrent. [180610]

Des Browne *[holding answer 22 January 2008]:* As the December 2006 White Paper "The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm 6994) made clear, the continuing risk from the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the certainty that a number of other countries will retain substantial nuclear arsenals, means that our minimum nuclear deterrent capability is likely to remain a necessary element of our security. We can only deter such threats in future through the continued possession of nuclear weapons. Conventional capabilities cannot have the same deterrent effect. On 14 March 2007, the House of Commons voted by a clear majority to support the Government's decision to sustain the UK's nuclear deterrent beyond the life of the Vanguard class submarines.

Spare Parts: Lost Property

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the value was of spare parts lost in transit in each year since 2003. [180272]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Data are not held in such a way that enables the separate identification of "spare parts". Losses in transit have only been recorded separately since 2005. For financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07, the reported value of losses in transit was £4.8 million and £2.9 million respectively. As at 31 December 2007, the total value of losses recorded for financial year 2007-08 is £2.3 million.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 27 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 801W, on unidentified flying objects, what the security classification of the report was; what its official title was; who commissioned the study; for what reason; and if he will place it in the Library. [180170]

Derek Twigg: The report was entitled 'Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region'. It was commissioned by the Scientific and Technical Directorate of the Ministry of Defence's Defence Intelligence Staff (DIS) for the purpose of establishing whether anything of intelligence value could be determined from the sighting reports by members of the public that had been copied to the DIS. The full report was classified Secret UK Eyes Only. An expurgated version of the report is already available on the internet via the MOD's Freedom of Information Act website at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FreedomOfInformation/PublicationScheme/SearchPublicationScheme/UnidentifiedAerialPhenomenauapInTheUkAirDefenceRegion.htm

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on Common Agricultural Policy subsidies from the 10 largest landowners in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [179750]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department receives a range of representations on Common Agricultural Policy subsidies but does not hold information on who the 10 largest landowners in the UK are.

Animal Welfare: Horses

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what measures the Government are taking to ban the long-distance transportation of live horses and ponies for slaughter in Europe; and if he will make a statement; [180969]

(2) if the Government will make representations to ensure the enforcement of Council Regulation No. 1/2005; on the protection of animals during transport, in all Member States; and if he will make a statement. [180970]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 22 January 2008]:* A ban on the export of horses and ponies for slaughter would be illegal under EU free trade rules. It has long been Government policy that we prefer the export of meat rather than live animal exports for slaughter. New animal welfare measures came into effect in January 2007 with the implementation of EC Regulation 1/2005 on the welfare of animals during transportation. The provisions include important horse welfare measures that the UK put forward and which were supported by horse welfare organisations.

We are pleased to learn that it now seems likely the Commission will bring forward the planned review of the Regulation to 2009 instead of 2011 as originally intended. The Review will consider a number of issues arising from the implementation of the Regulation, including the need for robust enforcement of the animal welfare provisions in all member states.

Animals: Quarantine

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many animals were in quarantine in the UK in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by species; and if he will make a statement. [180425]

Jonathan Shaw: The provisional figures for 2007 are set out as follows. The final figures will be included in the next Chief Veterinary Officer's Annual Report, which will be published on the DEFRA website.

	Number
Cats	1,135
Dogs	2,397
Primate	1,637
Tiger	7
Cheetah	3
Binturong	3
Mongoose	7
Rabbit	6
Anteater	1
Rat	1
Leopard	4
Ocelot	2
Spectacled Bear	1
Puma	2
Bat	20
Bear	5
Bush Dog	1
Jaguar	1
Lion	6
Coati	2
Lynx	1
Fossa	1
Geoffroys Cat	1

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what size of enclosure each type of animal entering the UK is kept in during quarantine; and if he will make a statement. [180426]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA does not lay down rules specifically for the welfare of animals in quarantine. However, in consultation with premises owners and welfare organisations, we have produced a voluntary Code of Practice on the welfare of dogs and cats in quarantine premises (set out) which outlines recommended minimum internal measurements for individual accommodation units. Premises which comply with this code are awarded a star, and a list of starred premises is available on the DEFRA website quarantine pages. There are regular inspections of quarantine premises by Animal Health Officers (usually at least four times a year, with two visits being unannounced).

i. For small dogs (less than 12 kilograms): sleeping area not less than 1.1 square metres, width and length not less than 0.9 m. Adjoining exercise area not less than 3.7 square metres, width not less than 0.9 metres.

ii. For medium dogs (12 kilograms to 30 kilograms): sleeping area not less than 1.4 square metres, width and length not less than 1.2 metres. Adjoining exercise area not less than 5.5 square metres, width not less than 1.2 metres.

iii. For large dogs (more than 30 kilograms): sleeping area not less than 1.4 square metres, width and length not less than 1.2 metres. Adjoining exercise area not less than 7.4 square metres, width not less than 1.2 metres.

iv. For cats, the individual cat units should be of the walk in type not less than 1.8 metres high. The sleeping compartment plus exercise run must have a total floor area of at least 1.4 square metres, and both the length and width should be at least 0.9 metres. Cat units should contain ample shelf room for climbing and resting, preferably provided both inside and out. A suitable abrasive surface for nail trimming should be provided, such as a scratching post. In shared units, each cat should have its own bed.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration has been given to administering inoculations against rabies to animals in quarantine in the UK. [180427]

Jonathan Shaw: All cats and dogs are required to be vaccinated against rabies within 48 hours of arrival in an approved quarantine premise. This vaccination is to protect the animal during quarantine and may not necessarily have any effect on animals already harbouring the disease at the time of arrival.

Avian Influenza: Hazardous Substances

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department has received from the World Animal Health Organisation on the storage of the H5N1 virus between the taking of samples and testing. [181054]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 22 January 2008]:* The samples for routine dead wild bird surveillance are collected according to standardised protocols, accredited to a United Kingdom Accreditation Service International Standards Organisation 17025 quality system. DEFRA employs the diagnostic expertise of the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA), Weybridge, which is the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) and European Union Reference Laboratory for avian influenza (AI). Our sampling, collection, storage and transportation methods are entirely consistent with international and EU standards. We continually revise and subject all aspects of our AI surveillance activities to peer review in light of new international evidence as it arises.

The OIE produces a 'Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines' that contains recommendations for sample collection and transport. The VLA contribute to the production of such materials and also adhere to them.

Bluetongue Disease: Disease Control

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what bluetongue movement restrictions have been relaxed following the declaration of a vector-free period for bluetongue; and if he will make a statement. [180179]

Jonathan Shaw: The vector-free period is a time during the winter when evidence shows that midge activity is at its lowest and when there is no evidence of transmission of disease by midges. The vector-free period began on 20 December 2007. This means that movements to live out of the protection and surveillance zones can take place under strict conditions, including pre-movement testing. In addition, the strict timing conditions for movements to slaughter in the free area have been removed during the vector-free period. Further information can be found on the bluetongue pages of the DEFRA website.

Based on historical data, this period may continue into March 2008, but will be kept under review in the light of midge activity and weather conditions.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how long it takes for the results of a pre-movement bovine tuberculosis test on an animal to be known, and for animals which are not reactors for how long after that test time they may be moved without a further test. [178361]

Jonathan Shaw: The results of a TB skin test are read 72 hours/three days after the injection of tuberculin. Skin test results are provided to the farmer on the day the test results are read.

All cattle over 42 days old moving out of a high risk herd must have tested negative to the tuberculin skin test to be eligible to move, unless the herd or movement is exempt. The injection of tuberculin (day one of the test) must have taken place no more than 60 days before the date of movement.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle were tested for bovine tuberculosis in 2007; and of those how many reactors there were. [178362]

Jonathan Shaw: Latest provisional statistics indicate that 5,367,901 cattle were tested for bovine tuberculosis in Great Britain between 1 January and 30 November 2007. Of these, 23,330 animals were identified as reactors.[1]

[1] Provisional figures, subject to change as more data become available. Figures include both tuberculin and gamma interferon tests and subsequent reactors.

Countryside Stewardship Scheme: Cornwall

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects full payment to be made in respect of The Eastmoor Commoners Ltd. (Cornwall) single payment scheme entitlement for 2005 and 2006. [179753]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) has checked its records and is unable to identify The Eastmoor Commoners Ltd. (Cornwall). In order to state when full payment will be made RPA will require The Eastmoor Commoners Ltd. (Cornwall) Single Business Identifier (SBI) number.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many civil servants there are in each pay grade in each directorate within his Department; and what the equivalent figures were on *(a)* 1 April 2004 and *(b)* 1 October 2001. [180488]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* The number of staff (full-time equivalents) in each grade in each directorate in DEFRA as at 31 December 2007 is shown in the following table. Information for the earlier dates is not available.

Group	Directorate	AA	AO	EO	HEO	SEO	G7	G6	SCS	Total
Climate Change Group	Climate Change Group			1.00	2.00	2.00	2.00		2.00	9.00
	Domestic Climate Change and Energy		19.00	28.00	47.30	21.83	33.57	7.00	6.00	162.70
	International Climate, Air and Analysis		12.01	18.56	41.80	12.44	27.58	3.00	5.00	120.40
	Office of Climate Change		2.00	3.00	13.00	3.00	17.00	5.89	5.00	48.89
	Sustainable Consumption and Production and Waste		16.78	34.56	53.27	17.78	38.69	1.30	9.00	171.37
Climate Change Group Total			49.79	85.11	157.37	57.06	118.84	17.19	27.00	512.36
Finance, Planning and Resources	Finance, Planning and Resources	1.00	17.06	28.00	31.00	31.80	18.00	6.00	4.00	136.86
Food and Farming Group	Cap Reform and Portfolio	4.00	33.49	28.50	51.18	10.83	30.47	5.69	8.00	172.16
	Delivery Change and Portfolio		8.00	7.00	15.00	3.00	10.20	4.00	3.00	50.20
	Farming for the Future and Portfolio	2.18	9.00	15.60	24.00	10.80	15.01	2.00	4.00	83.06
	Food Chain and Portfolio	21.16	50.77	52.35	126.90	26.83	30.49	8.00	6.94	323.45
	International Trade and Portfolio	7.22	39.21	33.60	27.30	9.00	24.00	10.40	7.00	157.73
	Responsibility and Cost Sharing Portfolio	4.81	11.74	16.00	28.80	12.81	13.00	5.00	4.76	96.92
	Food and Farming Group Business Support Unit		4.36	6.64	2.00	2.00	3.50		2.00	20.50
Food and Farming Group Total		39.37	156.58	159.69	275.64	75.27	126.58	35.09	35.70	904.01
Legal Group	Legal Group Solicitor and Director General			1.00					1.00	2.00
	Legal A Services		3.00				19.04	25.42	7.00	54.47
	Legal B Services	2.00	11.64	7.00	2.00	2.00	11.21	17.64	5.75	59.23
Legal Group Total		2.00	14.64	8.00	2.00	2.00	30.25	43.06	13.75	115.70
Natural Environment Group	Local Environment, Chemicals and Rural		10.22	18.00	24.00	19.00	15.19	1.00	5.29	92.70
	Marine and Fisheries	2.00	7.00	16.00	32.00	10.57	16.52	1.00	5.00	90.09

Group	Directorate	AA	AO	EO	HEO	SEO	G7	G6	SCS	Total
	Natural Environment Group		3.00	2.00	5.00	5.69	1.00		2.00	18.69
	Water	1.00	14.25	22.00	36.47	32.00	30.95	7.00	6.00	149.67
	Wildlife and Countryside	1.68	16.45	35.08	43.41	16.23	25.25	3.78	8.00	149.88
Natural Environment Group Total		4.68	50.93	93.08	140.88	83.49	88.91	12.78	26.29	501.03
Renew DEFRA Group	Renewing DEFRA Programme		1	2.00	3.00	4.00	3.61	2.00		14.61
Service Transformation Group	Chief Information Officer	11.70	15.03	22.32	30.55	20.76	18.00	11.00	5.00	134.37
	Communications	2.00	13.39	32.02	44.43	17.49	9.94	8.50	3.00	131.07
	Customer Focus		5.00	7.00	17.00	4.00	10.81	1.00	3.60	48.41
	Estates		3.00	9.00	5.00	4.00	8.00	1.00	1.00	31.00
	People and Performance	28.00	38.75	24.29	39.50	30.78	31.00	10.86	13.22	216.41
	Shared Services	26.07	181.89	70.01	20.35	18.61	11.00	2.00	5.00	334.93
	STG Finance Team		4.00	5.00	2.00	1.60	1.00	1.00	1.00	17.60
Service Transformation Group Total		67.77	261.06	169.64	158.83	97.24	89.75	36.46	32.82	913.57
Strategy and Evidence Group	Central Analytical Directorate			2.00	5.00	1.00	5.00	2.00	2.00	17.00
	Science		5.00	6.68	8.00	8.00	9.00		3.79	40.47
	Strategy and Evidence Group	1.00	2.67	5.00	3.72	1.00			2.00	15.39
	Strategy and Sustainable Development		13.00	23.00	49.46	11.67	27.21	4.00	7.65	135.88
Strategy and Evidence Group Total		1.00	20.67	36.68	66.08	21.67	41.21	6.00	15.44	208.74
DEFRA Total		115.81	570.71	582.20	834.80	572.55	517.28	158.59	154.60	3506.48

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what products featuring departmental or Government branding were procured by (*a*) his Department and (*b*) its agencies in each of the last five years. [179792]

Jonathan Shaw: The Departmental Communications Directorate has procured the following DEFRA branded products:

	Product	Number
2005-06	Long sleeved T-shirts	50
2006-07	Travel wallets	20,000
	Pens	20,000
	Travel toothbrush sets	1,000
2007-08	Pens	10,000
	Travel wallets	7,000

Information about departmental or Government branded products procured by DEFRA agencies is not held centrally and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Domestic Wastes: MRSA

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research has been conducted into the incident of MRSA bacteria within household rubbish. [176554]

Joan Ruddock: I am not aware of any such research having been conducted by my Department.

People handling household waste should take the same hygiene measures they take every time they handle material which may harbour bacteria and wash their hands regularly.

Fisheries

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what Government policy is on the measures outlined in Article 17 of Council Regulation 2371/2002 and the future of access of non-UK fishing vessels within the 12 nautical mile limit after 31 December 2012; [180750]

(2) whether the Commission has begun work on the report on the future of access to fishing waters and resources, as outlined in Article 17 of Council Regulation 2371/2002; and if he will make a statement. [180751]

Jonathan Shaw: I will consider carefully the Government's policy with regards to access to waters and resources within 12 nautical miles as we prepare for the next reform of the common fisheries policy (CFP).

I expect the rights the UK has under the current framework regulation (that is, to restrict fishing to vessels that traditionally used those waters and to pass laws to protect the stocks in our waters and manage UK vessels in the 6-12 mile zone) would be maintained beyond 31 December 2012.

The Government have begun to plan objectives for the 2012 review of the CFP as set in the draft implementation plan for Fisheries 2027 (published in October 2007), but UK policy on this has not yet been formulated.

I am not aware how far the Commission have progressed with their report regarding the future of access to fishing waters and resources. According to Article 17 of Council Regulation 2371/2002, the deadline for the report is 31 December 2011, but I will press for adequate discussion in the run up to the CFP reform.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the European Commission has informed him of the need to reduce the capacity of the UK fishing fleet, as specified in Article 16(2) of Council Regulation 2371/2002; and if he will make a statement. [180752]

Jonathan Shaw: The European Commission has not informed DEFRA of the need to reduce the capacity of the UK fishing fleet as specified in Article 16(2) of Council Regulation (EC) 2371/2002.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether, with regard to Article 11 of Council Regulation 2371/2002, (*a*) the Government and (*b*) the European Commission have considered whether there needs to be an adjustment of fishing capacity for UK vessels over the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [180753]

Jonathan Shaw: The measures in Article 11 of Council Regulation (EC) 2371/2002 establish reference ceilings for the capacity of the fishing fleet in terms of total tonnage and engine power of the fleet, while those in later articles, including Article 16(2), set out measures related to the control of fleet entries and exits. The UK is compliant with the provisions of these articles and hence there is no need for further consideration by the UK Government or European Commission of the need for adjustment of fleet capacity related to these measures

Fishing Catches

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 707-08W, on fishing catches, (1) for what reasons the discard data under Council Regulation 1543/2000 have not been systematically compiled; and if he will make a statement; [180747]

(2) what steps are being taken to ensure that discard data under Council Regulation 1543/2000 are systematically compiled; and if he will make a statement; [180748]

(3) what action is being taken by the Commission in relation to EU Member States which have not complied with their obligations under Council Regulation 1543/2000; and if he will make a statement. [180749]

Jonathan Shaw: The Commission monitors the degree to which member states comply with their obligations to collect data under Council Regulation 1543/2000, through a requirement to submit annual technical reports on the work carried out. These reports include a section where member states report on the scientific working groups to which they have provided data. The Commission compares this with reports from these working groups on the data received, to assess the level to which each member state has complied with their obligations.

Proposed changes to the regulation have been discussed. The UK has underlined the key aim of ensuring that the needs for information of such groups charged with providing advice to the Commission and member states are met. The Commission has taken this on board in the proposed changes to the regulation, formalising the requirement to provide information to scientific working groups within the regulation and proposing penalty measures to be applied to the level of funding granted to member states that do not comply with these obligations.

The UK will be supporting the Commission's intentions to ensure that data from all member states are accurate, timely and fit for purpose.

Fishing Vessels

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 997-98W, on fishing vessels, what plans he has to extend the deployment of observer schemes in 2008; [179798]

(2) if he will place in the Library details of specific numbers of on-board observer schemes deployed in 2007; [179799]

(3) what assessment he has made of the on-board observer scheme deployed in 2007. [179800]

Jonathan Shaw: At the December Fisheries Council, a number of additional optional observer schemes were agreed as part of the effort and quota management package. We will be assessing the viability of these schemes for the UK and will continue to discuss these with the industry to consider the level of interest there is in participation.

Observers from the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) have already accompanied two trips by industry vessels this year as part of the fisheries science partnership and it is expected that more of these trips will take place during 2008.

I have asked officials to gather details of the numbers of observer schemes in which the UK participated during 2007. I will write to the hon. Member when these are available and arrange for a copy of my letter to be deposited in the Libraries of the House.

DEFRA officials are involved in ongoing discussions with the industry and other Government Departments, to draw conclusions from the observer schemes deployed in 2007. The results of these discussions will be deposited in the Libraries of the House later this year.

Horses: Exports

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures the Government are taking to stop the export of live horses and ponies from the UK to continental Europe; and if he will make a statement. [180968]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 22 January 2008]:* Horse and pony exports include horses and ponies being exported for breeding, racing, and other equestrian events and companion horses and ponies being taken abroad by families relocating as well as animals being exported for slaughter. We are therefore not proposing to ban the export of horses and ponies. Furthermore, a unilateral ban on live exports would be illegal under EU free trade law.

Horses: Transport

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the live transportation of horses across Europe before slaughter; and if he will make a statement. [180454]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* Officials have held recent discussions with the International League for the Protection of Horses on the operation of the new welfare in transport rules contained in Regulation 1/2005; with a view to identifying whether any further welfare measures might be needed to protect the welfare of horses during transport across Europe when the Regulation comes up for review. We have also received representations in the form of letters, emails and questions from hon. Members.

Lighting: Waste Disposal

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice his Department provides to the public on the disposal of spent long-life light bulbs; and what regulatory requirements apply to such disposals. [180246]

Joan Ruddock: Low-energy light bulbs should be disposed of responsibly and advice on their safe disposal has been made available on DEFRA's public website.

From 1 July 2007, waste compact fluorescent light bulbs (the most common type of energy efficient bulbs) have been subject to the requirements of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations. Those who sell items such as energy efficient bulbs must provide information to the public about where they can take waste bulbs and other WEEE. Some retailers will also take them back in store. However, most retailers have funded designated collection facilities—the majority of these are at local authority civic amenity sites. From this point, producers of such equipment fund its transport, treatment and recycling.

National Fruit Collection

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what consultation was undertaken by his Department on the criteria to be used to assess best value when considering tenders to provide long-term relocation of the fruit collection at Brogdale; [180951]

(2) what steps he is taking to protect the long-term continuation of the fruit collections at Brogdale; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of those steps; and if he will make a statement. [180952]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 22 January 2008]:* The National Fruit Collection is currently maintained by the Brogdale Horticultural Trust and scientifically curated by Imperial College.

In response to an open competition, which allowed DEFRA to look at all the available options for the future of the collections, tenders were received and assessed by expert peer reviewers and an internal selection panel. The selection process also included visits to all prospective sites and presentations from the applicants. The selection process was carried out in line with the guidelines set out in DEFRA's Science Handbook.

Any potential relocation of the collection was considered to be a relatively low risk procedure as there are a number of suitable locations in the UK for growing fruit trees. The whole collection was moved successfully from Wisley to Brogdale in the 1950s, and fruit trees are regularly re-propagated as a matter of course.

On 19 December 2007, DEFRA announced the Collections would remain at Brogdale for the foreseeable future. From 1 April 2008, the maintenance and curation of the collection will be managed by the University of Reading, subject to agreement with the landlord to extend the lease at Brogdale.

Nature Conservation: Oil

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the level of protection for wildlife in the Moray Firth against oil spillages from ships. [178222]

Jonathan Shaw: The relevant nature conservation regulations are the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations 1994 (SI 1994 No.2716) (as amended) as they apply to merchant shipping operations. Under these provisions, the Moray Firth is designated a special area of conservation and formal assessment of whether plans or projects will adversely affect the integrity of relevant nature conservation sites must take place, where there is likely to be a significant effect on such sites.

Regulation of merchant shipping is dealt with under Merchant Shipping legislation. Ports where oil is handled have their own oil spill contingency plans, compliant with the Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Convention) Regulations 1998. (SI 1998 No.1056). Additionally, all of our seas and coasts are protected by the National Contingency Plan for Marine Pollution from Shipping and Offshore Installations.

Roads: Litter

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost was to local authorities in England of *(a)* collecting and *(b)* disposing of road sweepings in the latest period for which figures are available. [180769]

Joan Ruddock: My Department does not hold specific data relating to the cost of the collection or disposal of road sweepings.

Local authorities are required to make revenue outturn returns to the Department for Communities and Local Government. This includes their expenditure and income on street cleansing (not chargeable to the Highways Department). In 2006-07, the net total cost of street cleansing to local authorities in England was £667 million. These figures are not available broken down into collection and disposal costs.

Spatial Information Repository

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the purpose is of his Department's Spatial Information Repository; and which datasets it will hold. [176530]

Jonathan Shaw: The purpose of the Shared Spatial Information Service (SPIRE) is to provide a managed data service which supports the delivery of services and policy making by providing access to both up to date geographic information layers which meet agreed data standards, as well as common background data against which other geographic information can be viewed.

SPIRE currently contains approximately 350 business specific layers relating to the strategic outcomes of DEFRA, spanning land and marine environments. These layers include information gathered by the Department, its agencies and non departmental public bodies, Government Departments and non governmental organisations.

SPIRE also holds and manages Ordnance Survey mapping, aerial photography and marine mapping layers as contextual information.

SPIRE has the capacity to deliver data for the management of disease emergencies. This service has been used operationally by members of the DEFRA Network including the Animal Health agency, the Central Science Laboratory, Pesticide Safety Directorate and the RADAR veterinary surveillance team.

Wind Power: Noise

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to measure the low level sounds produced by wind turbines. [180993]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 22 January 2008]:* In 2004, the then Department for Trade and Industry (DTI) (now the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform—DBERR) commissioned Hayes McKenzie to report on claims that infrasound or low frequency noise emitted by wind turbine generators were causing health effects. Hayes McKenzie reported to the then DTI in May 2006 that there was no evidence of health effects arising from infrasound or low frequency noise generated by wind farms. The report recommended further work on the specific issue of Aerodynamic Modulation (AM).

A Government-funded research study, entitled 'Research into Aerodynamic Modulation (AM) of Wind Turbine Noise', undertaken by Salford University, reported in 2007 that although the incidence of AM could not be fully predicted, the incidence of AM and the number of people affected was probably too small to make a compelling case for further research:

> "Considering the need for further research, the incidence of AM and the number of people affected is probably too small at present to make a compelling case for further research funding in preference to other types of noise which affect many more people. On the other hand, since AM cannot be fully predicted at present, and its causes are not fully understood we consider that it might be prudent to carry out further research to improve understanding in this area."

On consideration of the Salford report the Government decided that there was not at present a compelling case for further work into AM, and that it would not carry out further research, but it would continue to keep the issue under review.

Further information is available on the website of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Women's Land Army: Medals

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the forms to be available to enable former members of the Women's Land Army and Women's Timber Corps to apply for their badge of recognition. [180414]

Jonathan Shaw: The application form will be available before the end of January.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Political Levy

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what changes were made to the regulation of political funds of Northern Ireland trades unions, during periods of direct rule from Westminster, since the Trade Union and Industrial Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 came into force. [177519]

Mr. Woodward: The Secretary of State ceased to be in charge of the Northern Ireland departments on 8 May 2007 when devolution was restored and the Northern Ireland Executive took over responsibility. Papers relating to the Trade Union and Industrial Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 which provides for the regulation of political funds of trade

unions in Northern Ireland are kept by the Department of Employment and Learning Northern Ireland (DEL).

DEL has advised me that Part V of the 1995 Order has been changed a number of times during periods of direct rule by the following enactments: the Employment Rights (Disputes Resolution) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 (S.I.1998/1265 (N.I.8)); the Employment Relations Order (Northern Ireland) 1999 (S.I.1999/2790 (N.I.9)); and the Employment Relations Order (Northern Ireland) 2004 (S.I.2004/3078 (N.I.19)).

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 23 January 2008

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Christmas

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether it is his Department's policy to use *(a)* incandescent light bulbs and *(b)* LED lights for festive decorations on departmental premises. [173499]

Mr. Lammy: The Department uses incandescent lights for its festive decorations. However, we shall be reviewing our policy for next year.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his Department's policy is on the selection of *(a)* real and *(b)* artificial Christmas trees for his Department's festive decorations; and how real trees are disposed of. [173524]

Mr. Lammy: The Department is split across sites and has four Christmas Trees on its Estate. Two of these trees are real and are recycled by our foliage company. One of the artificial trees is reused each year. The other artificial tree is hired from our foliage company and returned to them at the end of the hire period.

Climate Change

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* intends to take by (i) 2012 and (ii) 2020 in relation to adaptation to the effects of climate change as they affect his departmental responsibilities; and if he will make a statement. [166425]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 6 December 2007]:* The steps the Department has taken and intends to take are set out in the Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP), 'Learning for the Future', covering 2006-08. We recently submitted a progress report on this to the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC), the Government's independent watch dog on sustainable development.

SDC will shortly be publishing their analysis of the progress of Government Departments.

We are currently working on the content of a new SDAP that will cover 2008-10. This will incorporate the Government's overall intentions as laid out in the recent Climate Change Bill and the cross-Government Adaptation Policy Framework to be published in the spring.

Subsequent SDAPs are likely to continue to reflect the work of the Department in addressing the effects of climate change on children, schools and families.

Departmental Coordination

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people in his Department are responsible for liaising with the Department for Children, Schools and Families. [178124]

Mr. Lammy: Following the machinery of government changes last year, three separate Departments were established with clear demarcation of responsibility. However, we have sought to maintain effective communication links across the three new Departments to minimise disruption to our customers. A range of officials in DIUS are in regular discussion with the Department for Children, Schools and Families across a number of issues, covering both policy and the provision of corporate services. The issues being discussed and number of people involved varies.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many letters his Department and its predecessors received from hon. Members and Peers in each session of Parliament since 1997. [174929]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/Peers correspondence. Information relating to 2007 will be published as soon as it has been collated. The report for 2006 was published on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 101-04WS. Reports for earlier years are available in the House Library.

Overseas Students: Employment

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department takes to check the employment status of foreign nationals in the United Kingdom to study. [178127]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

Foreign nationals with permission to study in the United Kingdom may work up to 20 hours per week during term time or full-time during vacations without the need to seek permission from their local Jobcentre Plus office or to obtain a work permit. It is the responsibility of an employer to establish that a foreign national is entitled to take employment in the UK. The Border and Immigration Agency has provided a helpline for employers to check the status of foreign nationals who seek to work in the United Kingdom.

Union Learning Fund

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department has taken to implement the recommendations of the evaluation of the Union Learning Fund, 2001 to 2005, undertaken on behalf of the former Department for Education and Skills by York Consulting Ltd. [178576]

Mr. Lammy: The main recommendations of the evaluation of the Union Learning Fund (2001-05) concern improving the level of management information provided by participating trade unions, particularly on learner referrals and outcomes; improving the level of support provided to help Union Learning Representatives (ULRs); and engaging strategically with employers to help ensure the long term sustainability of union learning activity initiated by the Union Learning Fund (ULF).

Officials from my Department have been working with unionlearn the TUC's new learning organisation to address these issues. Work has been done to improve the management information systems of ULF projects which will capture more information on the numbers taking Skills for Life, Level 2 and Level 3 courses. Additional support systems have been put in place at national, regional and local level to help Union Learning Representatives to carry out their duties more effectively. A new electronic tool, the "Climbing Frame" has been developed which is designed to help ULRs support learners to progress through different levels of study and a new "Quality Award" for learning providers that helps ULRs to identify accessible high quality provision for learners.

These strengthened support systems for ULRs will help to secure the future sustainability of union learning initiatives and underpin the work that unionlearn is doing to help those trade unions involved in ULF to develop effective strategic partnership working with employers. Over 200 learning agreements were established last year between unions and employers involved in ULF, helping to embed successful projects into long-term planning.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Education Maintenance Allowance: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students in Barnet have *(a)* applied for, *(b)* enrolled for and *(c)* received an education maintenance allowance during the 2007-08 academic year; what assessment he has made of the effect of education maintenance allowances on staying-on rates in education in Barnet; and if he will make a statement. [177926]

Jim Knight: The LSC operate the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) scheme for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold the information about take-up and payments made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Gentleman with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

We do not collect information on the impact of EMA specific to Barnet, however EMA was subject to a thorough evaluation during its pilot stage. The results indicated an increase in participation by 16-year-olds of 3.8 per cent. points nationally and 4.1 per cent. points nationally for 17-year-olds.

In addition a further analysis of the impact of EMA on participation and attainment was commissioned by the LSC and a copy of the results, with a summary of the key findings, was placed in the House Library on 3 December 2007.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 23 January 2008:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question that asked: "How many students in Barnet have (a) applied for, (b) enrolled on a course to be supported by and (c) received an education maintenance allowance during the current academic year; what assessment he has made of the effect of education maintenance allowances on staying-on rates in education in Barnet."

EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

The following table shows EMA applicants, enrolments and take-up for Barnet Local Authority Area:

Barnet 2007-08

	Number
Applications received	3,172
Enrolled applicants	2,719
Scheme take-up	[2],628

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07 and to date in 2007/08 is now also available on the LSC website, at the following address:

http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/Data/statistics/learner/EMA_take_up.htm

Sure Start Programme

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of *(a)* children and *(b)* families (i) who are black and minority ethnic, (ii) with English as an additional language, (iii) with special needs and disabilities and (iv) with a lone parent (A) have been provided with information on and (B) are accessing Sure Start programmes and services; what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of those programmes and services; and if he will make a statement; [180988]

(2) what the capacity of provision for child care through Sure Start programmes was in each of the last five years; how many and what proportion of *(a)* families and *(b)* children (i) received information on and (ii) accessed this provision over this period; what average proportion of capacity was used over that period; and if he will make a statement. [180989]

Beverley Hughes: All Sure Start Children's Centres provide information and advice to parents and carers on a range of subjects including local child care and education services for three and four-year-olds. Centres serving the most disadvantaged communities in England must provide integrated early learning and full daycare as part of their core services while centres serving less disadvantaged communities may provide integrated early learning and daycare places where local demand is not being met by existing, good quality providers. The information requested about different groups of families receiving information and taking up services, including integrated early learning and daycare, is not collected centrally by my Department. Data on the capacity of provision for child care through Sure Start programmes in the last five years are not collected centrally.

The ongoing National Evaluation of Sure Start (NESS) produced initial findings on the impact of the early Sure Start Local Programmes in November 2005. These gave a very early indication that Sure Start is succeeding in making a difference to a large number of

parents and children and is doing particularly well in affecting parenting practices. Because we know that some Sure Start Children's Centres have more work to do to reach the most disadvantaged families from April this year we have committed additional resources which will enable local authorities to fund two more outreach workers in centres serving the most disadvantaged communities.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Aerials

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate has been made of the additional number of mobile phone masts required to meet future demand of further generations of mobile telecommunications equipment. [177098]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

The Government encourage mast and site sharing wherever possible, and network operators have an obligation under current planning procedures to demonstrate that they have considered all mast and site sharing options. Future sharing of network infrastructure would reduce the rate of growth of base station sites.

There is no current estimate of the number of additional mobile phone masts required to meet future demand of further generations of mobile telecommunications equipment. This is due to the fast moving nature of the telecommunications industry.

The actual number of base stations required in the future will depend on growth of demand and the availability of spectrum as well as the choice of technology available to meet that demand.

Business: Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his most recent estimate is of the cost of regulation to UK industry. [176965]

Mr. McFadden: In 2005 Government undertook an exercise to measure, for the first time in the UK, the administrative burdens of regulations on businesses and the third sector. The administrative burden as of May 2005 was £13.4 billion. More information can be found at:

http://bre.berr.gov.uk/regulation/reform/simplifying/plans.asp

Information on the total costs of regulations (not just administrative burdens) to UK industry is not currently held centrally and there is no established methodology for measuring these on a consistent basis.

Business: Wiltshire

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* public and *(b)* private/public sector partnership support is available to small and medium-sized enterprises in South Wiltshire. [180947]

Mr. Timms: The publicly funded Business Link service provides information and advice to small and medium enterprises, and where appropriate brokers clients on to public and private sector providers of business support.

Northern Arc Ltd. is contracted by the South West Regional Development Agency to provide the Business Link service in South Wiltshire. Northern Arc Ltd. maintains a local presence in the area by running business start-up clinics from their office in Salisbury College. Further information on the Business Link service can be found at www.businesslink.gov.uk/southwest or by telephoning 0845 600 9966.

In addition to this, the South Wiltshire Economic Partnership (SWEP), is a partnership between the district and county councils, local businesses and business organisations. It works in partnership with others to drive forward the growth of the south Wiltshire economy by supporting existing businesses and other organisations and by attracting inward investment. By providing the local business community with a single voice on economic development issues, SWEP also works to influence all levels of government and to provide a focus for the delivery of strategic change. SWEP is administered by Salisbury district council economic development team. More information on the partnership and its activities can be found at:

www.salisbury.gov.uk/swep

Businesses can sign up to receive news on the partnership, strategic projects in the district and events by e-mailing: swep@salisbury gov.uk

Post Offices

Mr. Alan Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what Government support and advice is available to community groups who wish to operate their local post office as a community business. [179597]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* Information and support on operating a local post office is available on the Post Office Ltd. website at www.ukpo.com/subpostmaster. In addition, sub-postmasters and community groups are free to seek advice from their local Business Link or RDA about any ongoing retail operations. This would be a matter for the individual retail outlet. Retailers can contact their local Business Link via the national helpline on: 0845 600 9006 or visit their website at:

www.businesslink.gov.uk.

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what research he has undertaken into the likely effects of the proposed post office closures on rural and semi-rural areas. [177877]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* It is Government policy, announced in May 2007 in response to the national public consultation on the post office network, to ensure national coverage and reasonable access to post office services with particular regard to vulnerable consumers and to rural and

remote areas. Access criteria have been introduced to achieve this and in developing its closure proposals Post Office Ltd. has also to take into account a range of factors relating to accessibility of service provision and the local impact of changes to it. Under area plan proposals published so far, on average 90.7 per cent. of the population covered will see no change in the branch they currently use and 99.3 per cent. will see either no change or still be within one mile of their nearest post office.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post offices have closed under the Network Change Programme. [180478]

Mr. McFadden: The Government strategy for the post office network includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new outreach services.

Post Office Ltd. is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of parliamentary constituencies. Following final decisions on the proposals for the first area plans after local consultations, individual post office closures are now taking place. Area plan consultations are ongoing and will continue well into 2008.

Post Offices: Reorganisation

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations he has received on his proposals to restructure the post office network; and if he will make a statement. [180042]

Mr. McFadden: The Department has received a range of representations for Members of Parliament, local authorities and other correspondents about the restructuring of the post office network, both in general terms and in the context of specific proposals included in Post Office Ltd.'s area plans. To 18 January, 14 area plans have been published and put to local consultation, consultations on 11 plans have closed and final decisions announced on six plans. In response to comments received during the public consultation period, closure proposals for 15 individual offices have so far been withdrawn.

Public Holidays

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent consideration his Department has given to the introduction of new bank holidays. [181010]

Mr. McFadden: The Department receives representations on this issue from time to time. However the present pattern of bank holidays in the UK is well established and accepted, and the Government have no current plans to change the arrangements.

Union Modernisation Fund: Audit

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what procedures are in place to monitor and audit the public monies remitted to trades unions under the auspices of the Union Modernisation Fund; and if he will make a statement. [180990]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 22 January 2008]:* In line with normal arrangements for Government funding, all UMF projects are regularly monitored for progress and expenditure to ensure accountability and the protection of public funds. All projects are required to allow site visits by BERR officials. Failure to comply with such monitoring activity may result in sanctions, including withholding or reclaiming of funds.

On completion, each project is required to produce an independent accountant's report. The report accompanies the final claim and confirms that the union has expended the sums in respect of which all claims have been made.

In addition, BERR is working with Leeds University Business School to conduct a phased evaluation of the fund. Phase one evaluated the operational effectiveness of the first round of bidding. Phase two will evaluate the success of supported projects and the impact of monies via a series of case studies. An interim phase two evaluation report was published in December 2007.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council of England: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many regularly-funded organisations will be supported by Arts Council England in 2008-09. [179699]

James Purnell *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* I announced in October last year that grant in aid for Arts Council England would rise to £467 million by 2010-11 – an increase of £50 million over current levels.

The Arts Council operates at arm's length from the Government and decisions about which arts organisations to fund are entirely for them.

Arts Council England will make a full announcement at the beginning of February when final decisions have been taken.

Arts Council of England: Grants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what changes Arts Council England plans to make to funding criteria and allocation mechanisms; what changes it has made in the last 24 months; and what *(a)* internal guidance and *(b)* external guidance has been amended accordingly. [179445]

James Purnell *[holding answer 16 January 2008]:* The Arts Council operates at arm's length from the Government and decisions about which arts organisations

to fund are entirely for them. Their fundamental criteria are set out in their Royal Charter

"to develop and improve the knowledge, understanding and practice of the arts [and] to increase accessibility of the arts to the public in England."

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which local organisations in each region received funding from Arts Council England in each of the last three years; how much funding was received in each case; and how much each such organisation is expected to receive from Arts Council England in 2008-09. [179447]

James Purnell *[holding answer 16 January 2008]:* I announced in October last year that grant in aid for Arts Council England would rise to £467 million by 2010-11 - an increase of £50 million over current levels.

A list of organisations which received Arts Council funding between 2005-06 to 2007-08 will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Arts Council operates at arm's length from the Government and decisions about which arts organisations to fund are entirely for them. They have said the following in response to requests to see the detail of the organisations listed in their proposals for 2008-09:

"Our proposals for non-renewal of funding cannot be made available until our National and Regional Councils make final decisions. This information is considered confidential and commercially sensitive during the response period. This is especially so in the case of a recommendation that might be overturned by the National Council or a Regional Council. Regularly funded organisations who have a right to respond to our recommendation, should be able to do so freely without fear that our intention to reduce or stop their funding is potentially unnecessarily, and without their consent, released into the public domain. A full announcement will be made at the beginning of February"

Departmental Land

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what stage has been reached in his Department's plans to sell the area of land located to the north of the British Library; what recent estimate of the value of the site has been made; and whether the Department will receive a proportion of the proceeds of any such sale. [181179]

James Purnell *[holding answer 22 January 2008]:* The sale of the land is proceeding; each party has now agreed the 'heads of terms' and the contract should be finalised by the end of February.

The department's agents valued the site prior to the sale at £45 million but with an expectation of higher bids following the marketing campaign and the completion of St. Pancras station.

In line with Treasury budgeting guidance, DCMS may indeed retain a proportion of the proceeds. The sale also enables the Department to meet almost the entire sum represented by its target for asset sales over 2008-11.

Internet: Children

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government has taken to make the internet safer for child users. [179150]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 15 January 2008]:* The Government take internet safety extremely seriously, particularly in relation to children.

In September 2007, the Prime Minister announced a review into the risk to children of exposure to harmful or inappropriate content in video games and online. The review will also assess the effectiveness and adequacy of existing measures to help prevent children from being exposed to such material and help parents understand and manage the risks of access to inappropriate content.

Dr. Tanya Byron is conducting this review and will report to Ministers in March 2008.

Other activity in this area includes the following:

(a) The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), which operates an internet hotline for people to notify them of child abuse images online. Internet service providers are liable to prosecution if they do not remove sites notified to them by the IWF.

(b) The Home Office Task Force on Child Protection on the Internet, which was set up in 2001 and has published:

Good Practice Guidance for Search Providers and Advice to the Public on How to Search Safely.

Good Practice Models and Guidance for the Internet Industry on Chat Services, Instant Messaging and Web Based Services.

Good Practice Guidance for the Providers of Social Networking and Other User Interactive Services.

(c) Cyberbullying guidance, which was launched in September 2007 by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, provides practical help and guidance for parents and pupils on how to deal with any cyberbullying incidents.

(d) The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) which was set up in 2006, combines its enforcement powers with the business sector, Government and other interested organisations all focused on tackling child sex abuse policy. CEOP had some notable successes last year in bringing prosecutions.

(e) The EU Safer Internet Plus Programme promotes a safer use of online technologies particularly by children, and supports those fighting illegal and harmful content ranging from child abuse images to racism. IWF and CEOP receive funding from this programme.

(f) Many internet service providers and mobile companies work in partnership with Government in providing parents and children with practical help and advice on their websites.

Theatre: Grants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many regularly-funded theatre-based producing companies in the regions will be supported by Arts Council England in 2008-09. [179701]

James Purnell *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* The Arts Council operates at arm's length from the Government and decisions about which arts organisations to fund are entirely for them.

Arts Council England will make a full announcement at the beginning of February when final decisions have been taken.

Tourism: Greater London

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the average expenditure per head by overseas tourists visiting London in the last five years. [179278]

Margaret Hodge: The table shows the average expenditure per visit by overseas tourists to London for the latest years for which data are available.

Average expenditure per visit

	London (£, current prices)
2002	499
2003	502
2004	481
2005	494
2006	502

Source:
International Passenger Survey (ONS).

The figures exclude expenditure relating to fares for travel to and from the UK, and include expenditure by same day transit visitors.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* overseas and *(b)* UK tourists who visited London in the last five years. [179279]

Margaret Hodge: The tables show (i) the number of overseas visits and (ii) the number of overnight trips by UK residents to London for the latest years for which data are available.

Overseas visits

	London (million)
2002	11.6
2003	11.7
2004	13.4
2005	13.9
2006	15.6

Source:
International Passenger Survey (ONS).

Domestic overnight trips by UK residents[1]

	London (million)
2002	16.1
2003	14.3
2004	12.8
2005	10.7
2006	11.0

[1] The methodology for the UKTS changed in 2005 meaning that comparisons with previous years should be treated with caution. This change occurred as a result of concerns with the quality of 2004 data, which are thought to be an under-representation of the true position.

Source:
UK Tourism Survey (National Tourist Boards).

It is not possible to provide a time series for the number of day visits by UK residents to London as the survey is run intermittently.

TRANSPORT

Bicycles: Accidents

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* cyclists and *(b)* motorcyclists have suffered (i) non-fatal casualties and (ii) death on (A) urban and (B) rural roads in Great Britain in each year since 1997. [180935]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is given in the table:

Number of fatal and non-fatal casualties in reported personal injury road accidents by urban/rural roads and road user type GB 1997-2006

Number of casualties

	Urban				*Rural*			
	Pedal cyclist		*Motorcyclists*		*Pedal cyclist*		*Motorcyclists*	
	Fatal	*Non fatal*	*Fatal*	*Non fatal*	*Fatal*	*Non fatal*	*Fatal*	*Non fatal*
1997	95	20,206	164	15,814	88	4,222	344	8,129
1998	81	18,854	151	16,058	77	3,862	345	8,004
1999	83	18,722	178	17,039	88	3,811	360	8,492
2000	67	17,071	177	18,822	59	3,318	421	8,649
2001	69	15,737	186	19,481	67	3,149	394	8,606
2002	63	14,110	222	18,893	64	2,824	387	8,802
2003	60	14,091	213	18,502	54	2,810	480	9,194
2004	73	13,821	185	17,037	61	2,676	399	7,999
2005	73	13,751	179	16,284	75	2,657	390	7,961
2006	87	13,424	176	15,240	59	2,626	423	7,485

Number of casualties

	All[1]			
	Pedal Cyclist		*Motorcyclists*	
	Fatal	*Non fatal*	*Fatal*	*Non fatal*
1997	183	24,453	509	23,983
1998	158	22,765	498	24,112
1999	172	22,668	547	25,645
2000	127	20,485	605	27,607
2001	138	18,976	583	28,227
2002	130	16,977	609	27,744
2003	114	16,919	693	27,718
2004	134	16,514	585	25,056
2005	148	16,413	569	24,255
2006	146	16,050	599	22,727

[1] Includes roads with unallocated urban/rural marker

Bull Bars: Regulation

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will seek to amend EU regulations on the fixing of metal bull bars to new vehicles to cover vehicles which had such bars fitted when the present regulations entered into force. [181555]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government have no plan for retrospective regulation in this area.

Departmental Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many officials in her Department and its agencies received bonuses in each year since 2002. [178962]

Jim Fitzpatrick: All civil service Departments are encouraged to develop non-consolidated bonus payments to recognise performance, in accordance with the civil service reward principles agreed by the Cabinet Office.

The information requested for the years prior to 2005-06 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Detailed records for the number of civil servants who received staff bonuses during the period stated only exist for the following years:

	Number
2005-06	12,622
2006-07	12,241

The 2006-07 figures do not include figures from the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) as they have yet to complete payments to staff.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her Department's policy is on recycling. [174398]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Due to the dispersed nature of the Department for Transport estate an overarching recycling policy approach has not been adopted. Instead, the Department looks to utilise the available schemes in each of the areas in which it has sites. The Department, including its agencies, has embedded recycling and waste reduction into sustainable development action plans and environmental management systems, where applicable, with the aim of achieving the recognised sustainability on the government estate waste targets.

For the scale of the recycling schemes currently utilised by the Department for Transport I refer the hon. Member to my response on 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1086-88W. Additionally, I refer the hon. Member to my earlier answer given on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1172W, which showed the volumes and percentage of recycling undertaken by the Department for Transport.

Driving Standards Agency: Rural Areas

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department carried out impact assessments before the introduction of multi-purpose test centres in rural areas; and if she will make a statement. [180499]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A draft Regulatory Impact Assessment was published as part of the consultation entitled "Delivering the new motorcycle test" in December 2002. This was revised in the light of responses to that consultation. The amended Impact Assessment was published in the Response to Consultation report in March 2004.

Driving Standards Agency: Training

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons the Driving Standards Agency's professional development training will be outsourced; and if she will make a statement. [180501]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driving Standards Agency is currently working with representative bodies and other stakeholders on the development of a Continuing Professional Development initiative for approved driving instructors which would inform a future consultation paper. No decisions have been made as to the development of the delivery.

Driving: Age

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of whether to change the age at which an individual can start driving. [181450]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer to the answer given on 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1088W to the right hon. Member for East Yorkshire (Mr. Knight).

Government Mail

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many deliveries were lost by Government mail in the last year for which figures are available. [181328]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the right hon. Member to my answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 460W given to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban).

Roads: Death

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport at which times of day incidents causing the deaths of drivers aged between 17 and 25 years occurred in each of the last 10 years, broken down by hourly interval. [180390]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of reported personal injury road accidents resulting in 17 to 25-year-old car driver fatalities by hour of accident for Great Britain from 1997 to 2006 are shown in the table.

Number of fatal accidents

Hour of accident	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
00:00	24	18	17	15	20	25	26	24	24	21
01:00	10	24	24	19	13	17	12	24	22	24
02:00	23	10	11	11	21	13	17	19	14	17
03:00	12	12	10	11	15	11	23	12	10	17
04:00	10	2	9	9	7	9	8	13	9	12
05:00	9	5	2	13	6	9	6	15	8	10
06:00	12	10	4	9	6	10	16	9	14	8
07:00	18	11	11	13	16	17	7	12	15	11
08:00	17	19	12	12	14	18	15	18	17	17
09:00	9	12	6	7	7	7	9	8	3	10
10:00	10	13	10	10	5	9	12	4	6	11
11:00	11	5	3	9	5	9	5	9	4	9

Number of fatal accidents

Hour of accident	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
12:00	11	9	5	7	9	9	13	8	15	11
13:00	16	12	11	13	7	13	7	9	7	6
14:00	4	9	14	7	9	10	16	3	10	17
15:00	14	10	7	6	8	10	15	5	8	13
16:00	10	12	14	10	13	8	15	10	15	18
17:00	16	14	11	12	13	18	16	17	11	21
18:00	22	28	13	13	16	13	25	20	22	20
19:00	15	15	14	11	26	15	18	16	22	19
20:00	22	22	20	23	23	18	13	23	26	22
21:00	26	14	19	26	18	29	19	22	25	23
22:00	25	26	21	17	31	26	26	26	32	20
23:00	28	18	22	29	24	23	20	32	21	31
Total	374	330	290	312	332	346	359	358	360	388

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in how many road traffic accidents in which a driver aged between 17 and 25-years-old died there were *(a)* no passengers, *(b)* passengers aged between 17 and 25 and *(c)* passengers aged over 25 in the vehicle in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [180428]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of reported personal injury road accidents involving 17 to 25-year-old car driver fatalities with *(a)* no passenger casualties, *(b)* at least one 17 to 25-year-old passenger casualty and *(c)* at least one passenger casualty aged over 25 are given in the table.

	No passenger casualties	*At least one 17 to 25-year-old passenger casualty*	*At least one passenger casualty aged over 25*
1997	227	120	23
1998	198	109	18
1999	172	89	20
2000	193	96	23
2001	200	108	14
2002	209	120	16
2003	220	108	21
2004	232	97	18
2005	218	114	16
2006	223	135	21

Data are shown for passenger casualties as information on uninjured passengers is not collected. Accidents may be included in both columns *(b)* and *(c)* as a vehicle may have a 17 to 25-year-old passenger casualty as well as a passenger casualty aged over 25.

Safety Belts

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what files are held by her Department on *(a)* the Road Traffic (Seat Belts) Bill of Sessions (i) 1978-79 and (ii) 1979-80 and *(b)* the Safety of Children in Cars Bill of sessions (A) 1978-79, (B) 1979-80 and (C) 1980-81; and if she will make a statement. [180774]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department's records for the periods in question do not show files specifically relating to these Bills. Many files from that period have now been destroyed or transferred to The National Archive.

Speed Limits: Driving Offences

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to ensure that every person referred to a speed awareness course in Lancashire undertakes the course. [180509]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department is not responsible for ensuring the attendance of offenders at speed awareness courses. Courses are offered at the discretion of the Police, as an alternative to prosecution, to speeding offenders for whom they feel it is the most productive option. Should an offender agree to attend a course but fail to do so, the offer of a course is withdrawn and the offence reverts to a prosecution.

Vehicle Registration: Fines

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fines the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has issued relating to the lack of notification of change of vehicle ownership in the last two years. [180594]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of penalties issued by the Agency in respect of a failure to notify a change of vehicle ownership is as follows:

Financial year	*Number*
2005-06	52,640
2006-07	42,078

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many appeals against fines imposed by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency for non-notification of change of vehicle ownership have been made in the last two years; how many of these were successful; on what grounds such cases were successful; and if she will make a statement. [180596]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Agency does not hold statistics to advise the total number of appeals received in cases which involve non-notification of change of vehicle ownership. These details could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The number of non-notification of change cases closed following further investigation is as follows:

Financial year	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Compassionate grounds	388	423
Data discrepancy	3,062	2,603
No offence	11,467	8,652

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Coastal Areas

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made in establishing a cross-departmental working group to examine coastal towns. [180655]

John Healey: The inaugural meeting of the cross-departmental working group on coastal towns, convened by officials from this Department, will be held on 6 February 2008.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of freedom of information requests received by her Department have given rise to responses that have been published by her Department. [180211]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government has adopted a selective disclosure policy whereby only the most high profile pieces of information and those of wider public interest are published as a matter of course on the disclosure log on its website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/coporate/about/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/

To date, 5 per cent. of responses to requests made to Communities and Local Government and its predecessor Department, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004 since 1 January 2005 have been published.

Fire Services: injuries

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many firefighters, following injury *(a)* retired and took their pensions due to injury, *(b)* were re-employed within the Fire Service in other roles and *(c)* left the Fire Service without their pension, in each of the last five years. [180809]

Mr. Dhanda: Available information, for ill-health retirements due to injury, which relate to all Fire and Rescue Staff (uniformed and non-uniformed) is set out as follows:

Ill-health retirements due to injury England 2001-02 to 2005-06

	Number
2001-02	168
2002-03	184
2003-04	115
2004-05	382
2005-06	244

Source:
Annual returns to Communities and Local Government

Information on re-employments and leavers without pensions is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Flood Control: Essex

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Scot Wilson Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for Mid Essex and Colchester will be published; and what the reasons are for the time taken to publish it. [180712]

Mr. Iain Wright: The strategic flood risk assessment (SFRA) work undertaken by Scott Wilson was split into two phases. Phase 1 successfully completed in November 2006, with Phase 2 involving the delivery of the individual SFRA chapters to suit local development framework (LDF) timetables. This is a joint piece of work commissioned by Chelmsford, Colchester, Maldon and Braintree local planning authorities to help inform their emerging LDFs.

A number of factors led to the delay in publication of this study. In August 2007, the Environment Agency requested that the scope of the study be changed to take into account new guidance in planning policy statement 25 'Development and Flood Risk' and the accompanying practice manual to take account of the possible impacts of climate change for river systems, such as the incidence of higher density rainfall. This required the engagement of additional consultants to undertake reruns of the fluvial models, which took further time. However, undertaking this further work means that the final SFRA aims to comply with most recent Government guidance and provide the most up to date information in relation to flooding that also includes consideration of the potential impacts of climate change.

Greater London Authority: Standards

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if her Department will initiate a review into *(a)* the governance of the London Development Agency and *(b)* the operation of arrangements for the scrutiny of the Mayor of London's advisers. [178338]

John Healey *[holding answer 14 January 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 773-74.

Green Belt

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 131-39W, on green belt, how many hectares were designated green belt in *(a)* Durham district and *(b)* Easington district in 1997. [180199]

Mr. Iain Wright: There was no designated green belt land in Durham district or Easington district in 1997.

Heating: Standards

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will introduce legislation to require the retrospective implementation in council housing of the 2004 British Standard for water system thermostats. [180971]

Mr. Iain Wright: Last summer we began a wide ranging review of the Building Regulations to see whether any changes to the legal requirements might be made that would further improve the robustness and safety of hot water systems in all new homes and homes undergoing alteration and major building works. We do not want to pre-judge the outcome of this review.

In parallel we are working with our colleagues in the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and in industry to see whether additional guidance and a more robust approach to ensuring the proper implementation of legal provisions relating to safety in existing housing is needed.

This review and our joint work with HSE and the industry will, of course, take account of the findings of the coroner, following the tragic death of Rhianna Hardie.

Housing

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what criteria the decision made to grant the housing market renewal scheme £1 billion of Government funding on 11 October 2007 was based. [166231]

Mr. Iain Wright: Decisions to grant the housing market renewal programme additional funding of around £1 billion for 2008 to 2011 were taken as part of allocations within the Department for Communities and Local Government following the comprehensive spending review 2007.

The new funding reflects in part the initial success of the programme in narrowing the gaps in house prices and vacancies between pathfinders and their regions, as recognised in the National Audit Office's recent report on the programme. It also recognises that more remains to be done—in some cases, to continue to tackle problems of deep-seated structural need, where markets are reviving more slowly; and in others to ensure that the housing market renewal and growth programmes can be taken forward together where appropriate, responding to emerging issues including the need for more affordable housing.

Decisions on allocations to individual areas will be taken shortly.

Housing: Empty Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many domestic dwellings in England are classified as empty. [180160]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Hayes and Harlington (John McDonnell) on 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 547-48W.

Housing: Low Incomes

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will allow the redesignation of disused or underused farm buildings for the purposes of developing affordable housing. [180189]

Mr. Iain Wright: Planning Policy Statement 7: "Sustainable Development in Rural Areas" (PPS7) sets out a supportive approach to the re-use of buildings in the countryside where this would meet sustainable development objectives. Conversion for economic development uses is preferred but residential conversions may also be acceptable. Isolated new houses in the countryside will require special justification for planning permission to be granted but this may be provided if accommodation is needed, for example, to enable agricultural, forestry or other workers to live at or in the vicinity of their place of work.

Any dwellings will count as new housing for the purposes of Planning Policy Statement 3 "Housing" (PPS3). PPS3 highlights the need for local authorities to plan for the provision of market and affordable housing in rural areas that contributes to the creation and maintenance of sustainable rural communities in market towns and villages. It also sets out how local authorities in rural areas should consider allocating and releasing sites solely for affordable housing, including using a rural exception site policy.

It is for local planning authorities to determine planning applications, such as those for the development of disused or underused farm buildings for housing, in accordance with the statutory development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Housing: Vista Panels

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contracts have been provided to Vista Panels by the Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder schemes. [180156]

Mr. Iain Wright: None of the Housing Market Renewal Pathfinders is known to my Department to have had a direct contract with Vista Panels.

Local Government Business Growth Initiative

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the local government business growth initiative (LEGI); and how much additional funding has been provided under the LEGI to local authorities. [178465]

John Healey: I understand my hon. Friend means this question to relate to Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme (LABGI) rather than Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI).

At the end of the first year of LABGI, we revisited the methodology used to calculate the level of funding given to local authorities to ensure that the scheme continued to deliver an incentive for local authorities to maximise local economic growth. As a result, the scheme was simplified by removing the ceiling on payments made to local authorities.

On 7 January 2007, the Government announced that, following further consideration of new legal challenges that have been made against the current scheme and the inherent uncertainty that this caused to the remaining LABGI pot, it intended to re-consider all aspects of the approach used to distribute the remaining resources available for Year 3 of the LABGI scheme. The full statement can be found at

http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/labgi/statementyr3pay.pdf

In October 2006, the Government published an issues paper, which sought views on reform of LABGI. This set out the Government's intention to develop an incentive as a full and permanent part of the local government finance system and to phase this in from 2009-10, with funding of £50 million doubling to £100 million in its second year. We are now considering the responses that have been received.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Harborough of 20 December 2007 on the eco-town proposal in Harborough. [181136]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 22 January 2008]:* The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda) replied to the hon. Member on 17 January.

Muslims: Females

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to her answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1338-9W, on Muslims: females, which academics, theologians and leading Muslim women attended the two roundtable meetings in which women's access to mosque life was discussed; and who attended the two wider stakeholders meetings. [181184]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 22 January 2008]:* In my right hon. Friend's answer of 18 December, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government identified two roundtable meetings at which the issue of women's access to mosque life was discussed. The following academics and theologians attended the first of these meetings:

Name	
Prof. Tariq Ramadan	University of Oxford
Prof. Tim Winters	University of Cambridge
Dr. Anas Sheikh-Ali	AMSS UK
Prof. Ron Geaves	Liverpool Hope University
Sheikh Gamal Manna	Muslim College
Dr. Usama Hasan	Middlesex University
Mehri Niknam	Joseph Interfaith Foundation
Dr. Shahid Raza	British Muslim Forum
Dilwar Hussein	Islamic Foundation
Dr. Musharraf Hussain	Karimia Institute
Prof. Haleh Afshar	University of York
Maleiha Malik	Kings College London

The following stakeholders attended the second meeting.

Name	
Bacool Al Toma	Islamic Foundation
Parvin Ali QBE	FATMA Women's Network
Naheed Arshad-Mather	Chair, Yorkshire and Humber Regional Panel
Zuleka Dala	Mental Health Development Team, Yorkshire Primary Care Trust
Reedah El-Saie	Barrister
Shahda Khan	Principal Community Cohesion Officer, Middlesbrough Council
Sabira Murtaza Lakha	World Federation of Khoja Shi'a Ithna Asheri
Adeeba Malik	QED-UK
Sabin Malik	Principal Community Cohesion Officer, London borough of Hounslow
Andleen Razaq	Diversity Awareness Trainer, Metropolitan Police Force
Shahien Taj	Henna Foundation

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government also identified two stakeholder roundtable meetings. The following persons attended one or both of these meetings:

Name	
Yousif al-Khoei	Al-Koei Foundation
Khurshid Ahmed	British Muslim Forum
Irfan Chishti	Sufi Muslim Council
Yasmin Alibhai-Brown	British Muslims for Secular Democracy
Parvin Ali	FATIMA Women's Network
Shahien Taj	Henna Foundation
Dr. Abdul Bari	Muslim Council of Britain
Abdulkarim Kubica	Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre
Shaista Gohir	Muslim Women's Network
Mohammed Imran	Muslim Youth Helpline
Hashim Duale	Somali Community, Leicester
Yahya Birt	City Circle
Sabira Lakha	World Federation of Khoja Shi'a Ithna Asheri
Aneela Majid	British Muslims for Secular Democracy

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department has published good practice guidance on initiatives to support the role of Muslim women in the community since the report on preventing violent extremism was published. [181186]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 22 January 2008]:* The good practice guide on effective initiatives to strengthen the role that Muslim women play in their communities was published on 23 January.

Property

Mr. Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when a consultation paper will be published on proposed reforms to the property search market. [179225]

Mr. Iain Wright: The consultation paper was published on 18 January.

Regeneration: Coventry

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what grants her Department has provided for the re-development of Coventry in the last 12 months; and what *(a)* grants and *(b)* loans for that purpose are planned for the future. [180717]

Mr. Dhanda: There have been no specific Communities and Local Government grants or loans provided for the re-development of Coventry in the last 12 months apart from a contribution to Coventry's New Deal for Communities (NDC) initiative based in three deprived outer estates in the north east of the city.

Religious Buildings: Planning

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in respect of how many sites applications for planning permission for change of use from a place of worship to *(a)* private housing, *(b)* commercial usage, *(c)* community functions and *(d)* other usage have been granted in each of the last 10 years. [180429]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Communities and Local Government collects quarterly aggregate statistics on development control from all local planning authorities in England. However, we do not collect information on individual planning applications.

Repossession Orders: Housing Benefit

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many possession orders were *(a)* suspended and *(b)* dismissed relating to properties owned by (i) registered social landlords and (ii) local authority housing departments because of non-payment of housing benefit by local authorities in the latest period for which figures are available. [181100]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Data are not available relating to the number of possession actions initiated by social landlords or local authority housing departments which were suspended or dismissed on the grounds of non-payment of housing benefit by local authorities. This information could be compiled centrally only at disproportionate cost.

However, the Ministry of Justice publishes general quarterly statistics on mortgage and landlord possession actions. This publication includes court-level data on the number of suspended orders, and is available from the statistics pages of the Ministry of Justice website.

Rural Areas: Business

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to promote rural towns as desirable places to set up and expand businesses. [181160]

Mr. Dhanda: The Government's review of sub-national economic development and regeneration (known as the SNR), published in July 2007, set out policies designed to enable all places, including rural towns, to reach their economic potential.

Regional development agencies lead work to drive economic development in the regions. However, under the proposals set out in the SNR, local authorities will play an increasingly important role in driving forward economic development and will develop and deliver the regional strategy alongside the RDAs. The SNR also proposed a new economic appraisal duty for local authorities, which would require each upper tier local authority to assess the economic circumstances and challenges in its area. The Government will be consulting on these proposals shortly.

Rural Areas: Renewable Energy

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to assist rural households on planning issues in relation to alternative sources of energy and microgeneration. [181163]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Planning Policy Statement on climate change we published at the end of 2007 sets out new planning rules to boost the use of local renewable and low carbon energy. These expect local planners, whether in rural or urban locations, to promote and encourage alternative sources of energy and microgeneration when they help cut carbon emissions. We are also going to make it easier for householders including those in rural areas to install microgeneration equipment without the need to apply for planning permission, subject to certain safeguards to minimise the impact on others. Our aim is to amend the relevant legislation in the spring. Where the proposal would still require a planning application, and it is in line with our new policy rules for cutting carbon emissions, we expect it to be handled expeditiously and sympathetically.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Arrests

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prosecutions have been made and *(b)* fixed penalty notices have been issued by (i) police and (ii) local authorities for (A) fly tipping, (B) graffiti, (C) dog fouling, (D) the dropping of litter and (E) parking offences in each year since 1997. [176115]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

Information on prosecutions at magistrates courts is held by the Ministry of Justice for (A) fly tipping offences, (B) 'other' criminal damage, (C) dog fouling, (D) littering and (E) parking offences since 1997; these are provided in the following tables. The offence class of 'other' criminal damage includes, but cannot separately identify, offences of graffiti. Data on fly posting offences cannot be separately identified from the data held by the Ministry of Justice.

(A) Fly tipping

	Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates court
2006	1,791
2005	1,550
2004	1,317
2003	985
2002	922
2001	732
2000	648
1999	564
1998	516
1997	393

(B) 'Other' criminal damage

	Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates court
2006	13,478
2005	12,368
2004	13,359
2003	13,852
2002	14,152
2001	13,820
2000	12,802
1999	13,932
1998	14,148
1997	13,734

(C) Dog Fouling

	Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates court
2006	404
2005	473
2004	461
2003	454
2002	355
2001	366
2000	341
1999	294
1998	184
1997	45

(D) Littering

	Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates court
2006	2,031
2005	1,447
2004	909
2003	552
2002	333
2001	457
2000	466
1999	506
1998	496
1997	506

(E) Parking Offences

	Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates court
2006	9,059
2005	10,972
2004	14,710
2003	17,729
2002	17,554
2001	18,966
2000	19,624
1999	22,869
1998	23,572
1997	21,051

Data are collected by DEFRA on the number of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued by local authorities, and how many had subsequently been taken to prosecution due to non-payment. Police Community Support Officers can issue FPNs if they have the relevant approval; such FPNs are issued on behalf of the local authority and are included in the aggregated figure provided by each local authority to DEFRA each year. FPNs cannot be issued for fly tipping offences.

The numbers of FPNs issued for each offence each year are included in the following tables.

(B) Graffiti

Reporting year (April to March)	*Number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued*	*Number of cases taken to court following non-payment*
2006-07	42	2
2005-06	47	3
2004-05	19	2

As the power to issue FPNs for graffiti offences was introduced in 2003, statistics do not exist prior to this date.

(C) Dog Fouling

Reporting year (April to March)	*Number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued*	*Number of cases taken to court following non-payment*
2006-07	3,675	205
2005-06	4,066	303
2004-05	3,557	330
2003-04	2,742	193
2002-03	2,036	127
2001-02	2,311	190
2000-01	1,817	91
1999-2000	1,545	111
1998-99	1,321	90
1997-98	292	11

(D) Litter

Reporting Year	*Number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued*	*Number of cases taken to court following non-payment*
2006-07	43,624	2,144
2005-06	33,033	1,002
2004-05	25,216	1,100

(D) Litter

Reporting Year	Number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued	Number of cases taken to court following non-payment
2003-04	7,565	266
2002-03	12,829	169
2001-02	11,615	175
2000-01	2,247	66
1999-2000	2,970	30
1998-99	4,777	13
1997-98	727	74

The parking offences for which a FPN can be issued are nuisance parking and abandoned vehicles, as defined in the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. The first year of available data is for the period April 2006 to March 2007.

Reporting year April 2006 to March 2007	Number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued	Number of cases taken to court following non-payment
(E(i)) Nuisance parking	1,657	0
(E(ii)) Abandoned vehicles	469	16

The police can issue penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) which can include offences such as littering. The littering offence was added to the PND scheme in 2004 when it was rolled out nationally.

Data on the number of PNDs issued for littering broken down by police force area are published as a part of the publication 'Penalty Notices for Disorder' for 2004 data and as a part of 'Criminal Statistics, England and Wales 2006' (for 2005 and 2006 data). These are available on the Ministry of Justice website.

Asylum

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will give a breakdown by *(a)* sex and *(b)* age group of asylum applicants granted leave to remain in the UK via (i) asylum status, (ii) exceptional leave to remain, discretionary leave to remain or humanitarian protection, (iii) the 1998 backlog exercise and (iv) the 2000 family ILR exercise in each year since 1997. [177337]

Mr. Byrne: Information on initial decisions by sex for years 2001 to 2006 are available from the annual Statistical Bulletins Asylum Statistics United Kingdom.

Information on initial decisions by age of applicants for years 1997 to 2000 are available from the annual Statistical Bulletins Asylum Statistics United Kingdom, information for 2001 to 2006 will be placed in the House Libraries. Categories and the presentation of data changed in 2001 and this is reflected in the tables provided.

Information on the 1998 backlog exercise and the 2000 family ILR exercise is not available broken down by age and sex and could be obtained by examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of the people whose asylum cases *(a)* were considered under the Legacy Casework Programme were unsuccessful have been removed and *(b)* are awaiting removal; and if she will make a statement. [179102]

Mr. Byrne: In her update to the Home Affairs Select Committee of 17 December 2007, Lin Homer (the chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency) stated that 52,000 cases have been concluded by the Case Resolution Directorate, of which about 16,000 have led to removals. We do not hold information on how many cases have been considered and are awaiting removal.

Lin Homer gave an undertaking to update the Home Affairs Select Committee every six months.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seeker legacy cases have been recognised in *(a)* Newcastle and *(b)* the North East; and how many such cases have been determined. [178191]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 15 January 2008]:* The information requested cannot be provided except by examining individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Asylum: Applications

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidelines are issued to case decision-makers in the Borders and Immigration Agency on the economic and social consequences for applicants for indefinite leave to remain of the time taken to make decisions on individual applications. [177616]

Mr. Byrne: There is no specific guidance issued to caseworkers on the economic and social consequences of time taken to process a decision on Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) applications.

The Border and Immigration Agency have time based targets for dealing with such applications, the majority of which are met. Targets that are 70 per cent. of all decisions on in time applications requesting indefinite leave to remain are made within 20 days of receipt and that 90 per cent. are decided within 70 days.

Asylum: Dublin II Agreement

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers her Department has requested the return of under the Dublin II Agreement in each year since it came into force. [180255]

Mr. Byrne: Approximately 7,920 requests have been made by the United Kingdom under the provisions of the Dublin II regulation since its introduction on 1 September 2003. Statistics on the number of requests between September and December 2003 is unavailable. The yearly breakdown is as follows:

	Number
2004	2,320
2005	1,840
2006	1,960
2007	1,800

These figures are based on management information. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, is subject to change and should be treated as provisional. These figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers have been returned to the UK under the Dublin II Agreement in each year since it came into force. [180256]

Mr. Byrne: A total of approximately 1,165 asylum seekers have been returned to the UK from other EU countries under Dublin provisions since 2004. The Dublin II regulation was introduced on 1 September 2003 and replaced the Dublin convention. The statistics, as follows, include returns under both the Dublin convention and regulation as we are unable to provide figures on the Dublin regulation alone. Returns information from September to December 2003 is unavailable. A yearly breakdown is as follows:

	Number
2004	90
2005	265
2006	440
2007	370

These figures are based on management information. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, is subject to change and should be treated as provisional. These figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

Asylum: Social Security Benefits

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons were in receipt of asylum support in each year since 1 January 2004, broken down by nationality; and how many in receipt of such support had been refused asylum. [180675]

Mr. Byrne: The numbers of asylum seekers in receipt of support broken down by nationality are published annually in the Asylum Statistics United Kingdom bulletins. The latest bulletin for 2006 and historic publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Information on decision outcomes relating specifically to supported asylum seekers is not available and could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Campsfield House Detention Centre: Costs

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was to public funds of responding to the break-out from Campsfield House Detention Centre in August 2007. [180113]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 22 January 2008]:* Any costs incurred by the Border and Immigration Agency as a result of the disturbance in Campsfield House in August 2007 are reclaimed from the contractors through a joint insurance arrangement.

Council of Europe Convention on Human Trafficking

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to complete the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Human Trafficking. [179564]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* The Government are determined to prioritise the effort to tackle the misery of human trafficking. That is why we intend to ratify the Convention before the end of this year, subject to achieving necessary changes to domestic legislation in all parts of the UK.

Crime: Romania

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* Romanian and *(b)* Bulgarian nationals have been arrested by Metropolitan Police officers since January 2007. [168006]

Mr. McNulty: The arrests collection undertaken by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform provides data only on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) broken down by age group, gender, ethnicity, police force area and main offence group. The nationality of the arrestee does not form part of this collection.

Crimes of Violence

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many cases of actual bodily harm police cautions were used in each of the last five years; and what proportion of such cases were first offences. [176117]

Mr. McNulty: Data showing the number of offenders cautioned, proceeded against and found guilty of actual bodily harm offences in England and Wales from 2002 to 2006 have been provided by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform and are given in the following table.

Information is not available on the number of these cases which were first offences.

Number of offenders cautioned, and defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for actual bodily harm offences[1], in England and Wales, 2002 to 2006[2, 3]

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Proceeded against	34,785	35,955	30,109	28,091	26,231
Found guilty	15,026	15,087	14,663	16,071	16,663
Cautioned	15,773	20,397	25,707	38,094	42,171

[1] Includes the following offences:
Assaults occasioning actual bodily harm (malicious wounding), Offences against the Person Act 1861 section 47 (in part).
Racially aggravated assaults occasioning actual bodily harm (malicious wounding), Offences Against the Person Act 1861 section 47 (in part) as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 section 29(1)(b) & (2).
Religiously aggravated ABH, Offences Against the Person Act 1861 section 47 as amended by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 section 29(1)(b) & (2).
Racially or religiously aggravated ABH, Offences Against the Person Act 1861 section 47 as amended by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 section 29(1)(b) & (2).
[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department and its agencies spent on end-of-year bonus payments in each of the last five years. [171531]

Mr. Byrne: End of year bonus payments for staff in Home Office headquarters, the Border and Immigration Agency, and for senior civil servants across the Home Office are linked to performance appraisals. The following table provides the amount paid in end of year bonuses to these staff in the last four years:

	Amount paid (£)
2002-03	2,067,878
2003-04	3,361,516
2004-05	4,287,676
2005-06	4,449,667

Figures for 2006-07 are subject to some change as data are not yet complete.

Staff in the Identity and Passport Service receive end of year corporate bonuses, and change agent bonuses. As the corporate bonuses were only introduced in 2003-04 the following table provides information for the last four years only:

	Amount paid (£)
2003-04	388,874
2004-05	731,484
2005-06	1,068,482
2006-07	1,253,045

Staff in the Criminal Records Bureau do not receive end of year bonuses.

Data are not available from the Prison Service, who were formally an agency of the Home Office prior to transferring to the Ministry of Justice, as obtaining these data is possible only at disproportionate cost.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many dependants have entered the UK with foreign nationals obtaining a grant of an after-entry application to *(a)* vary leave, *(b)* vary leave for permit-free employment and *(c)* vary leave for business in each year since 1997; [177387]

(2) how many holders of student visas of each nationality have been granted an extension of their entry visa on *(a)* two occasions and *(b)* three or more occasions in each year since 2001; [177396]

(3) how many foreign nationals granted an after entry application *(a)* to vary leave, *(b)* to vary leave for permit-free employment and *(c)* to vary leave for business had obtained (i) a previous extension of leave and (ii) two or more previous extensions of leave in the last year for which figures are available; [177475]

(4) how many *(a)* applications and *(b)* refusals there were of applications for after entry variation of leave for (i) permit-free employment and (ii) business in each year since 1997; [177476]

(5) how many grants of after entry applications to vary leave for business were made in *(a)* each year since 1997 and *(b)* each quarter since 1 January 2004; what the percentage change in grants made was between each such period; and how many foreign nationals of each nationality obtained such a grant in each year since January 2004; [177477]

(6) how many grants of after entry applications to vary leave for permit-free employment were made in *(a)* each year since 1997 and *(b)* each quarter since 1 January 2004; what the percentage change in grants made was between each such period; and how many such grants were made (i) in each category and (ii) for foreign nationals of each nationality in each of the last three years for which such figures are available. [177478]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Entry Clearances: Health Professions

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether overseas doctors and international medical graduates are eligible for highly skilled migrant status; and whether there is any restriction on numbers by category of medical specialty; [181168]

(2) what joint Home Office and Department of Health groups have responsibility for planning highly skilled migrant programme numbers in relation to service and training needs. [181169]

Mr. Byrne: Migrants may come to the UK or extend their leave here under the highly skilled migrant programme, subject to gaining sufficient points against four objective criteria (qualifications, previous earnings, age and UK experience) and meeting any other requirements for that category in the immigration rules. There is no restriction on numbers by category of medical speciality. National health service workforce planning is a matter for the Department of Health.

Entry Clearances: Pakistan

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many spouses from Pakistan left the marital home before being granted indefinite leave to remain and were allowed to stay in the UK as a result of an administrative decision by her Department in each year since 2000. [179774]

Mr. Byrne: The requested information is not readily available and could be obtained only by examining individual case files at a disproportionate cost.

The number of Pakistani spouses who left the marital home and were subsequently recorded as being granted indefinite leave to remain on the basis of domestic violence since 2003 is shown in the table.

This information has not been quality assured and is not a national statistic. It should be treated as provisional management information and may be subject to change. Data have been rounded to the nearest five.

	Number of cases
2003	15
2004	70
2005	40
2006	65
2007	70

Entry Clearances: Students

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether those applying to extend their student visa are asked whether they have previously had their visa extended. [180588]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* When a student applies for an extension to their student visa the application form requires the student to provide details of their previous studies if the student has previously been granted permission to study in the United Kingdom. Their application is supported by their passport or travel document which will include their previous visa extension.

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what checks are made on whether students whose visas are extended for further academic study attend their new courses. [180589]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* One of the provisions of the student rules is that a student needs to provide evidence of enrolment from an institution on the Register of Education and Training Providers before an extension may be granted.

If a student fails to attend, the institution must provide details to the Border and Immigration Agency on demand.

When a student applies for an extension to their leave, the application form requires the institution to provide written confirmation of the student's attendance.

Under the proposed new Points Based System, there will be a mandatory requirement on institutions to report non-attendance of their students. This will be supported by sanctions on the institutions and may include removal from the sponsorship register for failure to meet this requirement.

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many student visa extensions were granted for students *(a)* to pursue a full-time recognised degree course, *(b)* to pursue a weekday daytime course involving a minimum of 15 hours per week, *(c)* to attend a full-time course of study at an independent fee paying school, *(d)* to re-sit an examination, *(e)* to write up a thesis, *(f)* to follow a nursing training course at a recognised nursing educational establishment, *(g)* as a sabbatical officer and *(h)* for another purpose in 2006. [180590]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* The information in the form requested could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

However, statistics on decisions on applications for an extension of leave to remain are published in chapter 4 of the Command Paper 'Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2006'. This publication may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Genetics: Database

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research projects have been undertaken using data from the National DNA Database; and if she will make a statement. [164672]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 15 January 2008]:* Data from the National DNA Database (NDNAD) have been provided to the following organisations for research purposes.

Forensic Science Service:

10 projects relating to assistance to forensic providers for R and D papers, not specific investigations.

one project relating to police operations, requiring anonymised NDNAD profiles.

one project relating to database improvements.

Home Office:

two Research Development and Statistics projects relating to match reporting.

one project relating to police operations on behalf of Interpol (this was reported as G8 rather than Interpol in response to an earlier Freedom of Information Act query).

one project relating to database improvements (these data are now provided as routine management information and no longer classified as research).

one project to identify new leads on undetected prolific offenders involved in at least one serious crime offence.

Greater Manchester Police:

one project relating to police operations, checking against the NDNAD for named individuals.

Merseyside Police:

one project using exhibits from solved cases.

LGC (forensic services provider):

one project relating to assistance to forensic providers for R and D papers, not specific investigations.

one project on the further development of familial searching software.

one project on the confirmation of rarely found types of DNA.

Cellmark Forensic Services:

one project on the further development of familial searching software.

Immigrants: Carers

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to change the minimum salary regime for senior carer work permit renewals; and if she will make a statement. [179782]

Mr. Byrne: Work permit salary guidance for all occupations is kept continuously under review, and is updated in line with the latest and most robust salary data available from industry. Salary guidance for senior care workers is no exception.

The current rate is derived from Skills for Care's National Minimum Data Set for Social Care (NMDS-SC), which is the most comprehensive salary data we have identified for this sector.

Work permit applications, including extensions, are assessed against the going rate at the time that the application is made. It has always been a requirement, for any job, that work permit holders must be paid at least equal to the going rate that would normally attract a suitably skilled resident worker. It is essential that we prevent skilled migrants from being exploited as a source of cheap labour, and salaries for skilled resident workers from being undercut.

As part of the transitional measures we are putting in place for existing work permit holders, an exceptional in-country extension may be granted for a maximum of 12 months for those senior care workers who have had work permits approved prior to 31 December 2003. The requirement for employers to pay the current going rate will be exceptionally waived, providing the salary is at least equal to that on the previous work permit approval.

This is part of a package of transitional measures we have introduced to assist the sector in maintaining continuity of care whilst it adapts its staff recruitment and retention practices to more effectively target the resident work force.

Immigration

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the cases in which leave to remain in the UK was granted under the legacy exercise related to *(a)* failed asylum seekers and *(b)* asylum seekers whose cases had yet to be considered. [177362]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 10 January 2008]:* We do not hold this information in the format requested and to obtain it would involve disproportionate cost.

Immigration Controls

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated into the effects of reducing the coverage of the resident labour market test; [177450]

(2) what estimate she has made of the proportion of jobs covered by the requirements of the resident labour market list; [177470]

(3) pursuant to her answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 86W, on immigration controls, what decisions she has made on the future operation of the resident labour market test; and what estimate she has made of the number and proportion of jobs which would no longer be subject to the labour market test if the test threshold was set at a salary of *(a)* £30,000, *(b)* £40,000 and *(c)* £50,000 a year. [178329]

Mr. Byrne: We will ensure that under the PBS we continue to protect the privileged position held by British workers in the job market.

Immigration Controls: Expenditure

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the juxtaposed UK immigration controls at Paris, Lille and Brussels cost in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [180330]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* The information is as follows:

(a) The juxtaposed UK immigration controls at Paris, Lille and Brussels cost £7,102,500 in 2005-06.

(b) The juxtaposed UK immigration controls at Paris, Lille and Brussels cost £8,492,000 in 2006-07.

Migrant Workers

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what publications the Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) provide for nationals of Bulgaria and Romania explaining the procedures for confirming their status as self-employed persons to the relevant United Kingdom authorities; what evidence is required by the BIA to establish that such nationals are self-employed; and what penalties have been imposed on such nationals who have not satisfied the BIA that they are self-employed. [179154]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office has produced a booklet for Romanian and Bulgarian nationals entitled 'Living and Working in the UK', detailing the rights and responsibilities of 'A2' nationals from 1 January 2007. Further information on what documentation to apply for, relevant criteria and application forms can be found on the BIA website.

A 'self-employed person' is someone who has established themselves in the UK in order to pursue activity as a self-employed person. Examples of evidence to prove such status includes:

Invoices showing payment for services or contracts to provide services

Evidence from HMRC of national insurance special reference number

Evidence from HMRC of registration for tax

Evidence from HMRC of national insurance contributions

This list is not exhaustive. More information can be found on the HMRC website here:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/self-employed/

If a Bulgarian or Romanian national falsely claims to be a self-employed person, they are not residing in the UK in accordance with the Accession Regulations and may be subject to prosecution and/or a Fixed Penalty of £1,000 may be issued. We do not routinely record this information.

Organised Crime: Romania

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken in co-operation with the Romanian police to tackle criminal Romanian gangs operating in London. [168004]

Mr. Coaker: Tackling the menace of organised crime is a top priority for the Government. The establishment of the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) in 2006 signalled the Government's determination to make the UK one of the toughest places in the world to operate, irrespective of nationality.

We have been working for some time and continue to do so, with Romanian authorities and crime agencies to identify, and close the door to organised crime groups. The close working relationship has resulted in two Romanian police officers being placed with the Metropolitan police 'Operation Golf' to help identify children who they believe were trafficked out of Romania by an organised crime network for the purpose of criminal exploitation.

Police: Pay

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the average pay is for all grades of police officer in England; [174717]

(2) what the average pay for a police constable in England including all allowances is in 2007-08. [174716]

Mr. McNulty: Information on average salary by rank is not held centrally. Information on pay scales for all police ranks was taken from the Police Negotiating Board Circulars available at the Office of Manpower Services website:

www.ome.uk.com.

Pay scales for all police officer ranks in England from 1 September 2006

	Pay scale
Constable	£21,009-£32,985
Sergeant	£32,985-£37,071
Inspector	£42,264-£45,843
Inspector (London)	£44,118-£47,709
Chief Inspector	£46,779-£48,705
Chief Inspector (London)	£48,645-£50,568
Superintendent	£56,274-£65,565
Chief Superintendent	£67,200-£71,031
Assistant Chief Constable	£81,954-£95,613
Deputy Chief Constable (including Deputy Metropolitan Commissioner)	£98,346-£193,959
Chief Constable (including Metropolitan Commissioner)	£117,468-£234,939

Police officers are entitled to a range of allowances as set out in the Police Regulations 2003 and the Secretary of State's determinations under the regulations. Some of the principle allowances are:

Officers serving in the Metropolitan or City of London forces are eligible for:

	£
London Allowance	4,338
London Weighting	2,055

A South East England Allowance is payable to members of the forces listed as follows at the rates given:

	£
Essex, Herts, Kent, Surrey, Thames Valley	2,000
Beds, Hants, Sussex	1,000

As set out in the Police Negotiating Board Circular 03/16 some posts (determined by the chief office and police authority) are eligible for a special priority payment. The payments can be between £500 and £3,000 and exceptionally up to £5,000.

Stop and Search

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many stops and searches were conducted *(a)* in total and *(b)* per 1,000 population in each police force area, in each year since 1997; and what percentage of (i) the total and (ii) the number in each area resulted in an arrest in each year. [172871]

Mr. McNulty: The available information by financial year is given in the tables placed in the House Library.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 574W, on abortion, what the *(a)* prefix and *(b)* title is of each file held by his Department on (i) the Abortion (Amendment) Bill of Session 1987-88, (ii) the Unborn Children (Protection) Bills of Sessions (A) 1984-85, (B) 1985-86 and (C) 1987-98 and (c) the Abortion Act 1967; and if he will make a statement. [180870]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Autism: Elderly

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to assist elderly people who are on the autism spectrum. [180091]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The provision of services for people with autism is a matter for the appropriate local authority and national health service bodies who are required to prioritise and allocate funding for services based on their assessment of the needs of their local populations.

The "Putting People First" Concordat sets out a shared vision for the transformation of social care. It articulates the common aims and values that will guide all the participants in modernising adult social care. Ensuring individualised responses for older people including people with autistic spectrum conditions, will be part of this transformation. This may be through provision of direct payments or individual budgets should current pilots prove successful. These provide

greater choice and control for people needing support, and place the person who is supported at the centre of the process.

Cancer: Prescriptions

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions were issued in relation to cancer in the latest year for which figures are available; and what proportion of these were (*a*) exempt from charges and (*b*) paid for by pre-payment certificate. [181193]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available in the format requested.

Departmental Equality

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to paragraph 29, page 35 of his Department's resource accounts for 2006-07, if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's Commission for Racial Equality Action Plan. [178279]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As noted in the resource accounts, the action plan was incorporated into the Department's single equality scheme (where it is included in chapter 14). The scheme was published in June 2007 and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/EqualityandhumanrightsSingleEqualityScheme/index.htm

A copy of the scheme has been placed in the Library. The Department is working to produce a revised single equality scheme by 29 February 2008.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many drug rehabilitation clinics there were in (*a*) Romford, (*b*) Essex and (*c*) Greater London in the most recent period for which figures are available. [179655]

Dawn Primarolo: The specific information requested is not collected centrally.

Food: Cloning Animals

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is on the cloning of animals for food production; and if he will make a statement. [180671]

Dawn Primarolo: The sale of foods and food ingredients derived from cloned animals falls within the scope of the Novel Foods Regulation (EC) 258/97. The authorisation and labelling of novel foods is decided on a case-by-case basis and no applications have been received to date for the authorisation of products derived from cloned animals. Any application would be evaluated on the basis of the information provided. In the meantime, foods obtained from cloned animals cannot be sold for human consumption.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the European Food Standards Agency's draft scientific opinions relating to the (*a*) food safety, (*b*) animal health and welfare and (*c*) environmental impact of cloned animals, their offspring and the products obtained from these animals; and if he will make a statement. [180672]

Dawn Primarolo: The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) issued its draft opinion for consultation on 11 January 2008. The Food Standards Agency is examining the food safety aspects of the draft opinion and will provide its comments to EFSA before the end of the consultation period, which runs until 25 February 2008. Animal health and welfare and the environmental impact of farming practices are the responsibility of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Health Education: Religious Practice

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what health advice his Department provides related to religious observance; and what (*a*) advice and (*b*) funding was received from relevant faith organisations in each case. [179174]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department recognises that we all now live in a multicultural, multi-faith society. The Department is committed to recognising the needs of patients and staff of diverse religious groups, and to responding sensitively and appropriately to these needs.

In November 2003 the Department published "NHS Chaplaincy: Meeting the Religious and Spiritual needs of Patients and Staff", which aims to ensure that national health service chaplaincy services reflect the religious diversity of the communities the NHS serves. This guidance was developed with advice from the Multi-Faith Group for Healthcare Chaplaincy, an independent group, which includes representatives from nine faith communities.

In September 2007 the Department funded an independent organisation called Communities in Action to produce a "Ramadan Health Guide" providing information and advice on maximising health gain during the Muslim fast, which was developed in consultation with a number of Muslim community organisations and clinicians.

In December 2007 the Department published a leaflet entitled "Going to Hajj or Umrah?" This leaflet explains and offers advice on some of the risks concerning meningitis for travellers to the Muslim pilgrimage.

Following the introduction of the Equality Act (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2006, the Department has commissioned independent consultants to develop a practical guide to these regulations, which prohibit discrimination on grounds of religion or belief in the provision of goods, facilities and services.

In each case, no funding was received from faith organisations in the development of this advice.

Hepatitis B

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many (*a*) males and (*b*) females in each age group had hepatitis B in (i) Southend, (ii) Essex and (iii) England and Wales in each of the last 10 years. [177138]

Dawn Primarolo: Surveillance of hepatitis B is based upon reports of confirmed acute hepatitis B diagnoses from laboratories in England and Wales. The information available, which is from 1998 to 2003 and down to regional level, is shown in the following tables.

Laboratory confirmed cases of acute hepatitis B, England and Wales, 1998 to 2003

	1998				1999				2000			
Age group	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total
<1	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
years 1-4	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
years 5-9	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	5
years 10-14	<5	<5	<5	6	<5	<5	<5	6	<5	<5	<5	<5
years 15-24	124	99	<5	225	107	92	6	205	98	80	6	184
years 25-34	212	79	5	296	164	72	<5	240	192	56	10	258
years 35-44	106	35	<5	145	109	27	<5	138	99	31	<5	131
years 45-54	66	20	<5	86	63	11	<5	74	61	14	<5	75
years 55-64	26	<5	<5	29	28	5	<5	34	25	8	<5	35
years >=65	16	9	<5	26	18	7	<5	28	14	6	<5	20
Years Not known	19	8	<5	28	17	<5	<5	21	9	4	<5	14
Total	574	256	13	843	512	223	17	752	503	204	20	727

	2001				2002				2003			
Age group	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total
<1	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
years 1-4	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
years 5-9	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
years 10-14	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	5	<5	<5	<5	<5
years 15-24	71	73	<5	147	112	92	<5	208	67	52	5	124
years 25-34	140	51	<5	195	208	77	<5	289	156	70	5	231
years 35-44	96	31	<5	130	158	46	<5	206	137	35	<5	172
years 45-54	52	7	<5	62	69	16	<5	86	67	19	<5	87
years 55-64	23	<5	<5	26	42	7	<5	51	37	9	<5	47
years >=65	15	5	<5	20	17	7	<5	24	20	10	<5	30
Years Not known	11	<5	<5	15	12	5	<5	21	<5	<5	<5	8
Total	411	173	15	599	622	256	17	895	494	200	15	709

Laboratory confirmed cases of acute hepatitis B, East of England, 1998 to 2003

	1998				1999				2000			
Age group	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total
<1 year	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
1-4 year	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
5-9 years	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
10-14 years	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
15-24 years	<5	6	<5	6	5	7	<5	12	5	12	<5	17
25-34 years	11	<5	<5	13	16	4	<5	20	15	6	<5	21
35-44 years	<5	<5	<5	<5	5	<5	<5	6	6	<5	<5	8
45-54 years	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
55-64 years	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
>=65 years	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Not known	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Total	22	10	<5	32	31	12	<5	43	33	23	<5	56

	2001				2002				2003			
Age group	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total	Male	Female	Not known	Total
<1 year	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
1-4 years	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
5-9 years	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
10-14 years	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5

	2001				2002				2003			
Age group	*Male*	*Female*	*Not known*	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*	*Not known*	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*	*Not known*	*Total*
15-24 years	6	5	<5	11	10	5	<5	15	<5	<5	<5	5
25-34 years	11	<5	<5	15	16	7	<5	23	<5	7	<5	9
35-44 years	5	5	<5	10	12	<5	<5	14	8	<5	<5	11
45-54 years	6	<5	<5	8	<5	<5	<5	<5	5	<5	<5	9
55-64 years	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
>=65 years	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	5
Not known	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Total	29	15	<5	45	43	18	<5	61	23	20	<5	43

Notes:
1. Since 2003, the completeness of data on whether hepatitis B infections are acute or chronic infection has decreased and therefore figures for 2004 onwards are not reliable. The HPA is working to improve the quality of information on acute hepatitis B reporting and provisional data for 2007 should be available later this year.
2. Data are reported by laboratory rather than by the patient's place of residence. Therefore, any breakdown of data below regional level is not considered reliable.
3. Where fewer than five cases were reported for an area, the table indicates the number of cases reported as <5 rather than the actual number in order to reduce the risk of deductive disclosure of an individual's identity.

Source:
Health Protection Agency (HPA).

Human Embryo Experiments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 591W, on human embryo experiments, what the *(a)* prefix and *(b)* title is of each file held by his Department on the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill of Session 1989-90; and if he will make a statement. [180869]

Dawn Primarolo: The prefixes and titles of the files held by the Department, concerning the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill of session 1989-90, and related papers are shown in the following table:

File prefix	*File title*
INW0014/0030/0001/01/VO5	HF&E Bill 1990 Consultations
INW0014/0030/0001/01/VO6	HF&E Bill 1990 Warnock Report Consultations
INW0014/0030/0001/01/VO7	HF&E Bill 1990 Warnock Report Consultations
INW0014/0030/0001/01/VO8	HF&E Bill 1990 Warnock Report Consultations
INW0014/0030/0001/01/VO9	HF&E Bill 1990 Warnock Report Consultations
INW0014/0030/0001/01/V10	HF&E Bill 1990 Warnock Report Consultations
INW0014/0030/0001/02/VO1	HF&E Bill 1990 Post Warnock Consultations
INW0014/0030/0001/02/VO2	HF&E Bill 1990 Post Warnock Consultations
INW0014/0030/0001/VO1	HF&E Bill 1990 Warnock Report
INW0014/0030/0001/VO2	HF&E Bill 1990 Warnock Report
INW0014/0030/0001/VO3	HF&E Bill 1990 Warnock Report
INW0014/0030/0001/VO4	HF&E Bill 1990 Post Warnock
INW0014/0030/0001/VO5	HF&E Bill 1990 Post Warnock
INW0014/0030/0002/VO1	HF&E Bill 1990 H of L Committee Stage Amendments
INW0014/0030/0002/VO2	HF&E Bill 1990 H of L Committee Stage Amendments
INW0014/0030/0002/VO3	HF&E Bill 1990 H of L Committee Stage Amendments
INW0014/0030/0003/VO1	HF&E Bill 1990 Lords Report Stage
INW0014/0030/0003/VO2	HF&E Bill 1990 Report Stage
INW0014/0030/0003/VO3	HF&E Bill 1990 Report Stage
INW0014/0030/0004/VO1	HF&E Bill 1990 H of L 2nd and 3rd Reading
INW0014/0030/0005/VO1	HF&E Bill 1990 Commons 2nd Reading
INW0014/0030/0006/VO1	HF&E Bill 1990 Commons Committee
INW0014/0030/0007/VO1	HF&E Bill 1990 Standing Committee
INW0014/0030/0008/VO1	HF&E Bill 1990 Lords Consideration of Common's Amendments
INW0014/0030/0009/VO1	HF&E Bill 1990 Notes on Clauses
INW0014/0030/0010/VO1	HF&E Bill 1990 Various Papers
INW0014/0030/0011/VO1	HF&E Bill 1990 Interim Licensing Authority
INW0014/0030/0011/VO2	HF&E Bill 1990 Confidentiality Provisions
INW0014/0030/0012/VO1	HF&E Bill 1990 Confidentiality Provisions
INW0014@030/0012/VO2	HF&E Bill 1990 Hansard
INW0014/0030/0012	HF&E Bill 1990 Hansard
INW0014/0030/0013/VO1 to VO7	HF&E Bill 1990 Disclosure of Information
INW0014/0030/0014/VO1 to VO3	HF&E Bill 1990 Surrogate Arrangement Bill
INW0014/0030/0015/VO1 to VO2	HF&E Bill 1990 Policy on Legislation
INW0014/0030/0016/VO1	HF&E Bill 1990 Code of Practice
INW0014/0030/0017/VO1	HF&E Bill 1990 Appointments
INW0014/0030/0018/VO1	HF&E Bill 1990 DTI: Restrictive Trade Practices
INW0014/0030/0019/VO1	HF&E Bill 1990 Post Warnock
INW0014/0030/0019/VO2	HF&E Bill 1990 Consultation Documents Responses Legal Nursing Post Warnock
INW0014/0030/0019/VO3	HF&E Bill 1990 Consultation Documents Responses Post Warnock
INW0014/0030/0136/VO2	HF&E Bill 1990 Disclosure of Information
INW0014/0030/VOO24	HF&E Bill 1990 H of L Committee Stage Amendments
INW0030/0001/0001/VO1 to VO4	HF&E Bill 1990 Warnock Report Consultations

Meat Hygiene Service

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans the Meat Hygiene Service has to alter its method of charging from headage to hourly rates. [180081]

Dawn Primarolo: We understand from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) that the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) currently charges industry for a proportion of the costs it incurs in carrying out meat hygiene and animal welfare official controls at approved meat premises. Businesses are charged the lower of the hourly MHS staff costs of delivering the official controls or a charge calculated from specified rates per animal or tonne of meat that is processed.

The FSA Board decided last July that the MHS should seek to progressively recover an increasing proportion of the cost of the meat hygiene and animal welfare controls that it provides and should seek to introduce charges for specified risk material official controls. At the same time, the MHS was required to improve efficiency.

The MHS is making significant changes to its operation that will reduce total costs in real terms from £91.3 million in 2006-07 to £75.0 million in 2011-12. In transforming, the MHS will continue to provide assurance that the meat industry produces safe meat for consumers.

The MHS is working with the FSA and with industry stakeholders to develop a charging system that will encourage the efficient use of MHS staff.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the *(a)* operation and *(b)* cost efficiency of the Meat Hygiene Service; [180082]

(2) what plans he has to reform the operation of the Meat Hygiene Service; and if he will make a statement; [180083]

(3) if he will make it his policy to replace the Meat Hygiene Service with private commercial inspection organisations. [180084]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has reviewed the delivery of official controls currently undertaken by the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) in approved meat premises and a range of possible alternatives. This led the FSA board to set the MHS challenging targets to reduce the total and net costs of its operations over the next three financial years; to improve its productivity; to make full and cost effective use of its independent contractors; and to develop new charging arrangements. The board also decided that work should continue on preparations to pilot an alternative delivery model for its further consideration later this year.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will contribute to the Meat Hygiene Service's current consultation on charges; and if he will publish the results of the consultation. [180085]

Dawn Primarolo: We understand from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) that the responses to the consultation are being considered and that a summary of them will be submitted to Ministers in the normal way when the regulations to which they relate are submitted for approval. We understand that the responses summary, with joint FSA/Meat Hygiene Service comments, will be published on the FSA's website.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the operation of the Meat Hygiene Service. [180086]

Dawn Primarolo: We have received four letters, including three from hon. Members.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the operating cost of the Meat Hygiene Service was in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [180087]

Dawn Primarolo: The operating costs (including inflation) of the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) for the last 10 years are:

	£ million
1997-98	55.0
1998-99	63.1
1999-2000	66.9
2000-01	64.6
2001-02	77.7
2002-03	81.2
2003-04	82.1
2004-05	83.0
2005-06	88.2
2006-07	91.3

During this period MHS activity has increased and includes: the introduction of specified risk material controls; an increase in the attendance level of official veterinarians as required by European Union legislation; additional activity required during the 2001 foot and mouth outbreak; and additional work involved in the introduction of the system to allow over-30-month beef to enter the human food chain.

In real terms, MHS costs have remained relatively flat since 2001 and are forecast to fall in 2007-08.

The MHS transformation plans will see a reduction in total costs in real terms from £91.3 million in 2006-07 to £75.0 million in 2011-12, carrying out its role efficiently.

NHS: Costs

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the direct health care costs, in current prices, of obesity *(a)* in the most recent year for which figures are available and *(b)* in 2050 or the latest year for which an estimate is available. [180421]

Dawn Primarolo: In 2005 the Government asked the Government Office for Science's Foresight programme to examine the scale of the obesity problem. They estimated that in 2007, the total cost to the national health service of diseases in which body mass index is a risk factor was £17.4 billion, of which obesity is estimated to account for £1 billion. The Foresight report anticipates that, at today's prices, the NHS cost of overweight and obesity could rise to £6.5 billion by 2050.

Pregnant Women: Streptococcus

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he has conducted a cost-benefit analysis of the introduction of routine screening of pregnant women for Group B Strep; [177810]

(2) what steps the Government have taken to educate (*a*) relevant health professionals and (*b*) pregnant women about the symptoms and prevention of Group B Strep infections in babies; [177811]

(3) what representations he has received from the Health Protection Agency on the use of the enriched culture medium (ECM) testing method for detecting Group B Strep in late pregnancy; and if he will bring forward proposals for the ECM test to be available on the NHS. [177812]

Dawn Primarolo: Current policy, on advice from the United Kingdom National Screening Committee (UK NSC), the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is not to offer routine screening for Group B Streptococcus (GBS) carriage to all pregnant women, because there is insufficient evidence to demonstrate that this would be beneficial. A cost benefit analysis would usually be commissioned only when the evidence supported screening.

A health technology assessment (HTA) cost effectiveness modelling study, commissioned by the UK NSC, which compared different management strategies for GBS in pregnancy has reported.

The HTA report recommends that the current screening policy should not be changed without further research and that research to evaluate the efficacy of a vaccine for GBS should be prioritised. The researchers also recommend a revision of existing guidelines on current best practice; the RCOG is in the process of initiating a guideline review project which will consider the evidence generated since the first publication in 2003.

A GBS online learning package was produced in collaboration with the user group—Group B Strep Support (GBSS)—and others, which was launched in 2006. The learning package is based on RCOG guidelines and provides a comprehensive multidisciplinary interactive teaching resource which is freely available to all health care professionals at:

www.whsl.org.uk/gbs

Healthcare professionals are encouraged to follow the RCOG's risk factor based guideline to reduce the incidence of GBS infection in the first week of life.

Patient information on GBS is available from NHS Direct Online and in the NHS Pregnancy Book (updated in 2006) which is distributed free to all pregnant women. The RCOG has also produced patient information.

We are not aware of any representations being received from the Health Protection Agency on the use of the enriched culture medium testing method for detecting Group B Strep in late pregnancy.

Screening: East of England

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much additional funding he plans to provide to Eastern Area to fund preventative screening in each of the next three years. [179238]

Dawn Primarolo: Sufficient funding will be made available at the national level to deliver our policy commitments on screening. Detailed analytical work is currently under way to develop the plans, including costs. Funding available for different parts of the country will depend on local decisions about the use of primary care trust (PCT) allocations, and national decisions on the use of central budgets. The Department has yet to take decisions on PCT allocations and central budgets for 2009-10 and 2010-11, and these decisions will reflect the developing plans on preventative screening.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Abu Dhabi: Overseas Companies

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions the British Embassy in the United Arab Emirates has had with the National Bank of Abu Dhabi on behalf of UK registered companies on disputes over monies owed since 2004. [181097]

Dr. Howells: Our embassy in Abu Dhabi has had no discussions with the National Bank of Abu Dhabi on behalf of UK registered companies on money disputes since 2004.

Colombia: Overseas Aid

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much aid was provided by the UK to Colombia in each of the last five years; and what proportion of that aid was classed as military assistance in each of the last five years. [180116]

Dr. Howells: As the information requested by my hon. Friend will take time to collate, I will write to him once I have the details and arrange for a copy of the letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental ICT

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many (*a*) male and (*b*) female members of staff in his Department were issued with personal digital assistants in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [181356]

Meg Munn: Information on the gender of those issued with personal digital assistants is not held centrally and could not be collated without incurring disproportionate cost.

Detainees: Human Rights

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he will discuss with Mr. Thomas Hammarberg, Commissioner for Human Rights in the Council of Europe, the Secretary-General's proposal on secret detention and detainee transfers, when he meets him on February. [181473]

Dr. Howells: The Human Rights Commissioner will meet my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, who leads on Human Rights issues. We considered carefully the recommendations made by the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe when they were issued in June 2006. However, as stated in my written reply to the hon. Member on 23 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 245W, the Government believe that domestic legislation and international legal instruments already exist to deal satisfactorily with the concerns he has raised. We stand by this statement and believe that there is no need to create new mechanisms such as the Secretary-General proposes. I wrote to the Secretary-General on 23 January 2007 outlining the Government's position in detail.

The Government believe that the best long-term protection against terrorism lies in the defence of our freedoms and values. We remain fully committed to our obligations under international human rights law. We do not render people in breach of our legal obligations and we do not agree with secret detention. The Government oppose any form of deprivation of liberty that amounts to placing a detained person outside the protection of the law.

India: Christianity

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will encourage the European Commission to raise the issue of recent violence against Christians in Orissa state at the next round of the EU-India human rights dialogue. [180948]

Dr. Howells: Discussions are underway to confirm the date for the next round of the ad hoc EU-India human rights dialogue, following the EU-India summit on 30 November 2007. The UK and EU colleagues will continue to use this and other opportunities to raise human rights concerns with the appropriate Indian authorities.

Natural Resources: Armed Conflict

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent progress has been made in multilateral efforts to agree a common and legal definition of conflict resources; what role the Government are playing in this process; and if he will make a statement; [181728]

(2) whether the Government's policy is to support the Commission for Africa Report recommendations to agree a United Nations endorsed definition of conflict resources; and what progress has been made on the creation of a permanent expert panel within the UN to monitor the links between natural resource extraction and violent conflict and the implementation of sanctions. [181729]

Dr. Howells: While we recognise the strong arguments for an agreed definition of "conflict resources", we assess that a definition would not substantially help to address the links between conflict and natural resources. A UN Security Council debate on conflict and natural resources in June 2007 demonstrated the issue's sensitivity for many countries: seeking agreement on a definition in the UN would, in our judgment, prove extremely slow and without guarantee of success.

We are working with other like-minded Governments to develop a more comprehensive strategy to tackle links between natural resources and conflict. This could involve the inclusion of natural resource issues in the mandates of peacekeeping missions; the creation of a permanent centre of expertise within the UN system; and strengthening the role of the Peacebuilding Commission. We will seek a UN Secretary-General's report to assess these options and raise the profile of the issue, and we continue to work cross-Whitehall and with external stakeholders on this matter.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Sri Lanka on its decision to withdraw from the ceasefire agreement; and if he will make a statement. [180727]

Dr. Howells: The Government's position on the abrogation of the 2002 ceasefire agreement by the Sri Lankan Government is clear. Most recently, during a debate in the House on Sri Lanka on 17 January, I called on the Sri Lankan Government to deliver on their commitment to urgently produce a just political solution which satisfies the legitimate aspirations of all Sri Lankans (*Official Report*, columns 1183-88).

In his statement of 4 January, my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, expressed the Government's view that there can be no military solution to the Sri Lankan conflict and called on the political parties in Sri Lanka to work together for peace.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Civil Service: Standards

Ben Chapman: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps he has taken to put the core principles of the civil service in statute. [179631]

Gillian Merron: As set out in the Governance of Britain Green Paper, the Government are committed to taking forward legislation to enshrine the core principles and values of the civil service in law. The legislation will form part of the Constitutional Renewal Bill and will be published in draft for consultation soon.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equal Pay: Women's National Commission

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether an equal pay audit has been conducted by the Women's National Commission. [171383]

Barbara Follett: No equal pay audit for the Women's National Commission as a separate entity has been conducted, but its staff would be included in any assessment of the commission's funding sponsor, the Government Equalities Office, previously known as the

Women and Equality Unit. I refer the hon. Lady to my answer to PQ 170572 regarding whether an equal pay audit has been conducted for the Women and Equality Unit, and to my answer to PQ 171377 regarding what assessment has been made of the pay gap between male and female staff in the Government Equalities Office. Publishing separate figures relating to the Women's National Commission, which is a small body, may risk identifying individuals.

Rape Crisis Centres

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many rape crisis centres there were in each year since 1980. [174509]

Barbara Follett: No published data have been identified which would permit a year on year account of the number of rape crisis centres in England and Wales since 1980.

According to the website of Rape Crisis England and Wales, there are currently 38 affiliated members in England and Wales. The National Council for Voluntary Organisations reports that in 1985 there were 84 rape crisis centres in England and Wales, and that this number reduced to 50 in 1990. Independent research by the End Violence Against Women coalition, and reported in Map of Gaps, found that there are 42 groups associated with Rape Crisis England and Wales, 18 less than there were in 1996.

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the Government spent on support for rape crisis centres in each year since 1980. [174510]

Barbara Follett: Total grants from the Victims Fund, administered by the Ministry of Justice, to rape crisis centres, in 2007-08 came to £484,562. In addition, Rape Crisis England and Wales received £75,000 in Home Office funding.

For 2006-07 total grants from the Victims Fund to rape crisis centres, including Rape Crisis England and Wales (also referred to as Rape Crisis Co-ordination Group) were £313,538; for 2005-06 £473,717 and for 2004-05 £199,270.

In both 2007-08 and 2006-07 the Home Office provided £360,000 in funding for Independent Sexual Violence Advisors based in rape crisis centres.

The Rape Crisis Federation, the then umbrella body for rape crisis centres, received central government funding in 2002-03 of £432,000 and in 2001-02 of £406,000. Approximately £500,000 in funding was provided to two rape crisis centres, Southampton and South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre, over the period 2000-02.

There is no record of funding prior to this.

The Government are committed to supporting voluntary and community sector organisations. Over 80 per cent. of voluntary and community organisations that receive funding are supported by local funders and the Victims Fund was not established to substitute for this.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contracts his Department has with external consultants; what the total value, including all VAT and disbursements, of these contracts is for the current financial year; how long each contract lasts; and what the forecast total value is of each contract. [163812]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The information requested could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

DFID contracts external consultants with technical expertise to deliver development projects and programmes around the world. Consultants undertake humanitarian relief operations, respond to requests from partner governments for advice on complex economic and administrative reforms, and help improve health and education services, all with the objective of reducing poverty and improving the lives of people in developing countries.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what products featuring departmental or Government branding were procured by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [179788]

Mr. Malik: Information on products procured with departmental or Government branding is not held centrally. Publications and other branded products are produced as an integral part of ongoing policy and research, development programme implementation, training, internal communication and work to raise public awareness of international development. It is not possible to answer this question without incurring disproportionate costs.

DFID has no agencies.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many posters or displays there are in the offices of his Department and its agencies displaying the names and photographs of Ministers; and what the cost has been of producing such posters or displays in the last five years. [179846]

Mr. Malik: In the UK offices of DFID there is one display of named photographs of former Secretaries of State for International Development in the Palace street offices. This has cost £992 in the last five years. There is no equivalent display in our other UK office, Abercrombie House. There have been no posters produced for use in offices with ministerial names and photographs during this period.

DFID currently has staff in 68 overseas offices. It would incur disproportionate costs to ascertain whether any expense had been incurred during the last five years in producing displays or posters with named photographs of Ministers.

DFID has no agencies.

Developing Countries: Health

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what evaluation the Government have commissioned of the potential contribution of health links to the development of best practice. [176801]

Mr. Malik: No evaluation has yet been commissioned by the Department for International Development or the Department of Health on this topic. We anticipate carrying out an evaluation within the next three months.

There are many positives to be taken from links and twinning, but also concerns about overall effectiveness in some countries. The Crisp report has helpfully identified some areas for the UK to support developing countries in capacity strengthening. The Inter-Ministerial Group on Global Health will shortly issue the Government's response to Lord Crisp's report which will outline how the recommendations will be taken forward.

Export Credits Guarantee Department: Finance

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department contributed to the Export Credits Guarantee Department in 2005-06 to compensate it for claims abandoned in 2005-06. [180326]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* DFID paid £643,000 to the Export Credit Guarantee Department (ECGD) in 2005-06. These payments represent amounts due from countries receiving debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative.

Countries qualify for debt relief under the HIPC Initiative in two stages: first, they qualify for interim relief from debt service payments due. Later, when countries complete the Initiative, they receive irrevocable debt cancellation.

Debts owed to official creditors, such as ECGD, are dealt with by the Paris Club. ECGD implements decisions taken at the Paris Club, providing debt relief at the levels agreed. In 2005-06, ECGD provided over £1.5 billion of debt relief. DFID meets the costs of additional relief over and above what has been agreed by the Paris Club so that HIPCs receive 100 per cent. debt relief. It is UK policy to provide 100 per cent. debt relief to HIPCs, from the time countries first qualify for the Initiative.

Kenya: Elections

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the £600,000 spending allocated to the monitoring of the recent election in Kenya. [180964]

Mr. Douglas Alexander *[holding answer 22 January 2008]:* DFID contributed £600,000 to a pooled fund to support the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Elections Assistance programme. The total budget was $12 million. Many other donors supported this programme, including the USA who led the donor group.

DFID's judgment is that some of the assistance, such as support to the media centre and to domestic observers, has enabled greater transparency around the flawed tallying processes than might otherwise have been the case. The voting process itself was also supported by voter education; work with the media, hate-speech monitoring and flexible technical assistance. However, subsequent irregularities have highlighted institutional weaknesses that were tested by such a close contest.

With international partners we will look at lessons that have emerged, in particular how we can further strengthen the institutions that can underpin stable democracy in Kenya.

Kenya: Financial Institutions

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1079W, on Kenya: financial institutions, what direct assistance his Department is giving to assist existing microfinance businesses in Kenya where the owners need immediate help. [180587]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* DFID is providing direct assistance to the multi-donor Financial Sector Deepening (FSD) Trust, which is working in partnership with the Kenya Association of Microfinance Institutions (AMFI) on assisting existing microfinance businesses in Kenya which need urgent help. FSD is providing technical assistance to AMFI, to assess and design emergency programmes and to secure financial resources for these. DFID has allocated £11.3 million to the FSD Trust, with other donors making up the total budget of £19 million.

AMFI is leading the industry response to the crisis, looking at three areas of potential support: (i) micro-finance institutions (MFIs) using their strong grassroots involvement in affected communities to build peace and reconciliation between people and mitigate ethnic tensions, (ii) an emergency liquidity facility to support MFIs facing liquidity constraints as a result of the crisis, and (iii) cash transfer schemes targeting people with micro-enterprises who have suffered catastrophic losses, to provide a base from which to rebuild their livelihoods.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Capita

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials have held with (i) directors and (ii) senior executives of (A) Capita Group plc and (B) its subsidiaries since 1 January 2001; what the (1) location and (2) duration of each meeting was; whether a record of each meeting was kept; and if he will make a statement. [180708]

Mrs. McGuire: Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not the usual practice of Government to disclose details of such meetings.

Child Support Agency

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many active cases the Child Support Agency has. [179550]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 23 January 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many active cases the Child Support Agency has.

The information requested can be obtained from Table 1 of the September 2007 Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary Statistics which is available in the House of Commons library or via the internet at http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_sep07.asp

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Maintenance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of unrecovered child maintenance payments in each constituency in the UK, *(b)* the value of those payments and *(c)* the value of payments expected to be unrecovered. [175647]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

The table has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 23 January 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of unrecovered child maintenance payments in each constituency in the UK *(b)* the value of those payments and *(c)* how much is expected to be unrecovered in each case. [175647]

The Agency does not hold information in the format requested. Such information as is available is shown in the attached table which sets out the total amount of debt owed by non-resident parents in cases processed on the new system (CS2). The Agency is not able to estimate debt on old rules cases processed on the old system (CSCS) at Parliamentary Constituency level. Although the Agency does estimate the collectability of debt, this estimate is based on past performance and on an Agency wide sample exercise which does not take account of geographic or regional variation. Therefore the Agency is not able to provide a geographic analysis of the collectability of debt.

This debt is owed by non-resident parents as a result of their failure to meet their responsibilities to their children. Debt recovery is very much dependent on the willingness of non-resident parents to co-operate with the Agency. Some non-resident parents do their utmost to avoid their responsibilities, for example by moving house or changing jobs whenever the Agency tries to collect maintenance.

The Agency is working hard to collect more maintenance arrears and benefit more children. Measures introduced under the Agency's Operational Improvement Plan, such as enabling credit and debit card payments and employing the services of external debt collection agencies are helping the Agency in this aim.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Christmas

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* postage of Christmas cards in 2007. [176910]

Mrs. McGuire: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 933W.

Departmental E-mail

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to reduce the number of hard copies of e-mails printed by officials in his Department. [179426]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department takes the volume of its printing seriously and is introducing plans in 2008 to reduce the cost and environmental impact of printing within the Department. Additionally, an awareness campaign will remind staff of their responsibilities and to only print documents, including hardcopies of e-mails, if absolutely necessary.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many branded plastic bags his Department has purchased in the last 24 months for which figures are available; and at what cost. [176243]

Mrs. McGuire: Information that is recorded shows that in the last 12 months, the Department purchased some 632,490 branded plastic bags at a cost of £22,667.62. The vast majority of these were purchased by the Health and Safety Executive for use in national campaigns. To comply with DWP's Sustainable Development policy and cross government targets to reduce waste and make procurement more sustainable, all orders placed since September 2007 have been for biodegradable plastic bags.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what products featuring departmental or Government branding were procured by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [179786]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions and its agencies procure products featuring relevant branding when communicating with its customers and stakeholders. The information requested can only be gathered at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the standard terms and conditions of purchase used by his Department in the procurement of goods and services from the private sector prohibit the assignment of debt. [172437]

Mrs. McGuire: The standard terms and conditions of purchase used by my Department in the procurement of goods and services from the private sector do not prohibit the assignment of debt.

DWP standard terms and conditions state:

"The Contractor shall not assign, sub-contract, or in any other way dispose of the Contract or any part of it without prior Approval"

"Approval" and "Approved"—refer to the written consent of the Authority's Representative.

This is in line with the standard terms and conditions issued by Office of Government Commerce for use across the public sector.

Performance Appraisal

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions at what intervals staff in his Department are subject to appraisals; how long his Department's probationary period for new staff is; and what percentage of staff did not have their employment continued at the end of their probationary period in the last 12 months. [177963]

Mrs. McGuire: Staff in DWP are subject to formal appraisal at six and 12 monthly intervals. They receive ongoing feedback on their performance throughout the year.

The probationary period for new employees is normally six months. Exceptionally the probationary period can be extended by up to three months.

In the last 12 months the percentage of newly recruited staff who did not have their employment continued at the end of their probation was 2.31 per cent.

Personal Accounts

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the return an individual saving in a personal account would receive with *(a)* a full saving record, *(b)* 10 years saving, *(c)* 20 years saving, *(d)* 30 years saving and *(e)* 40 years saving as (i) a percentage of salary and (ii) weekly cash value in retirement if they had an average salary over the period of (A) £10,000, (B) £11,000, (C) £12,000, (D) £13,000, (E) £14,000, (F) £15,000, (G) £16,000, (H) £17,000, (I) £18,000, (J) £19,000, (K) £20,000, (L) £21,000, (M) £22,000, (N) £23,000, (O) £24,000, (P) £25,000, (Q) £26,000, (R) £27,000, (S) £28,000, (T) £29,000, (U) £30,000, (V) £31,000, (W) £32,000 and (X) £33,000. [177953]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As part of its research and analysis programme over the last few years, the Department has published several analyses regarding the impacts of saving under the reformed pension system. This includes Financial incentives to save for retirement, the Pensions Bill—Impact Assessment, and the Gender Impact Assessment of Pension Reform.

Personal Accounts: Information Services

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the funding that will be made available for advice and information on personal accounts in each year from now until 2050. [177956]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We envisage that scheme information costs will be borne by membership charges and will be a matter for the trustees.

The question of what additional information will be given to all those auto-enrolled, whether into personal accounts or another pension scheme, is one which we will address in the years leading up to the reforms. We will do this in partnership with organisations which already provide information on pensions, bodies such as The Pensions Advisory Service, and pension providers, as well as organisations representing consumers.

We will be building on the considerable provision that already exists, and the funding implications will emerge from those discussions. The Thoresen Review, and the Government action plan on financial capability will also assess the need to add to the services on offer.

Poverty

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what baseline data his Department uses to measure material deprivation; [174832]

(2) what proportion of children in *(a)* workless households, *(b)* households where one parent is working, *(c)* households where both parents are working and *(d)* each region were living in material poverty in each quarter in the last 10 years for which records are held. [174833]

Caroline Flint: Material deprivation is one of the three indicators for measuring child poverty. The other two measures are absolute low income, which includes households with incomes below 60 per cent. of the median income held constant in real terms from a 1998-99 baseline, and relative low income, which includes households with incomes below 60 per cent. contemporary median income. The material deprivation indicator includes households with incomes below 70 per cent. of the median and a material deprivation score of 25 or more.

Information on the base lining of material deprivation can be found in 'PSA Delivery Agreement 9: Halve the number of children in poverty by 2010-11, on the way to eradicating child poverty by 2020'; Page 24, available on the HM Treasury website.

Data on material deprivation are collated annually by the Family Resources Survey and are only available from 2004-05 onwards. Our most recent data are for 2005-06. In 2004-05, 2.2 million children in the UK were defined as poor using this combined indicator, while in 2005-06, the figure was 2.1 million children.

The proportion of children in material deprivation by economic status of household is shown in the following table. A breakdown by region is not currently available because this requires three years' Family Resources Survey data for robust statistics.

Proportion of children in material deprivation, by economic status of household

	2004-05	*2005-06*
All adults in work	5	4
At least one adult in work, but not all	16	18
Workless households	60	57
All households	17	16

Notes:
1. Some households in the Family Resources Survey may contain more than two adults, for example a couple with children may also live with one or more of the children's grandparents.
2. Within households, pensioners are excluded from the classifications if they are not working, and are included if they are working. For those households where children live only with pensioners, the status of all adults is included in the analysis.
3. The analysis includes households where someone other than the parent may be in work.
4. Data for the Family Resources Survey are only collated annually and therefore a quarterly breakdown is not available.
Source:
Family Resources Survey

The available material deprivation figures and details of the methodology can be found in 'PSA Delivery Agreement 9: Halve the number of children in poverty by 2010-11, on the way to eradicating child poverty by 2020', available on the HM Treasury website.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged *(a)* 25 to 34 and *(b)* under 25 were in receipt of (i) incapacity benefit, (ii) jobseekers allowance, (iii) lone parent benefit, (iv) carers' allowance and (v) any other out of work benefit in (A) each English region, (B) Wales, (C) Scotland and (D) Northern Ireland in the most recent period for which figures are available; and what percentage this represented of the population of each area. [179142]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 15 January 2008]:* The available information is in the following tables. Information for Northern Ireland is a matter for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Benefit claimants under 25 years of age by country and English regions: May 2007

	All cases	Jobseekers	Incapacity benefits	Lone parent	Carer	Others
All GB						
Case load	627,070	243,700	165,740	166,050	16,000	35,590
Percentage of population	9.0	3.5	2.4	2.4	0.2	0.5
North East						
Case load	38,860	15,780	10,260	10,220	910	1,700
Percentage of population	12.1	4.9	3.2	3.2	0.3	0.5
North West						
Case load	88,670	34,530	23,720	23,370	2,590	4,470
Percentage of population	10.4	4.1	2.8	2.8	0.3	0.5
Yorkshire and Humberside						
Case load	61,960	25,380	14,720	16,630	1,820	3,420
Percentage of population	9.2	3.8	2.2	2.5	0.3	0.5
East Midlands						
Case load	43,200	17,750	10,680	11,390	1,080	2,300
Percentage of population	8.1	3.3	2.0	2.1	0.2	0.4
West Midlands						
Caseload	68,020	29,960	15,630	17,650	1,740	3,050
Percentage of population	10.5	4.6	2.4	2.7	0.3	0.5
East of England						
Case load	44,160	16,980	11,890	11,720	940	2,620
Percentage of population	7.2	2.8	1.9	1.9	0.2	0.4
London						
Case load	87,460	35,540	17,900	24,160	2,090	7,770
Percentage of population	9.8	4.0	2.0	2.7	0.2	0.9
South East						
Case load	57,250	19,050	16,870	16,730	1,230	3,380
Percentage of population	6.2	2.1	1.8	1.8	0.1	0.4
South West						
Case load	39,440	11,910	13,930	10,190n	870	2,550
Percentage of population	6.8	2.1	2.4	1.8	0.1	0.4

Benefit claimants under 25 years of age by country and English regions: May 2007

	All cases	Jobseekers	Incapacity benefits	Lone parent	Carer	Others
Wales						
Case load	38,060	13,750	11,620	9,810	1,100	1,780
Percentage of population	10.6	3.8	3.2	2.7	0.3	0.5
Scotland						
Case load	59,450	23,060	18,440	14,140	1,560	2,240
Percentage of population	9.9	3.8	3.1	2.3	0.3	0.4
Living abroad or unknown						
Case load	540	20	90	30	80	330
Percentage of population	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Benefit claimants aged 25 to 34 by country and English regions: May 2007

	All cases	Jobseekers	Incapacity benefits	Lone parent	Carer	Others
All						
Case load	881,450	199,290	338,720	282,770	49,750	10,920
Percentage of population	11.5	2.6	4.4	3.7	0.6	0.1
North East						
Case load	47,730	11,400	19,270	13,870	2,620	570
Percentage of population	16.0	3.8	6.5	4.7	0.9	0.2
North West						
Case load	120,950	26,620	49,430	36,490	6,960	1,460
Percentage of population	14.5	3.2	5.9	4.4	0.8	0.2
Yorkshire and Humberside						
Case load	80,670	20,410	29,730	24,060	5,490	980
Percentage of population	12.7	3.2	4.7	3.8	0.9	0.2
East Midlands						
Case load	57,470	13,520	22,040	17,490	3,890	530
Percentage of population	11.0	2.6	4.2	3.3	0.7	0.1
West Midlands						
Case load	90,000	24,780	30,620	27,850	5,770	980
Percentage of population	13.8	3.8	4.7	4.3	0.9	0.2
East of England						
Case load	63,200	13,430	23,500	21,460	4,100	720
Percentage of population	9.1	1.9	3.4	3.1	0.6	0.1
London						
Case load	144,010	35,830	42,630	57,610	5,400	2,540
Percentage of population	9.8	2.4	2.9	3.9	0.4	0.2
South East						
Case load	82,680	15,750	32,290	28,810	4,970	860
Percentage of population	8.1	1.5	3.2	2.8	0.5	0.1
South West						
Case load	57,500	9,460	27,320	16,930	3,280	520
Percentage of population	10.0	1.6	4.7	2.9	0.6	0.1

Benefit claimants aged 25 to 34 by country and English regions: May 2007

	All cases	Jobseekers	Incapacity benefits	Lone parent	Carer	Others
Wales						
Case load	50,560	9,420	23,040	14,360	3,150	590
Percentage of population	15.2	2.8	6.9	4.3	0.9	0.2
Scotland						
Case load	86,140	18,630	38,450	23,840	4,070	1,150
Percentage of population	13.7	3.0	6.1	3.8	0.6	0.2
Living abroad or unknown						
Case load	540	30	400	30	60	10
Percentage of Population	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

n/a = Not available.

Notes:

1. Case loads are rounded to the nearest 10 and shown in thousands; percentages to one decimal place. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. The total number of people aged 16 to 24, and 25 to 34 in each region have been used to calculate percentages of the population.
3. Statistical groups are hierarchical as follows:

'Jobseekers' are recipients of jobseeker's allowance.

'Incapacity benefits' refer to recipients of incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance.

'Lone parents' are single recipients of income support with a child under 16.

'Carers' are recipients of carer's allowance (see note 4).

'Others on income related benefit' are other recipients of income support (including income support disability premium) or pension credit.

4. Figures for carers allowance include those cases with entitlement but where payment is currently suspended (for example, because of an extended stay in hospital or an overlapping benefit).
5. The key out-of-work benefits are jobseeker's allowance, incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance, and income support for lone parents. They do not include carers allowance or income support paid to carers.
6. Jobseekers figures are from benefit records and may differ from those published by ONS.

Source:

Information Directorate, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) 100 per cent. data; population figures are mid-year estimates for 2006 as supplied by ONS

Social Security Benefits: Employment

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Government has spent on developing the Better Off Calculation system; and if he will make a statement. [178294]

Caroline Flint: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Leslie Strathie, dated 23 January 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how much the Government has spent developing the Better Off Calculation system. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Better Off Calculator system was developed from an existing stand alone system. The initial software development costs were £1.77 million. Several developments have taken place since. Over the last two financial years we have spent £590,000 (2006-07) and £813,000 (2007-08) in maintaining and enhancing the system.

I hope this is helpful.

Social Security Benefits: Forms

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the maximum number of forms an applicant for each benefit administered by his Department must complete is *(a)* between initially applying and receipt of benefit and *(b)* each year thereafter. [177970]

Mr. Plaskitt: For most people claiming most benefits, only one form is required.

If, however, they claim more than one benefit or their circumstances change then an individual will need to fill more forms. In such cases there is no absolute maximum. The number of forms will depend on a claimant's circumstances.

The Department and its Agencies administer more than 20 different benefits and local authorities administer other benefits on the Department's behalf. All these benefits are designed to meet the needs of a particular section of the population, so different amounts of information are needed in order for decisions on entitlement to be made.

For all our benefits, we try and keep the amount of information required to the minimum that allows for the proper administration of the benefit and ensures benefit is paid to those who are entitled to it.

We continue to reduce complexity wherever possible. For example, since 2005, those applying for pension credit by telephone have been able to get council tax benefit and housing benefit, using a shortened claim form completed by the Pension Service, and sent to the claimant to sign and return to their local authority. We have already announced plans to streamline this service even further, removing the need for the pensioner to take any further action. This will allow pensioners to access up to four benefits with one phone call.

Written Questions

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to answer Question 162142, tabled by the hon. Member for

Hertsmere on 6 November 2007, on national insurance numbers. [171134]

Mr. Plaskitt: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 804W.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to answer Question 162140, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 6 November 2007, on Bulgarian and Romanian citizens. [171137]

Mr. Plaskitt: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 805W.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to answer Question 162361, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 6 November 2007, on jobseeker's allowance claimants. [171139]

Mr. Plaskitt: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 6 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1506W.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to answer Question 162689, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 6 November 2007, on EU A8 nationals and national insurance numbers. [171140]

Mr. Plaskitt: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 936W.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to answer (1) question 162687, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 6 November, on national insurance numbers; [171141]

(2) question 162686, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 6 November, on national insurance numbers; [171142]

(3) question 162688, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 6 November, on national insurance numbers. [171145]

Mr. Plaskitt: I replied to the hon. Member's questions on 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 573W.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to answer question 162347, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 6 November, on A8 nationals. [171163]

Mr. Plaskitt: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 6 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1505W.

TREASURY

Capita

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid by his Department to Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries in each financial year since 2000; which contracts were awarded by his Department to Capita Group plc in each year from 2000-01 to the most recent available date; what the cost was of each contract; what penalties for default were imposed in contract provisions; what the length was of each contract; whether the contract was advertised; how many companies applied for the contract; how many were short-listed; what criteria were used for choosing a company; what provision was made for renewal without re-tender in each case; and if he will make a statement. [180692]

Angela Eagle: The total amount paid to Capita Group plc each year from 2002-03 is as follows:

Capita Group plc

	Amount (£)
2002-03	356,658
2003-04	190,499
2004-05	183,425
2005-06	176,773
2006-07	284,418

The Treasury has no recorded spend with any subsidiaries of Capita Group plc between 2002-03 2006-07.

Details of spend before 2002-03 and details of the contracts awarded; the cost of each contract; penalties for default; the length of each contract; if the contract was advertised; the number of companies that applied for the contract; the number of companies short listed; the selection and evaluation criteria; and provisions for renewal can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Census

Tony Baldry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) out of which departmental budget the cost of the 2011 census will be met; [180520]

(2) what work the Office of National Statistics has done on assessing the likelihood of people completing a *(a)* four page and *(b)* three page census form; [180521]

(3) whether a question on carers will be included in the 2011 census; [180522]

(4) what estimate he has made of the cost of adding an extra page to the 2011 census form. [180523]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 23 January 2008:

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking a) out of which Departmental budget the cost of the 2011 Census will be met, b) what estimate has been made of the cost of adding an extra page to the 2011 Census form, c) whether a question on carers will be included in the 2011 Census, and d) what work the Office for National Statistics has done on assessing whether or not people will be less inclined to complete a four page Census rather than a three page Census form. (180520, 180522, 180521, 180523).

I will take this opportunity to answer all the questions together.

Funding for the 2011 Census is provided to ONS by Parliament through the Treasury under the terms of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Our current funding for the 2011 Census allows for 3 pages of questions per person. We are at present investigating the potential for a fourth page which would allow for the inclusion of more questions. The cost of an adding a fourth page of questions per person has been estimated at £25m.

The value of the information on carers provided by the 2001 Census is well recognised. However, such a question is competing for space on the questionnaire with a number of other questions such as second residence, citizenship, year of entry to the UK, qualifications, industry, end language. Currently ONS is only proposing to include a question on carers if there are 4 pages of questions.

ONS has extensively reviewed and considered the potential impact on response rates of a four page per person census questionnaire for 2011. The 2011 Census Questionnaire Design Team carried out a postal test in April 2007 covering 10,400 households with half of the sample receiving a questionnaire with 3 pages of questions per person and the other half receiving a questionnaire with 4 pages of questions per person. There was no evidence that the length of a self-completion questionnaire had a significant effect on response rates. However, it should be noted that the postal test was voluntary.

Research into international census experiences was inconclusive on the effect of length of questionnaire but has shown that other factors, including ineffective design and layout, question clarity, and controversial topics have more of an impact on response rates.

Child Benefit: Personal Records

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost was of maintaining the child benefit database in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [173359]

Jane Kennedy: The costs of running and maintaining the child benefit IT system, including charges for system infrastructure, over the last five years have been:

	£ million
2003-04	6.5
2004-05	5.1
2005-06	3.7
2006-07	6.2
2007-08 (up to and including October 2007)	5.1

Diabetes: Death

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths there were which mentioned diabetes on the death certificate in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* age cohort and *(b)* primary care trust area; and if he will make a statement. [180519]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 23 January 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths there were which mentioned diabetes on the death certificate in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* age cohort and *(b)* primary care trust area. I am replying in her absence. (180519)

The tables, which have been placed in the House of Commons Library, provide the number of deaths where diabetes was mentioned on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause or as a contributing factor, in *(a)* England by five-year age group, and *(b)* each primary care organisation in England, from 1997 to 2006 (the latest year available).

Energy: Conservation

Mr. Morley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the merits of including double-glazed units meeting new part L building standards in the list of energy-saving products that qualify for reduced VAT; and if he will make a statement. [180584]

Jane Kennedy: The availability of VAT reduced rates is governed by the European VAT agreements signed by successive governments. We are making the case at EU level for more widespread application of reduced VAT rates to energy-saving materials and energy efficient products.

Energy: Prices

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he last met representatives of Ofgem to discuss energy prices. [181004]

Angela Eagle: The Chancellor met with representatives of Ofgem on 15 January. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Financial Markets

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effect of developments in US financial markets on the economy of the United Kingdom over the next 12 months. [180625]

Jane Kennedy: The Government's latest assessment of UK economic prospects over the next 12 months, including the impact of the disruption in global financial markets, was set out in Annex A of the 2007 pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review (Cm 7227). The Government will update their forecasts, as normal, in the Budget.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter of 4 December 2007 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Rodney Perrin. [181077]

Jane Kennedy: I replied to my right hon. Friend on 17 January.

Non-Domestic Rates: Agriculture

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will make it his policy to *(a)* reinstate and *(b)* extend the scope of the agricultural buildings allowance; [178158]

(2) if he will make it his policy to introduce tax relief for agricultural infrastructure required to comply with the Nitrate Vulnerable Zones regulations. [178160]

Jane Kennedy: Agricultural buildings allowances (ABAs) were introduced in 1945 to encourage post-war reconstruction. They are now a poorly focused subsidy, selectively available on a disparate range of assets, including some that typically appreciate in value. ABAs have long been recognised as a significant distortion in commercial property investment. These issues are compounded by the compliance burden imposed by their complicated rules.

The phased withdrawal of ABAs is part of a package of measures which also saw the reduction of the main rate of corporation tax and the basic rate of income tax and the introduction of a £50,000 annual investment allowance (AIA), allowing 95 per cent. of businesses to write off all their expenditure on plant and machinery in the year in which it is made.

Slurry tanks used for temporary storage in Nitrate Vulnerable Zones are eligible for capital allowances and businesses will therefore be able to benefit from the AIA when investing in this infrastructure.

Pay

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of employees in the UK with a salary of more than £40,000. [180980]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 23 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the number of employees in the UK with a salary of more that £40,000. (180980)

Annual levels of earnings can be estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all employees on adult rates who have been in the job for more than one year. I attach a table showing an estimate for 2007 of the percentage of UK employees with a salary of more than £40,000 per year.

ASHE is carried out in April each year and is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. However, ASHE methodology cannot be used to provide estimates of the numbers of employees whose salary is more than a specific amount, but can be used to provide estimates of proportions of employees in that category.

Proportion of UK employees earning more than £40,000 in 2007[1]

	Percentage
All employees	12

[1] Employees on adult rates who have been in the same job for more than one year.

Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

Pregnant Women: Nutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his predecessor's statement on 6 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 308, if he will place in the Library evidence that nutrition for pregnant mothers is most important in the last months of pregnancy. [175391]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 18 December 2007]:* There is a wide range of evidence that nutrition for pregnant mothers is important throughout pregnancy. The importance of maternal health during pregnancy was recognised by the Royal College of Midwives and the Royal College of Nursing, in HM Treasury's 14 November 2007 Press Notice on the Health in Pregnancy Grant, on the HM Treasury website.

Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recruitment process was used to select Kieran Poynter to head the review of security processes and procedures for data handling in HM Revenue and Customs announced on 20 November 2007. [173349]

Jane Kennedy: Kieran Poynter was appointed by the Chancellor to carry out the investigation into data handling in HM Revenue and Customs.

Taxation: Domicil

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many days in each year people of non-domiciled tax status may spend in the UK without altering their status; and what arrangements his Department has to monitor the time such individuals spend in the UK. [180845]

Jane Kennedy: Domicile status is a general law concept which is distinct from nationality or residence. It is unaffected by the number of days an individual spends in the UK in a year.

Taxation: Energy

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on a proposed windfall tax on energy suppliers. [181125]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury receives numerous representations on a range of tax issues.

TNT

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs on services provided by TNT in each month since January 2005. [169429]

Jane Kennedy: The amounts spent on services provided by TNT by HM Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs for each month since January 2005 are set out as follows.

	HM Treasury	HMRC[1]
January 2005	666.73	591,400.82
February 2005	570.45	296,006.31
March 2005	803.92	1,103,930.22
April 2005	190.82	869,534.32
May 2005	158.93	470,445.18
June 2005	156.02	698,606.48
July 2005	193.01	561,082.66
August 2005	318.33	618,001.24
September 2005	218.17	608,344.21
October 2005	225.54	790,589.23

	HM Treasury	HMRC[1]
November 2005	149.84	571,399.99
December 2005	22,399.09	578,974.05
January 2006	2,277.00	609,924.68
February 2006	2,262.94	726,353.04
March 2006	3,925.79	615,744.63
April 2006	1,923.28	462,620.91
May 2006	154.15	4,190.90
June 2006	4,228.04	797,133.16
July 2006	2,550.94	709,484.21
August 2006	2,096.60	918,641.07
September 2006	199.55	470,307.42
October 2006	2,268.33	956,435.64
November 2006	16,344.87	786,950.62
December 2006	9,594.54	836,653.91
January 2007	4,128.98	1,323,749.60
February 2007	3,282.35	357,960.92
March 2007	8,451.15	1,187,424.02
April 2007	26.14	316,320.48
May 2007	1,980.85	970,778.96
June 2007	2,192.56	846,952.19
July 2007	3,264.01	1,125,477.02
August 2007	1,791.37	362,214.19
September 2007	2,394.28	617,046.45
October 2007	1,954.50	974,780.24
November 2007	5,069.47	954,067.67

[1] Figures given for HMRC between January 2005 and April 2006 are a combination of the former Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise accountancy systems.

Valuation Office: Data Protection

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what physical or electronic mechanisms the Valuation Office Agency uses to transfer data between *(a)* its regional offices and *(b)* government departments and agencies. [176402]

Jane Kennedy: The VGA uses a variety of mechanisms and channels to transfer data within the organisation and to its clients, including paper, VOA network applications, VOA intranet, internet file transfer sites, e-mail, fax, and CD/DVD dependent on the protective classification required.

Valuation Office: Digital Technology

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's guidance note Best Practice in the Use of Digital Photography. [176379]

Jane Kennedy: The Agency's best practice guide in the use of digital photography is internal technical instructions on use of the Agency's digital photography application and how, when and where to store digital photographs on the Agency's central database to ensure overall system performance is not affected. It is not appropriate to place these documents in the Library.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many photographs of non-domestic properties are stored in the Valuation Office Agency's digital photography application. [176380]

Jane Kennedy: As at 9 January 2008, the Valuation Office Agency held 1,096,931 digital photographs relating to non-domestic properties in the 2005 Valuation List. This figure includes photographs that show more than one property, or a locality rather than a particular building.

Valuation Office: Information Officers

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons the number of communications staff included as working for the Valuation Office Agency in the Central Office of Information's White Book differs from the answer of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 241W, on Valuation Office Agency. [181329]

Jane Kennedy: The question asked by the hon. Member for South-West Hertfordshire (Mr. Gauke) referred to number of press officers employed by the Valuation Office Agency rather than number of communications staff.

Staff listed in the White Book are those involved in the full range of communications activities, both internal and external. Nine of those listed are involved in press office work, (averaging around 10 per cent. of their time) which together with a media relations manager, amounts to two full-time equivalent people with press officer responsibilities.

VAT: Fixed Penalties

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* people and *(b)* businesses had to pay penalties as a result of filing VAT returns one day late after the bank holiday Monday on 7 May 2007. [174902]

Angela Eagle: HM Revenue and Customs do not issue penalties for the late filing of VAT returns. A penalty is issued only where a return is not paid in full by the due date. A total of 27,067 penalties were issued in May 2007 for late payment of VAT. Information on the penalties issued for payments received on a particular day in May 2007 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Welfare Tax Credits

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 15 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 409W, on welfare tax credits, for what reason some tax credit overpayments resulting from official error have not been remitted. [181541]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander) on 25 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 585W.

Welfare Tax Credits: Appeals

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* total and *(b)* average value is of consolatory payments made since April 2003 to tax credits claimants who have appealed against a decision of the HM Revenue and Customs. [180842]

Jane Kennedy: The circumstances in which HM Revenue and Customs will make compensation payments to its customers are explained in the Department's fact sheet, 'Complaints and Putting Things Right', which is available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk

For the number and value of compensation payments made in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 8 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 427W, to the hon. Member for St. Albans (Anne Main). The number and value of compensation payments made in 2006-07 and from April to December 2007 is shown in the following table.

	Value (£ million)	*Number*
2006-07	0.658	7,893
2007-08 (to December)	0.324	7,456

The average payment made over the period April 2003 to the end of December 2007 was around £60.00.

Separate details of consolatory payments made to customers who have appealed against a decision of the Department are not available.

Welfare Tax Credits: Complaints

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what targets have been set for the time taken to respond to complaints about tax credits sent to (*a*) the Tax Credit Office and (*b*) Treasury Ministers. [181026]

Jane Kennedy: It is HM Revenue and Customs' aim to reply to the majority of letters within three weeks.

Welfare Tax Credits: Hampshire

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the take-up rate for tax credits was in each constituency in (*a*) Hampshire, (*b*) Southampton and (*c*) Portsmouth in each of the last three years. [181027]

Jane Kennedy: Take-up rate estimates are not available at constituency level.

However, estimates of child and working tax credit take-up rates for 2003-04 and 2004-05, which are the latest available estimates, are published on the HMRC website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-take-up.htm

Take-up rates for working families with children at country and regional level are shown in table 9.

JUSTICE

Capita

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was paid by his Department and its predecessor to Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries in each financial year since 2000; which contracts were awarded by his Department to Capita Group plc in each year from 2000-01 to the most recent available date; what the cost was of each contract; what penalties for default were imposed in contract provisions; what the length was of each contract; whether the contract was advertised; how many companies applied for the contract; how many were short-listed; what criteria were used for choosing a company; what provision was made for renewal without re-tender in each case; and if he will make a statement. [180699]

Maria Eagle: In the financial years from 2000-01 to 2006-07, the last full year for when figures are available, the Ministry of Justice and its predecessor Department and agencies' expenditure with the Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries was as follows:

	£
2000-01	0
2001-02	3,800
2002-03	17,165
2003-04	12,250
2004-05	498,678
2005-06	1,267,379
2006-07	643,418

The other information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what payments his Department has made to PricewaterhouseCoopers in the last 12 months; [180814]

(2) how much was spent by his Department on consultants in the last 12 months, broken down by consultancy; [180819]

(3) what the value of contracts between his Department and PricewaterhouseCoopers on private finance initiative projects was in the last 12 months. [180849]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice was established on 9 May 2007. Information for the last 12 months is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Expenditure figures are available for the six-month period from April 2007 until September 2007, covering the former Department for Constitutional Affairs and those bodies that were formerly part of the Home Office and which are now part of the Ministry of Justice. In that period, approximately £7 million was spent with external consultants, as detailed in the following table.

Expenditure with PricewaterhouseCoopers on consultancy in that period was £202,675.00

Expenditure with PricewaterhouseCoopers on private finance initiative projects in that period was £80,537.00

Service provider	*Actual expenditure April to September 2007-08 (£)*
2020 Delivery	83,000
Adam Spriggs	2,000
Alexander and Partners	18,000
Alexander Cameron	7,100
Amtec	2,159
Aon	1,300

Service provider	Actual expenditure April to September 2007-08 (£)
Ase Consulting	2,954
Atkins Asset Management (Manchester)	54,544
Atkins Ltd.	97,758
Atlan Resourcing Solutions Ltd.	3,098
Badenoch and Clark Ltd.	722,036
Ben Crowe	8,400
Bird and Bird	66,000
BIT Critical	35,000
BMG Research	3,055
BNB Recruitment Consultancy Ltd.	6,320
Bovis Lend Lease	4,700
Bridley Consulting	7,943
Capita Resourcing Ltd.	2,069
Cardiff University	133
Centre for Public Innovation	12,750
CESG	6,816
CMAS, June Shurmer	300
CMG Logica	110,948
COI Communications	52,146
Collinson Grant Ltd., part of the Walker Cox consortium	189,050
David Nooney	4,800
DBI Consulting	3,094
Delia Coonan	1,174
Development Planning Partnership	65,329
Digits Industries Ltd.	2,174
Drivers Jonas	27,759
Dun and Bradstreet Ltd.	8,106
Eclipse	10,000
Education Training and Counselling Ltd.	3,337
Effortmark	2,820
Enterprise plc	3,337
Ernst and Young	360,000
Exeter University	60,000
First Assist	2,322
Fujitsu Services Ltd.	14,525
Gapgemini	177,300
Gartner UK Ltd.	2,500
Generic Software Consultants Ltd.	212
GVA Grimleys	47,496
Harrop Associates Ltd.	7,938
Hartley	12,000
Hazel Genn	3,600
Heath Lambert	4,020
Hedra	40,000
Helen Arnold	51,197
Hensby Communications	1,125
Hewitt Bacon and Woodrow Ltd.	3,506
Higham Dunnett Shaw	3,525
Hudson Global Resources Ltd.	802,504
Huntress Search Ltd.	95,411
Hurst Associates Ltd.	13,990
Impact Plus	20,000
IPSOS MORI	20,293
JCT Communications Ltd.	7,011
Jo O'Driscoll	4,209
John Garnett	24,415
June Shurmer	375
KM Research and Consultancy Ltd.	8,343
KPMG	189,671
Law Absolute	11,135
Lawson Bishop	10,585
LEAPFROG PUBLIC RELATIONS	13,860
London Economics	7,459
M. Boleat Consulting	10,800
Matrix	66,729
MBSM	15,073
Melva Burton	15,000
Mentis Management Consultants Ltd.	3,032
Methods Consulting Ltd.	23,691
Mitchelmores Solicitors	659,525
Modis International Ltd.	49,078
Morgan Hunt	148,827
Mott MacDonald with support from PwC	153,000
Nicholson McBride	18,345
Nick Sanderson	9,555
Office of Government Commerce	54,797
Oliver Wyman	225,000
Oracle Corporation UK Ltd.	1,214
PA Consulting	198,897
Pakes	3,500
Parity Resources Ltd.	61,853
Partnerships UK	158,850
Pat Johnstone	6,400
Penna Interim Executive	9,957
Portchester Micro Tools Ltd.	28,200
PRAESTA	5,640
PricewaterhouseCoopers	202,675
Professor Richard Lamming	5,000
QI Consulting	184,137
Richard Bailey, Esq.	9,700
RM and BR Merkin	500
Robert-Walters	11,797
Roy Walmsley	6,315
Rullion Computer Personnel Ltd.	117,858
Russell Reynolds Associates	52,485
Samantha Jones	1,750
Sarah Cooke Ltd.	11,500
Scott-Grant Ltd.	106,297
Security and Standard Consultancy	109,366
Siemens Enterprise Commun.	1,100
SJT Associates	20,608
Sopra Group Ltd.	5,256
STC Energy Management	20,328
Stephanie Grundy	12,373
Stopgap	48,840
Summerhill Consulting	583
Technology Project Services	3,349
The Rial To Consultancy Ltd.	9,915
The Whitehall and Industry Group	13,750
Tower Perrin	143,280
Tribal Consortium	75,734
Turner and Townsend	35,052
University of Portsmouth	100,000
Vice Versa Projects	25,000

Service provider	Actual expenditure April to September 2007-08 (£)
Ville and Co.	1,144
Wheelers (Southampton)	86,278
Willis Ltd.	8,402
Winstone	2,500
Wrigglesworth Consultancy Ltd.	3,187
Grand total	7,015,057

Firearms Act 1968: Convictions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* cases have been brought and *(b)* convictions there have been in each police area for offences under section 5 of the Firearms Act 1968 in each of the last 12 months. [180443]

Maria Eagle: Data showing the number of defendants proceeded against and found guilty of offences under Section 5 of the 1968 Firearms Act broken down by police force area in 2006 are in the following table. Data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under Section 5 of the 1968 Firearms Act, broken down by police force area, England and Wales, 2006[1, 2, 3]

Police force area	Proceeded against	Found guilty
Avon and Somerset	24	21
Bedfordshire	6	4
Cambridgeshire	11	8
Cheshire	20	16
City of London	6	1
Cleveland	8	8
Cumbria	7	3
Derbyshire	11	13
Devon and Cornwall	12	11
Dorset	8	8
Durham	7	6
Essex	36	26
Gloucestershire	4	5
Greater Manchester	108	94
Hampshire	27	24
Hertfordshire	24	23
Humberside	13	11
Kent	27	28
Lancashire	24	18
Leicestershire	18	16
Lincolnshire	8	6
Merseyside	54	56
Metropolitan police	385	317
Norfolk	12	9
North Yorkshire	6	5
Northamptonshire	2	2
Northumbria	43	34
Nottinghamshire	28	30
South Yorkshire	40	35
Staffordshire	10	9
Suffolk	8	8
Surrey	7	7
Sussex	20	15
Thames Valley	27	20
Warwickshire	8	6
West Mercia	13	11
West Midlands	84	78
West Yorkshire	45	47
Wiltshire	14	7
Dyfed-Powys	2	1
Gwent	11	7
North Wales	16	8
South Wales	16	15
England and Wales	1,258	1,077

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The found guilty column may exceed those proceeded against, as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in the preceding year and they were found guilty at the Crown court in the following year, or the defendant was found guilty for a different offence to the original offence proceeded against.

Homicide: Bail

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people charged with *(a)* murder and *(b)* crimes of violence were granted bail in the last five years. [179821]

Maria Eagle: An estimated 64,800 people were granted bail by the courts for offences included in the 'violence against the person' group in England and Wales in 2006 (latest available). This includes those held in custody at some stage during proceedings. Data on bail is not sufficiently robust to permit a more detailed breakdown of the offences involved.

Legal Aid Scheme

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make a statement on the availability of high quality legal aid to the poorest members of society. [179601]

Maria Eagle: The legal aid system focuses resources on areas of greatest need—particularly the socially excluded and the types of problems they may face. Most civil legal aid is means tested, and those in receipt of certain passporting benefits are provided with legal aid without having to make any financial contribution. Under criminal legal aid, free advice and assistance is available to suspects at the police station. Whilst legal representation for defendants at the Crown court is not means tested, defendants at the magistrates court must be financially eligible, although a range of passporting provisions exempt certain vulnerable groups from this test. Since the introduction of the Access to Justice Act 1999, all legal aid providers have to meet strict quality standards.

The current programme of legal aid reform is designed to maximise value for money from legal aid spending, so that the Legal Services Commission can fund assistance to as many people as possible within the available resources. At the same time reform is designed to maintain, and where possible improve, the quality of advice provided.

Magistrates

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions since the implementation of the Licensing Act magistrates have awarded costs against objectors; and what written guidance he has given to magistrates on the exercise of their discretion to award such costs. [181060]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice does not collect information on the award of costs against objectors in licensing cases. It would not be appropriate for the Secretary of State to issue guidance to magistrates on the award of costs since this is a matter of judicial discretion. The Justices' Clerks Society and the Magistrates Association, in conjunction with the Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS), published an article in "The Magistrate" magazine setting out as a principle that the award of costs against an unsuccessful individual, including objectors, should be exceptional.

Offenders: Offensive Weapons

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people received *(a)* custodial and *(b)* non-custodial sentences on conviction for offences which included the carrying or use of a knife in Essex in each of the last three years. [179237]

Mr. Hanson: The following table gives the number of people sentenced for offences of carrying a knife from 2004 to 2006. These offences are having an article with a blade or point in a public place, having an article with a blade or point on school premises, possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse and possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises.

Figures for 2007 will be available from autumn 2008.

In such instances as a robbery or violent assault where an individual has used a knife or other offensive weapon then they will be sentenced for the more serious transgression; and the figures do not isolate the specific use of a knife in such circumstances.

Persons[1] sentenced for offences of carrying knives or offensive weapons, by outcome, Essex courts[2], 2004-06

Offence	*Statute*	*Year*	*Total persons sentenced*	*Non-custodial sentence*	*Custodial sentence*
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place	Criminal Justice Act 1988 sec 139 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 sec 3	2004	179	132	47
		2005	150	93	57
		2006	149	108	41
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	Criminal Justice Act 1988 sec 139A(1) and (5)(1) as added by the Offensive Weapons Act 1996 sec 4(1)	2004	1	1	
		2005	2	2	
		2006	2	1	1
Possession of offensive weapons[3] without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	Prevention of Crime Act 1953 sec 1 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 sec 2(1)	2004	123	94	29
		2005	97	77	20
		2006	105	86	19
Possession of offensive weapons[3] without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises	Criminal Justice Act 1988 Sec 139A(2) and (5)(b) as added by the Offensive Weapons Act 1996 sec 4(1)	2004	2	2	
		2005	1	1	
		2006	1	1	

[1] Principal offence basis.
[2] Magistrates courts in Essex and the Crown court if committed by magistrates in Essex.
[3] Will include knives, but information collected centrally does not provide a distinction between them and other offensive weapons.
Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
Source:
RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice

Operation Safeguard

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has been invoiced for costs incurred under Operation Safeguard in each month since it came into force, broken down by police force; and if he will make a statement. [179090]

Mr. Hanson: Police forces involved in Operation Safeguard charge NOMS in arrears for the cost of making police cells available to accommodate prisoners.

Safeguard use began again in October 2006 but no invoices were paid between October and December 2006.

We cannot provide accurate figures for the cost of Operation Safeguard per police force per month because invoices usually only provide the overall period covered, which may be several months.

However, the following tables show the amounts paid in each month in 2007, broken down by police force, and the value of currently outstanding invoices.

Police force	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
ACPO	—	—	—	56,239.81	—	—	57,898.09
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	374,788.74
Cheshire	—	—	—	—	701,875.38	—	—
Cumbria	—	—	—	—	—	—	28,558.28
Derbyshire	—	—	—	151,809.50	—	163,653.68	—
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	—	70,486.36	—	—	221,132.80
Dorset	—	—	—	—	—	101,211.01	—
Durham	—	—	—	143,397.37	52,271.08	128,655.09	177,277.66
Dyfed-Powys	48,107.05	28,858.96	38,547.56	—	53,562.21	—	151,040.56
Essex	—	158,322.86	—	—	496,417.95	179,637.95	387,088.75
Greater Manchester	—	—	—	85,367.87	—	—	665,178.66
Gwent	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hampshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hertfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	543,460.70
Kent	—	109,933.41	469.31	195,887.94	—	88,112.96	279,960.86
Lancashire	—	—	—	—	—	—	172,651.00
Leicestershire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lincolnshire	81,571.06	—	—	132,847.87	112,837.86	95,047.14	87,928.96
Merseyside	—	—	—	—	418,089.45	—	—
Metropolitan	—	—	—	—	741,392.96	—	1,274,957.99
North Wales	—	—	—	—	186,284.18	52,202.23	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	214,667.02	—	—	—	215,202.38
Northumbria	—	—	—	100,682.00	—	—	152,778.00
South Wales	—	—	—	—	—	—	734,764.65
South Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	66,549.07
Suffolk	—	—	—	124,681.07	—	—	—
Sussex	—	—	—	—	—	—	133,925.42
Thames Valley	—	187,736.42	201,926.74	130,181.32	-270.00	—	324,730.41
West Midlands	—	—	—	—	393,469.77	—	334,387.20
Warwickshire	—	—	—	99,488.63	—	—	192,315.36
West Yorkshire	—	—	—	73,729.71	152,420.21	95,346.77	—
Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	55,379.17
Total	129,678.11	484,851.65	455,610.63	1,364,799.45	3,308,351.05	903,866.83	6,631,954.71

Police force	August	September	October	November	December	Invoices to be processed and paid	Total invoiced
ACPO	—	145,465.03	—	53,827.94	—	—	313,430.87
Bedfordshire	59,433.20	—	—	193,388.59	—	82,436.42	335,258.21
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	374,788.74
Cheshire	—	798,886.66	244,163.85	—	—	1,195,540.62	2,940,466.51
Cumbria	—	—	92,997.58	—	—	—	121,555.86
Derbyshire	139,243.15	—	—	119,902.03	—	—	574,608.36
Devon and Cornwall	225,716.94	—	90,097.12	102,522.14	—	134,872.41	844,827.77
Dorset	99,929.69	122,670.96	—	—	—	—	323,811.66
Durham	—	86,599.80	—	—	—	—	588,201.00
Dyfed-Powys	207,208.34	50,047.61	—	2,799.54	—	—	580,171.83
Essex	—	403,838.17	—	179,921.85	192,177.83	—	1,997,405.36
Greater Manchester	—	244,504.12	—	—	—	—	995,050.65
Gwent	—	11,905.91	—	—	—	4,361.55	16,267.46
Hampshire	286,621.81	—	—	—	—	311,102.78	597,724.59
Hertfordshire	124,347.56	92,396.33	103,312.82	112,402.90	—	103,692.63	1,079,612.94
Kent	—	128,087.77	138,931.35	260,616.66	—	—	1,202,000.26
Lancashire	—	—	—	—	722,871.00	—	895,522.00
Leicestershire	—	250,451.26	—	—	—	—	250,451.26

Police force	August	September	October	November	December	Invoices to be processed and paid	Total invoiced
Lincolnshire	110,610.13	—	165,973.65	—	—	108,986.38	895,803.05
Merseyside	—	—	—	—	—	—	418,089.45
Metropolitan	—	—	1,447,146.96	—	1,127,760.01	—	4,591,257.92
North Wales	—	—	—	629,533.63	—	1,679.39	869,699.43
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	498,848.38	—	—	928,717.78
Northumbria	64,294.00	—	68,813.00	29,017.00	—	—	415,584.00
South Wales	—	—	—	—	—	—	734,764.65
South Yorkshire	72,615.09	78,630.99	48,598.65	—	—	98,122.82	364,516.62
Suffolk	—	—	242,282.74	—	—	—	366,963.81
Sussex	—	—	—	—	—	—	133,925.42
Thames Valley	126,191.57	142,061.61	119,304.76	—	—	256,657.38	1,488,520.21
West Midlands	163,304.63	—	—	—	601,143.05	—	1,492,304.65
Warwickshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	291,803.99
West Yorkshire	376,338.30	110,348.82	126,286.64	—	—	—	934,470.45
Wiltshire	—	-9,691.35	—	—	—	—	45,687.82
Total	2,055,854.41	2,656,203.69	2,887,909.12	2,182,780.66	2,643,951.89	2,297,452.38	28,003,264.58

Prisoners

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners under 21-years-old there were in each week since 26 January 2007. [180290]

Maria Eagle: Data on the prison population, including a breakdown by age, are published monthly on the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

The following table shows the number of young people held in prison establishments as at the end of each month since January 2007:

Monthly published totals of young persons held in all prison establishments in England and Wales: January to December 2007

	15 to 17-year-olds	Young adults[1]
January	2,385	9,276
February	2,418	9,286
March	2,413	9,311
April	2,402	9,425
May	2,450	9,364
June	2,428	9,455
July	2,472	9,418
August	2,473	9,545
September	2,485	9,533
October	2,441	9,544
November	2,357	9,542
December	not yet available	

[1] Young adults are those aged 18 to 20 and those 21-year-olds who were aged 20 or under at conviction who have not yet been reclassified as part of the adult population.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Education

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on providing educational courses to offenders serving custodial sentences in the latest period for which figures are available. [179381]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

In the financial year 2006-07, the overall spend by the Learning and Skills Council on the delivery of the Offenders' Learning and Skills Service in custodial establishments to adult offenders was £115 million.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what language courses are offered to offenders serving custodial sentences. [179382]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The majority of language courses offered to offenders held in English public sector prisons are English language courses—to incorporate literacy skills and key skills in communication, which is a vital aspect in improving the employability prospects of offenders. English is also offered to speakers of other languages.

A small number of European languages including German, Spanish, French and Welsh is offered to a minority of offenders in English public sector prisons based on an assessment of need.

Prisoners: Rehabilitation

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offender behaviour programmes are accredited for use in prisons; and what the title is of each programme. [181331]

Maria Eagle: There are 17 offending behaviour programmes that have been accredited/provisionally accredited for use in prisons in England and Wales.

They are as follows:

Chromis—a programme for violent offenders with high levels of psychopathy

Cognitive Self Change Programme (CSCP)

Cognitive Skills Booster programme (CSB) (still provisionally accredited)

Controlling Anger and Learning to Manage it (CALM)

Enhanced Thinking Skills (ETS)

FOR—a resettlement programme

Healthy Relationships Programme (HRP)

JETS—a cognitive skills course for juveniles

Reasoning and Rehabilitation (R and R)
Sex Offender Treatment Programme (SOTP)
core
extended
rolling
adapted
booster
adapted booster
healthy sexual functioning
Think First

Prisons: Education

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 16 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 954W, on prisons: education, when the randomised control trial of enhanced thinking skills will be published. [181274]

Mr. Hanson: The evaluation of HM Prison Service accredited Enhanced Thinking Skills (ETS) programme (The Treatment Chance Project—TCP) aims to examine the impact of ETS courses on impulsivity in adult male offenders over the age of 18, and to investigate whether changes in levels of impulsivity were reflected in changes in prison behaviour.

The TCP was conducted as a Randomised Control Trial (RCT), and as such is the first large-scale RCT evaluating the impact of ETS in prisons.

The draft report is at the peer review stage, with publication scheduled for April 2008.

Prisons: Employment

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners were employed on average in each prison workshop in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; [180953]

(2) how many prisoners were *(a)* employed in workshops, *(b)* employed outside workshops and *(c)* without work in each adult male training prison in England and Wales on the most recent date for which figures are available. [180954]

Maria Eagle: The Prison Service does not keep central records of the number of prisoners employed in each prison workshop or those without work but instead records the average weekly number of prisoners involved in workshops at each prison. The table shows, for the last 10 full years for which the information is available, the average weekly numbers of prisoners involved in workshops by prison.

There are no reliable records available on non-workshop employment, and this data have not therefore been included. Such records cannot now be recreated due to the absence of historical data at establishments.

Establishment	*Function*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Acklington	Category C	152	159	190	199	180	186	192	185	159	145
Albany	Category B	113	129	127	119	106	87	0	100	120	110
Aldington	Category C	38	40	24	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Altcourse	Male Local	0	72	146	170	182	192	188	186	173	230
Ashfield	Male Juvenile	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ashwell	Category C	127	135	146	150	128	156	154	143	150	168
Askham Grange	Female Open	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aylesbury	Male Closed YOI	7	11	22	24	28	25	25	30	33	17
Bedford	Male Local	67	62	83	77	61	50	50	51	51	40
Belmarsh	Male Local	42	56	101	96	88	87	87	72	84	69
Birmingham	Male Local	83	100	111	109	108	96	87	144	185	204
Blakenhurst	Male Local	0	116	119	130	96	78	83	74	89	111
Blantyre House	Semi Open	0	0	7	4	0	0	0	0	0	3
Blundeston	Category C	64	69	65	75	77	82	79	75	93	88
Brinsford	Male Closed YOI	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bristol	Male Local	47	45	99	84	92	96	72	66	59	51
Brixton	Male Local	21	0	0	7	1	0	0	0	28	18
Brockhill	Category C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
Bronzefield	Female Local	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	40	49
Buckley Hall	Category C	0	84	98	122	94	64	80	111	71	83
Bullingdon	Male Local	46	70	86	68	92	84	93	102	111	131
Bullwood Hall	Category C	12	11	6	17	17	15	13	11	15	10
Camp Hill	Category C	78	70	66	83	83	80	69	76	66	65
Canterbury	Category C	18	28	54	57	58	52	45	50	55	58
Cardiff	Male Local	119	125	109	136	116	126	129	105	108	110
Castington	Male Closed YOI	33	30	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Channings Wood	Category C	127	142	143	138	140	131	124	138	118	103
Chelmsford	Male Local	58	57	62	55	57	61	55	76	58	122
Colchester	Male Open YOI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Establishment	Function	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Coldingley	Category C	127	115	0	0	0	0	0	142	138	136
Cookham Wood	Male Juvenile	70	52	46	54	48	40	41	68	84	82
Dartmoor	Category C	112	133	151	137	155	148	136	115	111	103
Deerbolt	Male Closed YOI	15	14	17	15	14	16	16	15	14	19
Doncaster	Male Local	0	0	16	29	37	36	13	39	45	32
Dorchester	Male Local	20	20	20	17	19	18	8	12	0	0
Dovegate	Category B	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	148	172	154	112	113	112
Dover	Semi Open	17	23	29	24	16	0	0	0	0	0
Downview	Female Closed	39	37	36	14	22	37	21	38	47	47
Drake Hall	Semi Open	74	69	63	50	61	59	68	84	82	75
Durham	Male Local	125	184	208	176	141	119	109	99	84	82
East Sutton Park	Female Open	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastwood Park	Female Local	0	0	23	17	17	13	7	10	0	0
Edmunds Hill	Category C	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	16	11	17	28
Elmley	Male Local	20	22	76	120	107	106	110	110	92	580
Erlestoke	Category C	16	16	26	31	51	62	51	60	55	53
Everthorpe	Category C	106	136	183	129	128	100	88	93	100	210
Exeter	Male Local	3	1	34	54	74	64	54	42	45	48
Featherstone	Category C	209	237	254	223	232	241	234	223	229	254
Feltham	Male Closed YOI	8	9	9	8	7	0	0	4	2	2
Ford	Male Open	51	51	60	47	65	61	59	64	106	109
Forest Bank	Male Local	n/a	n/a	31	108	140	151	167	153	117	114
Foston Hall	Female Closed	8	10	17	18	11	17	15	14	15	13
Frankland	Dispersal	84	84	94	91	145	125	125	134	99	141
Full Sutton	Dispersal	112	164	166	141	132	114	127	94	104	71
Garth	Category B	139	165	173	164	141	142	143	103	94	96
Gartree	Category B	91	99	122	107	89	99	106	119	102	95
Glen Parva	Male Closed YOI	50	49	43	0	64	65	57	40	46	54
Gloucester	Male Local	13	10	12	24	20	11	14	20	12	11
Grendon	Category B	5	0	11	11	10	10	12	9	4	1
Guys Marsh	Category C	26	61	74	91	114	118	119	127	124	125
Haslar	Semi Open	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hatfield	Male Open YOI	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0
Haverigg	Category C	271	251	202	192	274	281	266	209	156	157
Hewell Grange	Male Open	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Highdown	Male Local	30	36	34	43	59	49	52	54	58	43
Highpoint	Category C	53	52	102	115	133	115	105	126	123	124
Hindley	Male Closed YOI	22	65	44	48	74	98	67	46	45	6
Hollesley Bay	Male Open	21	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holloway	Female Local	9	5	42	142	0	0	7	3	10	6
Holme House	Male Local	64	99	95	88	99	77	105	93	104	83
Hull	Male Local	78	108	95	91	100	91	129	110	157	155
Huntercombe	Male Juvenile	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kennet	Category C	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kingston	Category B	36	37	43	38	44	59	34	26	48	53
Kirkham	Male Open	222	212	163	157	127	109	129	142	119	111
Kirklevington	Semi Open	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	5
Lancaster	Category C	26	19	15	10	15	9	8	2	3	1
Lancaster Farms	Male Closed YOI	20	20	16	10	15	11	3	0	0	0
Latchmere House	Semi Open	7	8	13	19	19	29	10	11	11	11
Leeds	Male Local	140	129	454	191	192	173	132	138	235	128
Leicester	Male Local	55	53	46	44	46	116	50	30	10	1
Lewes	Male Local	65	78	82	84	68	103	85	81	73	40
Leyhill	Male Open	59	75	83	82	81	64	68	66	62	59
Lincoln	Male Local	183	175	171	166	165	135	115	107	114	108
Lindholme	Category C	38	43	55	62	57	56	47	46	39	33
Littlehey	Category C	211	194	199	185	180	194	189	183	171	151
Liverpool	Male Local	319	328	326	286	222	115	233	251	245	221
Long Lartin	Dispersal	71	62	96	90	103	132	118	111	114	108

Establishment	Function	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Low Newton	Female Local	11	16	27	28	33	33	53	25	21	0
Lowdham Grange	Category B	0	0	176	157	196	199	196	166	168	120
Maidstone	Category C	209	187	175	169	120	138	138	158	129	149
Manchester	Male Local	196	226	217	218	214	200	177	147	172	169
Moorland	Category C	64	85	91	85	88	114	88	106	135	137
Morton Hall	Semi Open	8	16	20	12	33	91	160	160	127	149
Mount	Category C	74	113	113	117	130	139	127	109	147	171
New Hall	Female Local	32	92	78	77	66	63	65	69	67	62
North Sea Camp	Male Open	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	13	8	8
Northallerton	Male Closed YOI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Norwich	Male Local	68	67	50	50	61	57	57	61	73	62
Nottingham	Male Local	26	47	95	93	104	116	105	86	76	70
Onley	Category C	37	40	83	78	71	72	79	90	104	115
Parc	Male Local	0	149	1245	115	136	123	127	195	180	190
Parkhurst	Category B	104	113	111	115	109	84	96	86	120	123
Pentonville	Male Local	115	164	206	211	210	122	137	134	108	32
Portland	Male Closed YOI	31	33	32	26	24	24	18	13	15	15
Preston	Male Local	54	56	149	56	70	54	60	48	39	28
Ranby	Category C	133	186	259	211	189	1102	218	217	245	264
Reading	Male Closed YOI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Risley	Category C	110	114	103	115	145	144	193	181	161	170
Rochester	Male Closed YOI	27	12	12	36	43	59	0	41	156	67
Rye Hill	Category B	n/a	n/a	0	109	188	243	175	154	145	211
Send	Female Closed	19	19	21	60	20	32	22	21	23	21
Shepton Mallet	Category C	20	19	25	22	20	32	38	41	47	40
Shrewsbury	Male Local	84	109	137	112	114	204	73	68	65	82
Stafford	Category C	187	190	204	213	243	228	245	224	218	254
Standford Hill	Male Open	30	29	17	35	39	80	63	64	82	57
Stocken	Category C	53	63	159	123	118	121	114	96	89	90
Stoke Heath	Male Closed YOI	82	114	106	102	107	109	93	95	107	108
Styal	Female Local	34	37	56	52	50	36	27	26	17	23
Sudbury	Male Open	93	93	91	88	89	82	117	82	83	72
Swaleside	Category B	38	50	38	40	133	199	188	194	90	95
Swansea	Male Local	49	68	66	60	46	58	54	0	0	0
Swinfen Hall	Male Closed YOI	5	15	31	32	31	24	31	25	21	27
Thorn Cross	Male Open YOI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Usk	Category C	11	0	35	35	38	38	33	26	27	22
Verne	Category C	104	108	134	112	120	124	112	115	118	105
Wakefield	Dispersal	207	202	185	187	310	183	105	56	61	58
Wandsworth	Male Local	165	176	186	153	130	129	199	204	115	29
Warren Hill	Male Juvenile	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wayland	Category C	101	92	88	93	81	57	33	33	36	34
Wealstun	Category C	87	189	176	197	212	209	201	209	268	246
Weare	Category C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wellingborough	Category C	0	0	32	38	83	67	52	16	60	84
Werrington	Male Juvenile	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wetherby	Male Juvenile	0	0	35	29	25	10	4	0	0	0
Whatton	Category C	27	25	58	53	50	61	50	46	50	92
Whitemoor	Dispersal	99	114	89	93	150	105	95	100	76	92
Winchester	Male Local	93	86	93	91	108	73	65	62	59	56
Wolds	Category C	43	88	82	72	72	72	38	41	40	39
Woodhill	Male Local	0	0	8	7	4	5	8	0	0	0
Wormwood Scrubs	Male Local	94	96	110	92	108	105	81	50	124	177
Wymott	Category C	482	340	345	341	301	291	282	282	282	329
Grand total	—	8,306	9,480	12,109	10,576	11,120	11,824	10,320	10,228	10,403	10,834

Prisons: Food

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of food procured by the Prison Service was of UK origin in the latest period for which figures are available. [181124]

Mr. Hanson: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. and learned Member for Harborough (Mr. Garnier) on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1150W.

Reoffenders

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the re-conviction rate was for prisoners who had completed offender behaviour programmes in the latest period for which figures are available. [181332]

Mr. Hanson: The proven re-offending rate for offenders discharged from prison was 64.7 per cent. in 2004. When controlling for offender characteristics, there has been a 4.6 per cent. reduction since 2000.

We do not have data on re-offending rates for offenders discharged from prison who had completed offender behaviour programmes.

Sentencing: Young People

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young people received custodial sentences in relation to driving offences in each of the last five years; and how many young people committed driving offences in that period. [179976]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the number of young people, aged 10-17 and 18-20, who were given a custodial sentence, and the total number sentenced, in each of the last five years for motoring offences.

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
10-17					
Total sentenced	1,277	1,370	1,184	905	750
Immediate custody	707	800	656	489	360
18-20					
Total sentenced	3,920	4,015	3,313	2,734	2,164
Immediate custody	3,042	3,089	2,448	1,996	1,467
All young people					
Total sentenced	5,197	5,385	4,497	3,639	2,914
Immediate custody	3,749	3,889	3,104	2,485	1,827

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 24 January 2008

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animals: Disease Control

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 696W, on animals: disease control, how much was allocated to each local authority for animal health and welfare work in each of the last three financial years. [180828]

Jonathan Shaw: The sums made available to each authority in each of the last three financial years are set out in the following table.

Many authorities underspent significantly against these allocations in either or both of the earlier two years for which outturn figures are available. The cumulative effect of these underspends is shown in the totals given at the foot of the table.

Additional funding allocation by local authority (£)

	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06
Barnsley MBC	23,274	23,065	20,510
Bath and NE Somerset	60,017	66,885	72,000
Bedfordshire CC	48,345	53,716	46,283
Birmingham CC	27,315	31,755	24,252
Blackburn w Darwen BC	6,052	5,904	8,975
Blackpool	385	385	n/a
Blaenau Gwent CBC	16,841	17,818	17,344
Bolton Metro	12,208	13,289	14,576
Bradford MBC	39,080	42,161	46,789
Bridgend CBC	35,462	35,780	75,732
Buckinghamshire CC	88,924	96,900	102,657
Bury MBC	2,901	3,159	4,420
Caerphilly CBC	22,521	27,418	27,175
Calderdale MBC	56,904	49,976	50,692
Cambridgeshire CC	72,975	79,983	80,143
Cardiff CC	7,103	5,474	6,695
Carmarthenshire CC	192,297	192,732	171,162
Ceredigion CC	195,113	218,186	207,801
Cheshire CC	90,640	92,900	69,600
City of London (Chelmsford)	10,180	9,710	10,194
City of London (Reigate)	12,673	11,918	n/a
City of London (Wokingham and Reading)	10,852	n/a	n/a
City of York	11,570	13,524	15,258
Conwy CBC	146,084	161,170	70,414
Cornwall CC	140,406	159,756	127,891
Coventry	8,020	8,480	8,370
Cumbria CC	295,443	346,291	317,460
Darlington BC	36,649	39,536	27,696
Denbighshire CC	136,373	148,495	200,852
Derby City	10,952	12,040	6,660
Derbyshire CC	199,112	219,264	215,223
Devon CC	500,733	542,203	522,642
Doncaster MBC	46,456	44,392	45,080
Dorset CC	116,435	136,557	128,533
Dudley	17,874	19,285	17,221
Durham CC	81,567	88,180	73,174
East Riding of Yorkshire	209,558	224,750	173,452
East Sussex CC	53,730	52,500	54,182
Essex CC	151,834	158,895	158,451
Flintshire CC	73,991	78,825	79,126
Gateshead	5,748	5,695	5,888
Gloucestershire CC	192,720	219,000	222,456
Gwynedd	130,937	148,802	150,147
Hampshire	38,108	2,657	36,095
Halton	2,657	40,869	n/a
Hartlepool	4,550	5,400	n/a
Herefordshire CC	119,768	128,320	133,320
Hertfordshire CC	26,285	30,120	30,928
Isle of Anglesey CC	96,043	105,718	102,646
Isle of Wight	32,449	33,570	33,490
Kent CC	206,990	226,855	254,832
Kirkless MC	29,657	32,004	26,373
Lancashire CC	340,212	320,736	298,860
Leeds CC	29,049	31,740	33,544
Leicestershire CC	62,932	73,064	72,132
Lincolnshire CC	173,691	178,812	166,129
Medway CC	9,159	8,904	10,680
Merthyr Tydfil CBC	66,856	73,936	60,879
Middlesbrough	936	670	832
Milton Keynes	47,032	49,460	47,706
Monmouthshire CC incl. Torfean in 2007-08	128,705	111,862	144,910
Neath Port Talbot	n/a	46,612	45,096
Newcastle CC	35,208	n/a	n/a
Newport CC	70,412	77,385	78,578
Norfolk CC	129,284	148,796	54,589
North Lincolnshire	23,522	24,816	28,716
North Somerset C	30,158	33,509	32,980
North Tyneside	12,431	13,512	n/a
North Yorkshire CC	414,691	440,210	431,270
Northamptonshire CC	85,188	103,032	92,376
Northumberland CC	178,377	205,133	181,116
Nottinghamshire CC	89,521	104,772	113,435
Oldham MBC	58,098	62,979	44,409
Oxfordshire CC	111,629	120,347	134,374
Pembrokeshire CC	133,658	138,948	135,684
Peterborough	12,668	12,369	12,369
Powys CC	253,260	287,641	279,818
Redcar and Cleveland	9,157	8,405	8,160
Rhondda Cynon Taf	50,659	55,230	54,845
Rochdale	5,357	4,860	6,307
Rotherham MBC	33,188	34,489	32,196
Rutland CC	10,839	11,780	11,550
Sandwell MBC	6,357	6,200	5,925
Sefton CC	4,994	5,690	4,167
Sheffield CC	36,169	39,923	33,620
Shropshire CC	127,332	140,000	134,004
Solihull MBC	18,113	18,960	n/a
Somerset CC	224,469	247,769	225,613
South Gloucester C	66,309	77,924	88,476
South Tyneside	6,662	6,662	n/a

Additional funding allocation by local authority (£)

	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06
Staffordshire CC	268,767	307,796	325,296
Stockton	13,727	13,641	5,640
Stoke on Trent	8,570	n/a	n/a
Suffolk	120,884	140,968	135,480
Sunderland	765	n/a	n/a
Surrey CC	132,841	147,547	145,460
Swansea	n/a	46,512	29,860
Swindon BC	5,242	5,579	6,373
Tameside MBC	630	1,060	5,900
Telford and Wrekin borough	30,618	2,700	31,063
Torfaen	n/a	28,273	27,433
Vale of Glamorgan	23,350	46,512	45,000
Wakefield MBC	29,310	n/a	n/a
Walsall MBC	4,424	4,311	3,714
Warrington BC	9,491	11,518	12,647
Warwickshire CC	131,630	145,487	145,008
West Berkshire CC	27,061	28,454	28,375
West Glamorgan	66,416	73,796	n/a
West Sussex CC	44,743	46,597	44,821
Wigan council	9,039	19,260	18,732
Wiltshire CC	60,966	86,724	105,756
Windsor and Maidenhead	34,542	38,352	32,041
Wirral	n/a	1,296	n/a
Wolverhampton CC	3,959	5,256	5,087
Worcestershire CC	227,709	230,914	227,412
Wrexham CBC	57,237	61,745	59,947
Total allocation	8,564,971	9,335,708	8,843,255
Outturn figure		8.7 million	8.2 million

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many posters or displays there are in the offices of his Department and its agencies displaying the names and photographs of Ministers; and what the cost has been of producing such posters or displays in the last five years. [179843]

Jonathan Shaw: My Department currently has six displays located in its main buildings. DEFRA agencies have no ministerial displays or posters.

Over the last five years the cost of updating the displays has been £11,000. We have recently begun to replace printed posters and displays with electronic alternatives. These are cheaper to update and have less environmental impact than printed material.

Fisheries

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which measures which he has *(a)* introduced and *(b)* proposed to the European Commission under (i) Article 8, (ii) Article 9 and (iii) Article 10 of Council Regulation 2371/2002 have been approved; and if he will make a statement. [180754]

Jonathan Shaw: In January 2005, the UK invoked Article 9 of Council Regulation 2371/2002. In its proposals, the UK sought a ban on pelagic pair trawling by all member states within 12 nautical miles of the English coast within The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) Area VIIE. The European Commission rejected the proposal and the ban on pelagic pair trawling remains applicable to UK vessels only under the South-West Territorial Waters (prohibition of Pair Trawling) Order 2004.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures which EU Member States have *(a)* introduced and *(b)* proposed to the European Commission under (i) Article 8, (ii) Article 9 and (iii) Article 10 of Council Regulation 2371/2002 have been approved; and if he will make a statement. [180755]

Jonathan Shaw: To the best of my knowledge, none of our neighbouring member states have invoked, or had approved, measures that have a significant effect on the UK fishing industry under Articles 8 and 9 of Council Regulation 2371/2002 . A more complete answer to this question can be obtained from the European Commission as the Article 8 and 9 measures are only notified to the Commission, concerned member states, and the relevant regional advisory council.

Article 10 measures are applicable solely to fishing vessels flying the flag of the member state invoking the article and are therefore not notifiable to other member states.

Fisheries: Finance

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to allocate funds to UK fishermen until the UK is able to access the European Fisheries Fund; and if he will make a statement. [180746]

Jonathan Shaw: The previous fisheries grants scheme, the Fisheries Instrument for Financial Guidance (FIFG) is closed to new applications. However, existing projects continue to be funded and I estimate that around £10 million will be paid in 2008.

Fisheries: Public Appointments

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who the Government appointed to each sea fisheries committee in each year since 1997; between which dates each held their position; what the reasons were for each appointment; what *(a)* interests and *(b)* organisations and groups each appointee represented; and if he will make a statement. [180982]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Section 2 of the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966 sets out that persons appointed by the Minister to Sea Fisheries Committees (SFCs) shall be:

"persons acquainted with the needs and opinions of the fishing interests of that district or as being persons having knowledge of, or expertise in, marine environmental matters."

All appointments to SFCs made by the Secretary of State last for a four year period. Once appointed, these members are required to represent, in a balanced way, all local fishing and marine environmental interests in the SFC district. Appointees are reminded that they should not regard themselves as representing any one particular interest.

Flood Control: Greater London

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures have been taken to prevent flooding in London since Summer 2007; and if he will make a statement. [180601]

Mr. Woolas: There have been various measures taken throughout London since the summer to reduce the risk of flooding. The Environment Agency led a series of meetings with local London boroughs. It also conducted a series of meetings with the affected local authorities. In addition, the Government Office for London (GOL) led a post-20 July 2007 lessons learned meeting, the outcomes of which will be incorporated into a fundamental check review of the existing London Strategic Flood Response Plan.

The Environment Agency is also leading an integrated urban drainage pilot in Kingston, funded by DEFRA. This has been developed over the past few months with local authorities and Thames Water and has recommended several ways to address surface water flooding. The Environment Agency and DEFRA will also be feeding into a new Forum 'Drain London' to assess the location and causes of surface water flooding across London and identify solutions.

Thames Estuary 2100 is an Environment Agency project developing a tidal flood risk management plan for London and the Thames Estuary until the end of the century. The plan will take into account increasing flood risk due to climate change, rising sea-levels, ageing of the existing flood management infrastructure and new development in the defended tidal floodplain.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Finance

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average amount was that a household in England paid to top up a Warm Front grant for energy efficiency measures in 2006; and how many households in England paid to top-up their Warm Front grant in 2006. [180758]

Mr. Woolas: The average amount that householders paid to top up Warm Front grants in 2006 was £422.08.

20,143 households in England paid to top up a Warm Front grant during this period.

Productivity: Rural Areas

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the difference in productivity was between the least well performing quartile of rural areas and the English median in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [181504]

Jonathan Shaw: The indicator used to support the public service agreement on productivity (PSA4) monitoring shows that productivity in the least well performing quartile of rural areas was 16.07 per cent. lower than the English median in 2004-05.

Sea Fisheries Committees

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1108W, on sea fisheries committees, how many appointees there are on each sea fisheries committee; what the percentage and number appointed to each Sea Fisheries Committee by *(a)* the Government, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* other organisations is; and if he will make a statement. [181089]

Jonathan Shaw: Orders that establish each Sea Fisheries Committee (SFC) district prescribe the total number and breakdown of members on each Committee.

Members appointed to each SFC by Ministers, local authorities and other organisations, by number and percentage, are as follows:

	Appointed by local authorities		*Appointed by DEFRA*		*Appointed by other organisations*		*Total*
SFC	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*
Cornwall	13	50	12	46.15	1	3.84	26
Cumbria	7	50	6	42.86	1	7.14	14
Devon	10	50	9	45	1	5	20
Eastern	10	50	9	45	1	5	20
Isles of Scilly	4	50	4	50	0	0	8
Kent and Essex	12	54.54	9	40.9	1	4.55	22
Northumberland	10	50	9	45	1	5	20
North Eastern	18	50	17	47.22	1	2.77	36
North Western and North Wales	20	52.63	9	23.68	9	23.68	38
Southern	10	50	9	45	1	5	20
Sussex	10	50	9	45	1	5	20

The Environment Agency appoints one member to each SFC, with the exception of the Isles of Scilly. Ministerial appointees to North Western and North Wales SFC are the joint responsibility of DEFRA and the Welsh Ministers. Appointments to South Wales SFC are solely a matter for the Welsh Ministers.

DEFRA is in the process of appointing new members to fill three vacancies.

Seas and Oceans: Environment Protection

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with officials from (*a*) the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, (*b*) the Department for Communities and Local Government and (*c*) the Department for Transport in relation to the (i) drafting and (ii) implementation of the proposed Marine Bill. [181117]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA Ministers and officials have worked closely with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, the Department for Communities and Local Government, and the Department for Transport on the development of the proposed Marine Bill. We will continue to do so during the Bill's passage through Parliament to ensure that our proposals for new legislation are coherent and compatible.

Water Supply: River Wye

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with Severn Trent on the possibility of securing water supply back-up from the River Wye; and if he will make a statement. [180911]

Mr. Woolas: I have not had any such discussions. It is for Severn Trent to consider the need for increasing provision of water in fulfilment of its duties to maintain adequate supplies of water. The company's plan for meeting demand were set out in its 25-year water resources plans, prepared in 2004. The Environment Agency reported on those plans in 'Maintaining Water Supply', which is available from its web site. The plans are to be updated and will be consulted upon later this year.

Additional abstractions to provide a back-up supply of water, whether from the River Wye or another source, would need to be licensed by the Environment Agency in line with the provisions of the Water Resources Act 1991 (as amended).

White Fish: Conservation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1112W, on white fish: conservation, what evidence his Department has received contrary to the advice of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea in 2004 on bass stocks; and if he will make a statement. [181199]

Jonathan Shaw: Some angling groups including the Bass Anglers' Sportsfishing Society (BASS) have submitted information to counter the advice of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) on bass stocks. The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, have assessed the information submitted by BASS and do not believe that it alters their advice to DEFRA that bass stocks appear to be fished sustainably. This is consistent with the most recent ICES advice.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Departmental ICT

Susan Kramer: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how many (*a*) male and (*b*) female members of staff of the Church Commissioners were issued with personal digital assistants in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [181399]

Sir Stuart Bell: This information is not recorded but, by way of a statement, the commissioners invest in technology whenever they believe that this will improve their business efficiency. When they do invest in new equipment, the recipient's gender is irrelevant.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

Departmental ICT

Susan Kramer: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission how many (*a*) male and (*b*) female members of staff of the National Audit Office were issued with personal digital assistants in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [181352]

Mr. Alan Williams: The information requested is set out as follows. This includes SmartPhones which have personal digital assistant (PDA) functionality. For 2006 and 2007 these numbers include more than once those SmartPhones that were issued for staff to test, withdrawn and then reissued. There are currently 20 staff with active SmartPhones.

	PDAs and SmartPhones issued to male members of staff	*PDAs and SmartPhones issued to female members of staff*
2001	0	0
2002	0	0
2003	16	4
2004	0	0
2005	0	0
2006	14	8
2007	12	4

TREASURY

Tax Returns: Online Filing

11. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the use of on-line filing of tax returns. [181420]

Jane Kennedy: Online filing is secure, quicker and more accurate for the customer and HMRC benefits by having better quality data and reduced administration and processing costs.

By the beginning of January, just under 2 million self assessment returns had been filed online, an increase of 26 per cent. on the same point last year.

International Debt Relief

12. **Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what further steps he plans to take to advance international debt relief. [181421]

Andy Burnham: The UK welcomes recent agreements at the IMF, World Bank and African Development Bank to finance Liberia's arrears clearance, paving the way for Liberia to enter the HIPC initiative. The UK will continue to support eligible countries to achieve HIPC debt relief and to qualify for debt cancellation under the multilateral debt relief initiative. The UK is working closely with international partners to address the problem of so-called vulture funds.

Contractors: Monitoring

13. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what contractual mechanisms HM Revenue and Customs has in place to monitor the effectiveness and efficiency of private sector organisations to which it has contracted out work. [181422]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC employs a wide range of procedures for monitoring the performance of private sector contractors, on a contract-by-contract basis, following HMRC's good practice guidance.

Professionally qualified commercial specialists manage these contracts, which are kept under review.

Saving

14. **Miss Begg:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Government is taking to encourage people to save. [181423]

Andy Burnham: Since 1997, the Government have introduced individual savings accounts (ISAs) (now held by one in three adults), and the child trust fund, which will ensure that all children will hold a financial asset at the age of 18. The Government have piloted the saving gateway and is now taking forward feasibility work to enable rollout.

The Government are also introducing personal accounts to enable individuals on low to medium incomes to save for a pension over their working lives.

10p Tax Rate

15. **Miss Kirkbride:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on revenue to the Exchequer arising from the abolition of the 10 pence tax rate; and if he will make a statement. [181424]

Angela Eagle: The yield from removing the 10p starting rate of income tax on non-savings income was published in the Financial Statement and Budget Report 2007 at line 15 of table A1. Removing the 10p starting rate of income tax was one single aspect of the Budget 2007 package, and should not be looked at in isolation from the other changes announced.

Leitch Report

17. **Mr. Simon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the Leitch report and on the skills base in the UK economy. [181426]

Angela Eagle: Discussions about the Leitch report and the importance of skills to economic growth are held at ministerial and official level on a regular basis.

Investing in education and skills is vital to ensuring our continued success in today's global economy.

That is why the Government are increasing their investment in improving education and the skills. UK education spending as proportion of GDP projected to increase from 4.7 per cent. in 1996-97 to 5.6 per cent. by 2010-11. Expenditure on higher education and adult skills in England will grow by over £2 billion over the next three years.

Africa: Education for All Initiative

18. **John Robertson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on the Education for All initiative for Africa; and if he will make a statement. [181427]

Angela Eagle: The UK is a strong supporter of education, with a commitment to provide £8.5 billion for education by 2015; it is the second largest contributor to the Education for All Fast Track Initiative. At the autumn meetings of the G7 and IMFC, Finance Ministers reaffirmed the importance they place on development issues, including education. Treasury Ministers and officials will continue to use every opportunity to promote the UK's development priorities with their international counterparts.

Trade Unions: Provident Funds

19. **Mr. Chaytor:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the upper limit for tax exempt payments from Trade Unions Provident Funds was last adjusted for inflation; and what plans he has to review the limit. [181428]

Jane Kennedy: The tax exemption limits whereby registered trade unions are able to claim relief in respect of certain income and gains used for provident benefits have not been raised since 1991. There are no plans at the current time to raise the limits.

Skills Shortages

21. **Anne Snelgrove:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the impact on the UK economy of skills shortages. [181430]

Angela Eagle: The independent Leitch Review of Skills found no evidence that skill gaps or shortages have held back economic growth, though it did

recommend that the Government raise their ambitions on improving the skills of the workforce.

The 2007 National Employer Skills Survey conducted by the Learning and Skills Council highlights falls in the proportion of employers reporting skills gaps and the percentage of all vacancies caused by skills shortages.

The Government are increasing their investment in improving the skills of the population. Expenditure on higher education and adult skills in England will grow by over £2 billion over the next three years.

Capital Gains Tax

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the pre-Budget report proposals for capital gains tax on housing affordability. [181429]

Jane Kennedy: The Government take a range of factors into consideration when formulating tax policy, and keep all of the relevant issues under review. The tax regime is just one of a number of factors that influence housing affordability.

Banks: Insolvency

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to bring forward proposals for legislation (*a*) on bank insolvency and (*b*) to implement the Market Abuse Directive. [181024]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury, the Bank of England and Financial Services Authority published a discussion paper, "Banking Reform: Protecting Depositors", in October 2007. Comments on that paper were requested by 5 December 2007. A consultation document outlining proposals for reforms to banking regulation and depositor protection will be published shortly, and will be followed by a 12-week consultation period. I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by the Chancellor on 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1207-24.

Banks: Standards

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the resilience of the UK banking system; and if he will make a statement. [181411]

Andy Burnham: The FSA has responsibility for assessing the resilience of individual banks and shares responsibility with the Bank of England for maintaining a broad overview of the financial system as a whole. Their views of the risks to financial system are made public, in particular through the Financial Risk Outlook and the Financial Stability report respectively. The chairman and chief executive of the FSA and the Governor and deputy governor of the Bank of England have set out their views on these issues over recent months to the Treasury Committee.

Cost of Living

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the difference between the retail prices index and the rate of inflation experienced by families with an average income. [181409]

Angela Eagle: No official estimates have been made of the rate of inflation experienced by families with an average income. However, under the Government's monetary policy framework, inflation has remained close to target and the economy has now experienced 61 consecutive quarters of growth. UK inflation, currently at 2.1 per cent, remains close to target. This stability, alongside record levels of employment, has allowed average real incomes to increase for all income groups since 1997 and aggregate real household disposable income to rise by 25 per cent.

Credit

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the trends in the availability of credit to householders in the last 12 months. [181410]

Andy Burnham: The UK economy remains strong and stable and is enjoying its longest period of macro-economic stability on record. The disruption in global financial markets has meant economic prospects have become more uncertain, with the pre-Budget report forecast incorporating some feed-through from financial market disruption to tighter credit conditions. But the UK economy has proved resilient to a number of shocks over the past decade, demonstrating the success of the Government's macro-economic framework and promotion of open and flexible labour, product and capital markets.

Departmental ICT

Susan Kramer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many (*a*) male and (*b*) female members of staff in his Department were issued with personal digital assistants in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [181368]

Angela Eagle: The current user list for PDAs in core Treasury shows (*a*) 59 male users, and (*b*) 32 female users. Financial records would only provide the information requested on PDAs purchased from 2001 annually at disproportionate cost.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on fuel duty for motorists, with particular reference to the overall price of fuel and the Government's climate change policy. [181583]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answers I gave the right hon. Member for East Yorkshire (Mr. Knight) and the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess) on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 330W.

Government Departments: Property

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 332W, on government departments: property, in what methodological or statistical ways the data in the table placed in the Library differs from the data provided in the answer of 6 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 630W, on the same subject. [181335]

Angela Eagle: The data in the table placed in the Library in the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 332W, gives the total figures for vacant space recorded on e-PIMS as either actual, future or potential.

The data provided in the answer of 6 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 630W, is for vacant space recorded on e-PIMS only as actual, as that is how the question was interpreted.

The data provided for HM Courts Service, Home Office and Treasury Group is different for the following reasons:

HM Courts Service

e-PIMS is a working database and the latest information available is used in PQ responses. The data provided in the table placed in the Library were the vacant space recorded as at 20 December. The data provided in the subsequent response was the vacant space recorded as at 27 December. On 11 December HM Courts Service entered a total of 7579m² vacant space records onto e-PIMS, accounting for the increase in the figure given on 20 December, even though only vacant space marked as actual was included.

Home Office

The data provided in the table placed in the Library gave separate vacant space figures for the Home Office and the national probation directorate, whereas the subsequent response provided the Home Office vacant space inclusive of the national probation directorate.

Treasury Group

Similarly, the table placed in the Library gave separate vacant space figures for HM Treasury and National Savings and Investments whereas the subsequent response combines these in a single figure for the Treasury Group.

Other small variances are accounted for by the different dates on which information is recorded.

Knowledge Network Project

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance document on using the Knowledge Network software and database. [181311]

Angela Eagle: There is no one single, specific guidance document on using the Knowledge Network.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter of 3 December 2007 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs. Mavis George. [181076]

Jane Kennedy: I replied to the right hon. Member on 22 January 2008.

Population

Mr. Chope: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely population of the United Kingdom in *(a)* 2015, *(b)* 2030 and *(c)* 2050. [181126]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 24 January 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question regarding what estimate has been made of the likely population of the United Kingdom in (a) 2015, (b) 2030 and (c) 2050. (181126)

The table below shows the projected total population of the United Kingdom for the years requested. The most recent national population projections, based on the population at the middle of 2006, were published by the Office for National Statistics on 23 October 2007.

	Total population (Million)
2015	64.5
2030	70.8
2050	77.0

Projections are uncertain and become increasingly so the further they are carried forward. In addition to the principal (central) projection results given above, variant projections based on alternative assumptions are also published. Details are available at:

http://www.gad.gov.uk/Demography_data/Population/

Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* data and *(b)* physical security measures have been introduced at HM Revenue and Customs offices in Tyne and Wear since October 2007. [181008]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC reviews its security measures on an ongoing basis.

Since October 2007, the offices in Tyne and Wear, in common with all HMRC offices, have implemented HMRC's tighter controls on data security.

For more detail on these changes, I refer the hon. Member to Kieran Poynter's interim report which was published on 17 December 2007 and is available in the Library of the House.

Revenue and Customs: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reason HM Revenue and Customs has failed to respond to requests for information from the Information Commissioner's Office in relation to case ref. number FS50164499 on behalf of the hon. Member for Yeovil; and if he will make a statement. [181122]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC are in continuing dialogue with the Information Commissioner's Office and will be providing a full response in due course.

Skin Cancer

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department holds regional figures for five year survival rates for skin cancer. [181291]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 24 January 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking whether regional figures for five year survival rates for skin cancer are available. (181291)

For England, five-year survival rates are available for adult patients (aged 15-99 years) diagnosed with skin cancer during 1999-2003 and followed up to the end of 2004. These are given in Table 1 and are also available on the National Statistics website.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14007&Pos=3&ColRank=1&Rank=422

Survival rates by NHS region for 58 cancers including skin cancer diagnosed during 1971-90 in England and Wales were published in Cancer Survival Trends* in 1999. Figures for skin cancer, broken down by region are given in Table 2.

Table 1: Five-year age-standardised[1] relative survival (percentage) for adults (15 to 99 years) diagnosed with melanoma of the skin[2] during 1999 to 2003, followed up to the end of 2004, England

	Number of patients	Five-year relative survival	
		Percentage	95 per cent CI[3]
Men	13,196	80.4	(79.2-81.7)
Women	17,005	89.4	(88.5-90.3)

[1] As cancer survival varies with age at diagnosis, the relative rates for all ages (15 to 99) have been age-standardised to control for changes in the age profile of cancer patients over time, thus making them comparable with previously published figures.
[2] Melanoma of the skin is classified as code C43 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
[3] 95 per cent. confidence intervals (CI).

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Table 2: Five-year age-standardised[1] relative survival (percentage) for adults (15 to 99 years) diagnosed with melanoma of the skin[2] during 1986 to 1990, followed up to the end of 1995, England and NHS region

	Men	Women
England	68	82
Northern and Yorkshire	69	83
Trent	66	82
Anglia and Oxford	72	82
North Thames	66	83
South Thames	66	82
South and West	70	81
West Midlands	71	84
North and West	63	81

[1] As cancer survival varies with age at diagnosis, the relative rates for all ages (15 to 99) have been age-standardised to control for changes in the age profile of cancer patients over time, thus making them comparable with previously published figures.
[2] Melanoma of the skin is classified as code 172 in the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9).

Sources:
Office for National Statistics
Table 4.5: Cancer survival trends by NHS region, selected cancers, patients diagnosed 1971 to 1990: age-standardised relative survival rates (with 95 per cent. confidence intervals) at one and five years after diagnosis, and average increases in relative survival on the National Statistics website http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/ssdataset.asp?More=Y
and published in:
Coleman MP et al (1999) 'Cancer survival Trends in England and Wales 1971 to 1995: deprivation and NHS region'. Studies in Medical and Population Subjects No.61. London: The Stationery Office.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to make a substantive reply to question 175652, on advice on Northern Rock, tabled by the hon. Member for Sevenoaks on 17 December 2007. [181104]

Jane Kennedy: Very shortly. The Treasury regrets not having done so earlier.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and which models of helicopter deployed in Afghanistan are fitted with winches. [181043]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: All UK Sea King and all UK Chinooks deployed in Afghanistan are equipped with winches.

I am withholding the number of helicopters deployed as the information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of the armed forces.

Aircraft Carriers: Procurement

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to announce a detailed timetable for the Future Aircraft Carrier Programme. [180622]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence, gave on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 21W, to the hon. Member for New Forest, East (Dr. Lewis) on the placement of the manufacture contract for the Future Carrier, and to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox) on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 20W, on in-service dates.

Armed Forces: Children

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service deaths have occurred where the service parent was in receipt of continuity of education allowance or boarding school allowance at the time of their death since 1997; how many children of deceased service personnel received his Department's financial assistance in these cases; what the total cost has been over that period; how much provision is made in his Department's budget annually for such cases; and if he will make a statement. [180039]

Derek Twigg: Information prior to the roll-out of the joint personnel administration (JPA) could be provided only at disproportionate cost. In the period June 2006 to date, continuity of education allowance (CEA) payments have been made in relation to 15 Service personnel who have died in service. These payments have related to 21 children. The total cost of these payments is £185,000. There is no specific allocation for provision of CEA in cases of death in service. We cannot predict what future payments will be. However, we are committed to making such payments.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what targets he has set for upgrading service families' accommodation to *(a)* S1fC and *(b)* S2fC categories under the standard for condition initiative; and when he expects these targets to be met. [179927]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 17 January 2008]*: This Department has targets only to upgrade Service Families Accommodation (SFA) properties to Standard 1 for Condition (SIfC). We will upgrade a minimum of 600 SFA properties to SIfC in financial years 2007-08 and 2008-09 with a further 800 upgrades planned for each year thereafter.

This number of upgrades is based on the strategic decision, taken with the support of the armed forces, to focus the programme on upgrading the worst accommodation first which leads to a higher cost per upgrade. Funding in previous years was targeted at delivering a large number of relatively low cost upgrades. In fact the Department has increased the level of funding for upgrading SFA and is making available a further £20 million in 2008-09 and £30 million per annum thereafter.

Armed Forces: Parachuting

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many high altitude *(a)* high and *(b)* low opening training airborne jumps have been conducted by British service personnel in each year since 2001. [181209]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of high altitude, high opening (HAHO), and high altitude, low opening (HALO), airborne jumps that have been conducted by British service personnel while completing service training are shown in the table as follows.

Calendar year	*High altitude high opening*[1]	*High altitude low opening*[1]
2001	175	220
2002	235	135
2003	395	150
2004	125	550
2005	65	135
2006	100	375
2007	320	525

[1] Numbers rounded to the nearest 5

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many Bulldog vehicles have been *(a)* ordered to date and *(b)* delivered to UK Land Command; [179682]

(2) how many Vector armoured fighting vehicles have been *(a)* ordered to date and *(b)* delivered to UK Land Command; [179683]

(3) how many Mastiff armoured vehicles have been *(a)* ordered to date and *(b)* delivered to UK Land Command. [179684]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of Bulldog, Vector and Mastiff vehicles ordered to date and delivered to UK Land Command are shown in the following table:

	Ordered to date	*Delivered to UK Land Command*
Bulldog	900	411
Vector	178	178
Mastiff	108	104

Bulldog is an upgrade of the FV430 rather than a brand new vehicle. The conversion programme is due to be completed by 31 March 2011.

The initial tranche of Mastiff deliveries are complete, less four ambulance variants due to be completed and delivered by the end of January 2008. We are ordering an additional tranche of Mastiff vehicles, as announced by the Prime Minister on 7 October 2007.

AWE Burghfield: Floods

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment has been made of the flood risk to the *(a)* High Security Area, *(b)* Nuclear Licensed Site Area and *(c)* remainder of the site at AWE Burghfield; what flooding has occurred at the site since July 2007; what representations he has received from the Environment Agency since that time; and if he will make a statement. [181048]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The risk of flooding is addressed in the nuclear licence safety case for the AWE Burghfield site, which does not differentiate between areas. The safety case assessment concludes that such an event would not compromise safety at the site although there would likely be an impact on business continuity. A programme of review is therefore under way to determine what, if any, improvements might be introduced.

No flooding has occurred at AWE Burghfield since July 2007. The Environment Agency has made no representations to the MOD on these matters. The nuclear site licensee, AWE plc, continues to advise the regulators of its plans through regular routine engagement.

AWE Management

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* name, *(b)* function, *(c)* estimated cost and *(d)* projected in-service date is of each of the 23 new build projects in the Atomic Weapons Establishment Site Development Context Plan 2005 to 2015. [181444]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 29W.

AWE Management: Trident Missiles

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether the Atomic Weapons Establishment manufactured *(a)* any new Trident warheads and *(b)* any new plutonium pits in 2007; [181065]

(2) when the Atomic Weapons Establishment plans to end the production of *(a)* new Trident warheads of the current design and *(b)* new plutonium pits of the current design. [181066]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding the information requested as its release would or would be, likely to prejudice national security and defence of the UK.

Chad: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether transportation and lodging of military forces in support of the European Security and Defence

Policy mission to Chad will be financed by the EU or its member states under the costs lie where they fall principle. [179673]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The EU-led mission to Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR) will be funded in accordance with the ATHENA funding mechanism approved by the Council of the European Union in 2004 and as subsequently amended. The mechanism defines which aspects of EU-led military operations are eligible for common funding by member states.

The incremental costs of deploying elements of the Force HQ to and from the theatre of operations, and associated lodging of Force HQ staff, are eligible for common funding. The costs of deployment and lodging of force elements commanded by the Force HQ are met by the member states that provide the forces on a "costs lie where they fall" basis. A budget request will be submitted by the Operation Commander for the Chad/CAR operation for scrutiny by the ATHENA Special Committee during January 2008 before a resulting budget is approved.

Defence Equipment and Support Organisation: Finance

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 774W, on Defence Equipment and Support Organisation: finance, what the reasons are for the difference between the expenditure figure provided against financial year 2006-07 and that declared on the home page of the Defence Equipment and Support Organisation's website. [180318]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 21 January 2008]*: The rounded £16,000 million annual budget figure for financial year 2006-07, as shown on the Defence Equipment and Support Organisation's website, encompasses both equipment and non-equipment resource expenditure. This includes manpower, overhead costs and indirect non-cash resource costs such as cost of capital charges on assets and depreciation.

The figure of £12,130 million for financial year 2006-07, as detailed in my answer of 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 774W, was for spend on equipment programmes only, including expenditure on all equipment additions, equipment support (including Stock Consumption and Post Design Services), PFI Service Charges and IT and Communications.

Departmental ICT

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female members of staff in his Department were issued with personal digital assistants in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [181354]

Derek Twigg: Records of personal digital assistants are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Firearms Act 1968

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on how many occasions the Defence Council has granted an authority to *(a)* possess, *(b)* acquire, *(c)* manufacture, *(d)* transfer and *(e)* sell items under section 5 of the Firearms Act 1968 in each of the last 10 years; [180242]

(2) on how many occasions the Defence Council has revoked an authority to *(a)* possess, *(b)* acquire, *(c)* manufacture, *(d)* transfer and *(e)* sell items under section 5 of the Firearms Act 1968 in each of the last 10 years. [180243]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: None. The Defence Council has no role in granting or revoking authorities under section 5 of the Firearms Act 1968.

Fuels: Finance

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the likely savings to the defence budget achievable through the adoption of fuel hedging. [176289]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Fuel hedging would not in the medium or long term necessarily provide any direct savings to the defence budget. However, it would reduce the impact of price changes.

"Government Accounting" precludes the use of fuel hedging to seek savings to the defence budget as this would involve speculation with taxpayers' money.

Land Mines

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what pre-deployment training is provided for *(a)* mine detection and *(b)* personnel extraction from minefields. [181042]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: All personnel deploying either as an individual replacement (IR), or as part of a formed unit undertake extensive training in mine awareness and minefield immediate action drills. These are as follows:

(a) a 45 minute lecture on the threat of mines, specific to the theatre they are deploying to;

(b) a 60 minute practical lesson (demonstration and practice) at identifying mines or potentially mined areas and how to extract themselves and their team from a minefield or mined area;

(c) further opportunities to practise mine awareness and extraction drills including during the Confirmatory Training Exercise at Stanford Training Area (STANTA) where individuals are assessed on their assimilation of these drills;

(d) "sweep up" training focused on areas where weakness or misunderstanding is identified.

On arrival in theatre, mine awareness and any new theatre specific procedures are revised and practised. This is part of the Reception, Staging and Onward Integration (RSOI) training package.

Military Bases: Strait of Hotmuz

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the implications for UK defence policy of France's decision to create a military base in the Strait of Hotmuz. [180602]

Des Browne: On 15 January, President Nicolas Sarkozy signed an agreement with the United Arab Emirates which includes plans to create a French military base in Abu Dhabi. There are no implications for UK Defence Policy. France has a long history of defence co-operation in the Gulf region.

NATO: Finance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Government contributed to NATO's *(a)* civil budget, *(b)* military budget and *(c)* Security Investment Programme in each year since 1997. [181205]

Des Browne: The amount contributed by the UK to NATO's civil budget, military budget and the NATO Security Investment Programme (NSIP) since 1997 is as follows:

Financial year	*Civil budget*[1]	*Military budget*[2]	*£ million NSIP*[2]
1997-98	20.400	43.126	36.826
1998-99	16.100	46.021	54.168
1999-2000	16.300	38.529	45.350
2000-01	18.900	36.461	42.915
2001-02	17.900	53.100	62.493
2002-03	18.200	50.000	38.301
2003-04	18.700	36.578	45.813
2004-05	17.600	52.430	55.538
2005-06	17.842	43.926	54.575
2006-07	17.281	56.917	40.959
2007-08[3]	19.470	60.800	51.147

[1] The UK contribution to the NATO civil budget is funded by the FCO
[2] Funded by the MOD
[3] Current in-year forecast

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the UK's contribution to NATO common funding was allocated to NATO's *(a)* civil budget, *(b)* military budget and *(c)* security investment programme in each year since 1997. [181210]

Des Browne: The proportion of the UK's total contribution to NATO common funding allocated to the civil budget, military budget and NATO Security Investment Programme (NSIP) since 1997 is as follows:

Financial year	*Civil budget*[1]	*Military budget*[2]	*Percentage NSIP*[2]
1997-98	20.33	42.97	36.70
1998-99	13.84	39.57	46.57
1999-2000	16.27	38.46	45.27
2000-01	19.23	37.10	43.67
2001-02	13.41	39.78	46.81
2002-03	17.09	46.95	35.96
2003-04	18.50	36.18	45.32
2004-05	14.02	41.75	44.23
2005-06	15.34	37.76	46.90
2006-07	15.01	49.43	35.56
2007-08[4]	14.82	46.26	38.92

[1] The UK contribution to the NATO civil budget is funded by the FCO
[2] Funded by the MOD
[3] Funded by the MOD
[4] Current in-year forecast

Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which military units are allocated for potential deployment with *(a)* EU and *(b)* NATO missions. [179676]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The allocation of military units for all deployments with EU and NATO missions takes place on a case by case basis via the UK's force generation process, according to national priorities, and drawn from those declared to the Defence Planning process for NATO and the Headline Questionnaire for the EU. Within these forces, some units are held at high readiness and designated for potential deployment with the EU and NATO but these would not deploy without the express consent of the UK Government.

For EU missions, the UK's contribution to the EU Battle Group roster in the second half of 2008 will be drawn from the Small Scale Focused Intervention Battlegroup element of the Joint Rapid Reaction Force.

For NATO missions, the UK has agreed to provide a battalion to NATO's Operational Reserve Force (ORF) until the end of 2008. On current plans, up to the end of the first half of 2008, the Spearhead Land Element(SLE) of the Joint Rapid Reaction Force (JRRF) will meet this requirement.

The UK is also providing a contribution to the NATO Response Force (NRF) throughout 2008 to be drawn as appropriate from the Joint Rapid Reaction Force. From January-June 2008 this will be one carrier and associated aircraft together with an escort ship (a destroyer or frigate); and a deployable air operating base (including four Tornado GR4 aircraft, and associated air-to-air refuelling, airborne early warning, and tactical air transport aircraft). From July-December 2008 the UK's contribution to the NRF will be four air defence aircraft and eight ground attack aircraft together with associated air-to-air refuelling, airborne early warning, and tactical air transport aircraft; and a mine counter measures task group (including a command ship, a destroyer/frigate escort, and a survey vessel).

Prince William

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 887-8W, on Prince William, whether Prince William's training will enable his transfer to an operational commission unit for *(a)* fast jet, *(b)* multi-engine and *(c)* rotary wing aircraft. [181166]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: HRH Prince William's attachment to the Royal Air Force is part of a wider programme of events and is designed to prepare him for his future role. It will not be possible in the time available for him to progress to an Operational Conversion Unit for fast jet, multi-engine or rotary wing aircraft before he goes on attachment to the Royal Navy.

Reserve Forces: Mental Health Services

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to provide reservists with operational-related mental health problems with access to NHS healthcare. [181147]

Derek Twigg: Any reserve serviceman or woman injured when on operational deployment is entitled to and will receive the same level of medical treatment and support as their regular colleagues. This may include treatment at a military Department of Community Mental Health (DCMH) or admission to the Priory Group. They will continue to receive treatment until they are deemed to have reached a steady state of fitness. They are then demobilised, and taken through a transition from military to NHS care, if they have continuing healthcare needs.

Once demobilised, it is a long established tradition that reserve forces' medical care becomes the responsibility of their own local NHS primary care trust and the majority of veterans' physical and mental health needs are met by these provisions. However, we recognise that many health professionals may have limited experience of dealing with individuals with mental health symptoms arising from their service experience, and some reservists may be concerned that there will be only limited understanding by GPs of the context of their illness. In these specific circumstances, MOD recognises that it has an expertise to offer, and in November 2006 it launched the Reserves Mental Health Programme (RMHP).

The RMHP is open to any current or former member of the UK volunteer and regular reserves who has been demobilised since 1 January 2003 following an overseas operational deployment as a reservist, and who believes that the deployment may have adversely affected their mental health. Under the programme, we liaise with the individual's GP and offer a mental health assessment at the Reserves Training and Mobilisation Centre (RTMC) in Chilwell, Nottinghamshire. If diagnosed to have a combat-related mental health condition, we then offer out-patient treatment via one of the 15 DCMHs. If more acute cases present, the Defence Medical Services will assist in arranging for access to NHS in-patient treatment.

In conjunction with the Department of Health, we recently launched the first of a number of community mental health pilots. Each site will have a trained community veterans' mental health therapist. Veterans will be able to access this service directly or through their GP, ex-service organisations, the Veterans' Welfare Service, or Social Service departments. The pilot at the Staffordshire and Shropshire Foundation Healthcare Trust is now open. This will be followed by pilots in Camden and Islington, Cardiff, Middlesbrough, St. Austell and Scotland. If these pilots prove successful the model will be rolled out more widely across the UK.

As an interim measure, and to assist those veterans not in the catchment areas of one of the new community mental health pilots, we have expanded of our Medical Assessment Programme (MAP) based at St. Thomas' Hospital, London, to include assessment of veterans with mental health symptoms with operational service from 1982 (including veterans of the Falklands campaign).

Veterans who have recently deployed to Iraq (Operation Telic) and Afghanistan (Operation Herrick) may also attend for a full medical assessment if their Service Medical Officer or General Practitioner thinks it would help. The MAP was established in 1993 for veterans of the 1990-91 Gulf conflict and we encourage veterans worried about their health to attend. The clinician in charge also provides support and advice to GPs and other civilian health professionals requiring advice on the military aspects of treatment.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental ICT

Susan Kramer: To ask the Leader of the House how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female members of staff in her Office were issued with personal digital assistants in each year since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [181362]

Ms Harman: Following a machinery of government change, information prior to 2006-07 is available only at disproportionate cost.

Since May 2006 two male and two female members of staff have been issued with personal digital assistants.

House Committees: Salary

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Leader of the House which chairmen of House Committees receive a salary in addition to that of an hon. Member to reflect their role as chairman. [181568]

Ms Harman: Under the resolutions of the House of 30 October 2003 and 13 July 2005 relating to pay for chairmen of Select Committees, the chairmen of the departmental Select Committees appointed under Standing Order No. 152, together with the chairmen of the Environmental Audit, European Scrutiny, Public Accounts, Public Administration, Regulatory Reform, Administration, Finance and Services, Liaison, Procedure, Selection and Standards and Privileges Select Committees, and the chairmen of the Joint Committees on Human Rights and on Statutory Instruments, receive an additional salary in respect of their role as chairmen. A total of 31 hon. Members receive such a salary.

Under the Resolution of the House of 13 July relating to pay for chairmen of Standing Committees (now General Committees), the members of the Chairmen's Panel—in addition to the three Deputy Speakers also receive an additional (graduated) salary, unless they are already in receipt of such a salary as chairman of a Select Committee. A total of 32 hon. Members receive such a salary.

Timetabling of Bills

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Leader of the House if she will commission and publish an independent assessment of the effect of programming on the passage of Government legislation, including information on *(a)* the number of Government amendments made at Third Reading in the House of Lords and *(b)* the length of time taken between introduction and enactment of Government bills (i) in the last three years and (ii) in the last three years before the introduction of programming. [180193]

Ms Harman: The effect of programming of Government legislation has been the subject of number of reports by the Modernisation and Procedure Committees of the House and therefore it is not proposed to commission an independent audit.

The total number of amendments, including Government amendments, to Government Bills at Lords Third Reading in the following Sessions were:

Session	*Number*
2006-07	80
2005-06	440
2004-05	119
2003-04	428
2002-03	540
2001-02	306
2000-01	56
1999-2000	741
1998-99	460
1997-98	412

Source:
House of Lords Public Bill Sessional Statistics

These figures are not broken down into 'Government' and 'non-Government' amendments, and it is important to remember that some amendments might have been tabled by a non-Government peer but inspired by the Government and that some amendments may have been tabled by the Government but in response to concerns raised by an MP or peer.

Information about the interval between introduction and enactment of legislation for Government Bills in previous Sessions is a matter of public record, which is contained in the Library's Sessional Information Digests available at:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmsid.htm

WALES

Capita

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was paid by his Department to Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries in each financial year since 2000; which contracts were awarded by his Department to Capita Group plc in each year from 2000-01 to the most recent available date; what the cost was of each contract; what penalties for default were imposed in contract provisions; what the length was of each contract; whether the contract was advertised; how many companies applied for the contract; how many were short-listed; what criteria were used for choosing a company; what provision was made for renewal without re-tender in each case; and if he will make a statement. [180695]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My Department has no contracts with Capita Group plc or its subsidiaries.

Departmental ICT

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the *(a)* start date, *(b)* original planned completion date, *(c)* current expected completion date, *(d)* planned cost and *(e)* current estimated cost is for each information technology project being undertaken by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [180578]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My Department began work, in November 2007, on the development of new English and Welsh language websites.

The original completion date for the sites was the end of December 2007, however following revisions, the new websites are due to be launched by the end of January 2008.

The planned cost of the project is £29,611.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female members of staff in his Department were issued with personal digital assistants in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [181369]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My Department has not issued staff members with personal digital assistants.

Picture Financial Group

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what meetings he has had in a ministerial capacity with representatives of Picture Financial Group in the last 12 months; what the date of each meeting was; who was present at each meeting; and what the purpose of each meeting was. [181017]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Ministers meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not the usual practice of Government to disclose details of such meetings.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour: Prosecutions

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions under the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 there have been for *(a)* noise, *(b)* graffiti and fly-posting and *(c)* waste and litter in (i) each local authority and (ii) each police authority area, broken down by basic command unit, in each region of England and Wales in each year since the introduction of the powers. [176312]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

The offences in the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 include graffiti and fly-posting. Other offences are taken under different legislation.

The number of prosecutions taken at magistrates courts is held by the Ministry of Justice. The offence class of 'other' criminal damage includes, but cannot separately identify, offences of graffiti. Data on fly-posting offences cannot be separately identified from the data held by the Ministry of Justice.

Prosecutions for 'other' criminal damage

Police force area	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
England				
Avon and Somerset	814	652	576	240
Bedfordshire	35	58	53	206
Cambridgeshire	309	252	233	152
Cheshire	12	51	51	177
City of London	16	11	—	11
Cleveland	162	75	29	12
Cumbria	28	49	91	83
Derbyshire	362	346	244	185
Devon and Cornwall	12	6	63	1,016
Dorset	2	—	2	4
Durham	195	156	76	88
Essex	565	522	561	486
Gloucestershire	141	162	178	245
Greater Manchester	1,329	1,467	1,424	1,457
Hampshire	667	767	374	510
Hertfordshire	48	135	189	108
Humberside	39	185	90	81
Kent	539	718	656	713
Lancashire	25	24	39	183
Leicestershire	67	81	91	62
Lincolnshire	9	68	95	106

Prosecutions for 'other' criminal damage

Police force area	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Merseyside	271	201	70	85
Metropolitan Police	1,970	1,798	1,465	1,422
Norfolk	362	318	356	245
North Yorkshire	241	372	365	305
Northamptonshire	299	259	289	308
Northumbria	14	11	15	29
Nottinghamshire	14	10	136	200
South Yorkshire	404	422	442	412
Staffordshire	615	551	543	520
Suffolk	14	52	168	417
Surrey	93	72	196	404
Sussex	587	367	463	513
Thames Valley	478	370	410	356
Warwickshire	81	59	42	22
West Mercia	102	145	162	161
West Midlands	1,269	1,409	1,090	1,024
West Yorkshire	467	441	440	410
Wiltshire	85	61	68	44
Wales				
Dyfed-Powys	9	11	15	10
Gwent	345	223	74	98
North Wales	297	326	378	315
South Wales	459	96	66	53

DEFRA collects data annually from local authorities on Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs). FPNs can be issued by local authorities for graffiti and fly-posting offences. A FPN can be offered as an alternative to prosecution but prosecution can still be taken in instances of non-payment of a FPN. Police Community Support Officers can issue FPNs if they have the relevant approval; such notices are issued on a local authority's behalf, and are incorporated into the local authority's figures. For ease of reference, nil returns have been omitted from the following tables, which include the number of prosecutions taken following non-payment of FPNs.

FPNs for graffiti

	Offence: graffiti
Local authority	*Prosecutions following non payment*
Reporting period: April 2006 to March 2007	
Gateshead BC	1
Kingston upon Hull City Council	1
Sandwell BC	2
Reporting period: April 2005 to March 2006	
Gateshead BC	5
Newcastle upon Tyne CC	2
Reporting period: April 2004 to March 2005	
Newcastle upon Tyne CC	2

FPNs for fly-posting

	Offence: fly-posting
Local authority	*Prosecutions following non payment*
Reporting period: April 2006 to March 2007	
Canterbury CC	1
Castle Point DC	2
LB Bexley	20
LB Ealing	5
Manchester CC	4
Milton Keynes BC	1
Newcastle upon Tyne CC	1
Nottingham CC	1
Peterborough CC	14
Rochdale BC	8
S Ribble BC	2
Selby DC	1
Sheffield CC	2
Solihull BC	1
Thurrock BC	1
Reporting period: April 2005 to March 2006	
Nottingham CC	1
Peterborough CC	1
Solihull BC	1
Southampton CC	1
Tameside BC	3
Reporting period: April 2004 to March 2005	
Cheltenham BC	2
Gloucester CC	1
Newcastle upon Tyne CC	2
Thurrock BC	1
Westminster CC	7

The House Library has been furnished with data on prosecutions and fixed penalty notices issued for other offences under the relevant legislation.

The data are also currently published online.

Firearms

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to attend the summit on Firearms Law Reform. [181090]

Mr. Coaker: I am currently considering a letter about the proposed summit and will respond shortly to the Scottish Executive.

Forensic Science Service

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff were employed by the Forensic Science Service in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and what staff turnover was in each such year. [173602]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* The Forensic Science Service has supplied the information in the following table.

	FSS headcount and staff turnover	
	Average number of staff in year	Percentage turnover (leaverslav staff x 100)
2002-03	2,729	15.57
2003-04	2,697	7.26
2004-05	2,642	7.08
2005-06	2,503	12.66
2006-07	2,431	25.05

Sources:
2002-03, 2003-04, 2006-07: Annual report
2004-05, 2005-06: Performance report

Passports: Fraud

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fraudulent passport applications were made in the last 12 months; and how many of those applications involved *(a)* identity theft and *(b)* false declarations where the individual was otherwise entitled to a passport. [171127]

Meg Hillier: Because of the nature of fraud it is only possible to estimate the number of fraudulent passport applications the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) receives.

During the period 31 October 2005 to 30 September 2006, a sample of several thousand applications were scrutinised by specialist IPS teams with support from fraud investigators. This found that 0.25 per cent. of applications (or 16,500 cases) were believed to be from people attempting to obtain a passport fraudulently when they were not entitled to them. In a further 1.61 per cent. of applications (or 105,000 cases) there was some element of false declaration on the part of passport applicants but the identity of these individuals and their eligibility for passport services was not, otherwise in doubt.

It must be emphasised that these figures are an estimate and the result of one sampling exercise. IPS does, however, intend to undertake sampling of this type routinely and is currently engaged in a second exercise which is due to complete by April 2008.

It is because of this level of attempted fraud that IPS has introduced over recent years such measures as checking identity information against public and private sector databases and interviews for adult first time passport applicants.

Police: Forensic Science Service

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what obligations her Department places on police forces and authorities in relation to the procurement of forensic science services. [173598]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* Procurement of forensic services is a matter for individual police forces. The Home Office has placed no obligations on forces or authorities in relation to that procurement.

Terrorism: Cumbria

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will commission research to identify sites in Cumbria which may be used for illegal purposes within the meaning of the Terrorism Act 2006. [180201]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* We have no plans to do so.

TRANSPORT

Dartford Tunnel: Fees and Charges

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what basis it was decided which local areas to include in her consultation on the Dartford river crossing local discount scheme; if she will include Castle Point residents in that consultation; when the consultation will begin and end; whether the consultation will include public meetings; and how the consultation will be conducted. [179249]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 22 January 2008]:* A consultation on a discount scheme for local residents will be announced shortly and our detailed proposals wilt be set out in that document.

We have no plans to hold public meetings but the consultation document will be widely available via our website, and we will welcome responses from all interested parties regardless of where they live.

Departmental ICT

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* start date, *(b)* original planned completion date, *(c)* current expected completion date, *(d)* planned cost and *(e)* current estimated cost is for each information technology project being undertaken by her Department and its agencies; and if she will make a statement. [180575]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport is currently undertaking a number of IT projects to enable us to provide better services to our customers or improve the efficiency of our operations. Detailed information in the form requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Information on the key IT projects that are monitored and reported on centrally under the DfT's Investment Appraisal Framework is set out as follows.

Department/ Agency	Project name	Start date	Original planned completion date	Expected completion date	Originally planned costs (£ million)	Estimated costs (£ million)
DfT[1]	Shared Services Programme	April 2005	April 2009	April 2009	31	123
VOSA[2]	Commercial Customer Portal	January 2004	December 2005	January 2009	9.5	16.7
VOSA[3]	Operator Annual Test: E-Test Bookings	January 2004	December 2005	January 2009	8.4	16.8

Department/ Agency	Project name	Start date	Original planned completion date	Expected completion date	Originally planned costs (£ million)	Estimated costs (£ million)
VOSA[4, 5]	Mobile Compliance: providing mobile compliance devices to Enforcement Officers	March 2003	December 2004	March 2008	7.91	10.8
DVLA[6, 7]	Driver Licensing: Drivers Re-engineering Project (DRP) phase 2	August 2003	September 2008	December 2008	109	103.7
DVLA[8]	Smart tachograph project	July 2000	May 2002	June 2005	13.2	15.1
DVLA[9]	Vehicles System Software (VSS) Replatforming	January 2005	July 2006, but agreement made with DVO to move date to November 2006	December 2007	8.4	13
DVLA[9]	Driver Licence Upgrade (DLUP)	July 2004	June 2007	March 2008	21.8	16
DVLA[10]	Vehicle Integration Northern Ireland	August 2006	November 2008	Second half 2009	23	21.3
DVLA	Driver Licence Ten Year Renewals Phase 1	July 2007	May 2008	June 2008	13.3	13.3
DSA	Integrated Register of Driver Trainers (IRDT)	October 2003	January 2006	February 2007	1.5	3.5
HA	Traffic Control Centre: PPP service; providing co-ordinated real time information on traffic conditions across most strategic road network	August 2001	August 2011	August 2011	160 over 10 years	160 over 10 years
HA[11, 12]	Electronic Service Delivery of Abnormal Loads (ESDAL)	April 2004	August 2006 Development	June 2009 Development	8.6 Development	9.64 Development
			July 2008 Operation	June 2011 Operation	1.21 Operation	1.21 Operation

[1] Latest estimate subject to satisfactory business case for remainder of the programme.
[2] The scope of the portal project has increased since original approval to include new elements such as the adoption of sophisticated data integration and management applications.
[3] The scope of E-test bookings has increased since original approval to include a multi-channel solution.
[4] The difference in completion date is due to an increase in project scope to include fixed penalties.
[5] Original planned costs for mobile compliance did not include staff costs however, estimated costs to complete include staff costs from April 2005.
[6] The previous parliamentary answer of 16 July 2004, *Official Report*, columns 1387-88W, only relates to phase 1. The cost of £37 million with a delivery date of December 2005 was achieved within approved funding. These details have been updated to include phase 2.
[7] The estimated completion date is currently subject to change pending a current re-scoping exercise.
[8] Smart Tachograph Project—cost variation due to Tachonet implementation, increasing project scope to meet EU legislation requirements.
[9] Vehicles System Software Replatforming, Driver Licence Upgrade and slippage due to six month New System Landscape freeze with subsequent replanning activities and rescheduled release slots.
[10] Original planned completion date is subject to Business Case approval.
[11] The estimated development completion date has increased after re-evaluation of outstanding requirements and subsequent agreement of rebaselined milestone programme.
[12] The two-year fixed operational period will commence after completion of development. The change of end date for operations reflects the new programme.

Driving Tests: Personal Records

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what date Ministers in her Department were notified that a computer hard drive containing details of three million learner drivers had been mislaid by Pearson Driving Assessments. [176650]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The former Minister of State, the hon. Member for South Thanet (Dr. Ladyman) was told of the incident on 4 June 2007. The present Secretary of State was informed on 28 November 2007.

Heathrow Airport: Noise

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fines have been issued for breaches of aircraft following noise preferential routes at Heathrow airport in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [179964]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* At Heathrow airport departing aircraft have to follow noise preferential routes (NPRs) until they reach 4,000 ft, or are directed off the NPRs by air traffic control for safety or efficient air traffic management reasons. These routes are designed to avoid over flight of built-up areas by departing aircraft while under 4,000 ft, wherever possible. Aircraft which deviate outside an NPR swathe (which extends approximately 1.5 km each side of a nominal centre line) while under 4,000 ft are considered to be flying off track.

The airport monitors track keeping as a noise mitigation measure. Track keeping performance is kept constantly under review and reported regularly to the Airport's Noise and Track Keeping Working Group on which local residents are represented by a number of organisations. In addition, the airport continues to work with NATS, airlines and representatives of the local community to consider whether further improvements can be made.

Since the introduction of the airport's noise and track keeping system which enabled monitoring, track keeping has improved from around 85 per cent. to around 96 per cent. Given this high level of airline performance and the fact that some of the remaining 4 per cent. is due to instances where air traffic control have directed aircraft off the NPRs, at this stage it has not proved necessary to introduce a financial penalty system.

Ice Prince

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures her Department has taken to monitor the route of the floating timber lost from the Ice Prince; what system there is for warning shipping, sailors and swimmers of additional risk; what estimate she has made of the cost of removing the timber from beaches; which organisations are responsible for meeting the clear up costs; and if she will make a statement. [181569]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Following the sinking of the Ice Prince on 15 January, the wreck site and the floating timber was under daily surveillance by MCA aircraft, and vessels in the area were requested to report sightings to the Coastguard. Navigation warnings to shipping, detailing location and heading, were then broadcast by coastguard stations along the south coast and the French Préfet Maritime. Information was also being broadcast to shipping via the Dover channel navigation information system.

Media alerts were issued by the MCA in conjunction with local authorities and police to warn members of the public of the risk of engaging in any recreational activities close to the timber.

The owners/insurers of the Ice Prince have appointed a contractor to remove the timber from the shoreline and will bear the associated costs of the clear up.

Roads: Accidents

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents occurred in each county in the UK in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by the *(a)* day of the week and *(b)* time of day on which the accident occurred. [180960]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 22 January 2008]:* Tables showing the number of reported personal injury road accidents in each county in Great Britain for 2002 to 2006 by *(a)* day of the week and *(b)* time of day on which the accident occurred have been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

Trains: Standards

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 700W, on trains: standards, who undertook the study commissioned and funded by South West Trains; what the terms of reference of the study were; and if she will make a statement. [180226]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department did not commission the report. The hon. Member should direct his queries to:

Stagecoach South Western Trains Ltd.

Floor 6, Friars Bridge Court

41- 45 Blackfriars road

London

SE1 8N2

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many posters or displays there are in the offices of his Department and its agencies displaying the names and photographs of Ministers; and what the cost has been of producing such posters or displays in the last five years. [179848]

Mrs. McGuire: When photographs of Ministers are used by DWP internal communications, they have been for organograms. Two have been produced during this period—one in 2004 which included photographs of DWP's executive team and Ministers at a cost of £1,200 and another in 2007 which included DWP's executive team and Ministers at a cost of £700. Research conducted since then has indicated a staff preference for organisation charts to be available electronically and these are now being produced by DWP internal communications at no cost to the Department.

Disability Living Allowance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the take-up rate of disability living allowance was for *(a)* children under 16 and *(b)* children under 18 in full-time education, broken down by (i) region and (ii) ethnicity in the last period for which figures are available; [181275]

(2) what the take-up rate of attendance allowance was amongst *(a)* children under 16 and *(b)* children under 18 in full-time education, broken down by (i) region and (ii) ethnicity in the latest period for which figures are available; [181276]

(3) what the take-up rate of disability related benefits was amongst *(a)* children under 16 and *(b)* children under 18 in full-time education, broken down by (i) benefit, (ii) region and (iii) ethnicity in the last period for which figures are available. [181277]

Mrs. McGuire: Attendance allowance provides targeted help with the extra costs of disability for people who become disabled after the age of 65. For those under 65, disability living allowance can be claimed for help with extra costs. Estimates of the take-up rate of both these disability benefits are not available.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the merits of increasing the age limit for claiming disability living allowance in line with the increase in state pension age. [181806]

Mrs. McGuire: Disability living allowance (DLA) is available to people up to age 65 who make a claim for help with their care or mobility needs. There is no need to increase the age limit for claiming DLA to take account in the increase in the state pension age for women from 2010.

Provisions for increasing the age limits for DLA and attendance allowance (AA) from 2024 were included in the Pensions Act 2007. Raising the DLA/AA age limits at the same time as each of the increases in state pension age from 2024 is a logical step to ensure that all

working age disabled people who can claim help with their disability-related costs continue to have access to the extra help provided by DLA.

National Insurance: Travelling People

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people from the traveller community are registered with a national insurance number. [181007]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available, because we do not need to know whether people are from the traveller community in order to issue a National Insurance number.

Parliamentary Questions: Government Responses

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to reply to Question 171550, tabled on 29 November 2007 by the hon. Member for Cardiff Central for answer on 4 December; and if he will make a statement. [175558]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 7 January 2008]*: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 934W.

Pensions Forecasts

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of people that will receive pension forecasts from his Department in each year until 2050, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* ethnicity. [177958]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not available. Pension forecast volumes are correlated to customer demand, which makes it difficult to estimate future service usage.

We are also currently considering the role pension forecasts should play within the wider information and communication strategy that underpins and our pensions reforms.

We recognise that individuals will need access to relevant and accurate information when they are auto-enrolled, as they would in any other circumstances where they are making decisions about their retirement.

We are developing a strategy that ensures individuals are equipped with the necessary facts and understanding, so that they are able to make appropriate decisions about their retirement planning.

Pensions: Hampshire

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the take up rate for pension credit was in each constituency in *(a)* Hampshire, *(b)* Portsmouth and *(c)* Southampton in each of the last three years. [181057]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 22 January 2008]*: Estimates of eligibility and take-up are not available below the level of Great Britain. It is not therefore possible to say what the take-up rate for pension credit is in each constituency in Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton.

Latest estimates of take-up rates for pension credit in Great Britain were published in the "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2005/06" report. A copy of this report is available in the Library.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was recovered from those successfully prosecuted by the Fraud Investigation Service in each of the last five financial years. [180978]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the requested format.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on *(a)* the adequacy of and *(b)* changing the winter fuel allowance in light of increasing fuel prices; and if he will make a statement. [181491]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government keep all tax and welfare policies under review and any changes are considered as part of the normal Budget and Spending Review processes.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average percentage of pensioners' energy bills that will be met by the winter fuel allowance this year. [181492]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander) on 6 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1512W.

Winter Fuel Payments: North West Region

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* percentage of pensioner households eligible for the winter fuel allowance in (i) Cheadle Constituency, (ii) Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council and (iii) the North West. [181493]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not available. We can only assess eligibility for those people who are in contact with the Department and whose circumstances are known. The vast majority of winter fuel payments are made automatically without the need to claim, but those people whose circumstances we are not already aware of, for instance because they are not on state pension or other benefits administered by DWP, would need to make a claim so that their eligibility can be assessed.

The following table shows the number of winter fuel payments made to households in the Cheadle constituency, Stockport metropolitan borough council and the North West in winter 2006-07. Figures for winter 2007-08 are not yet available but we expect the numbers to be similar.

Household payments made

	Cheadle constituency	*Stockport metropolitan borough council*	*North West*
2006-07	14,960	44,480	1,027,700

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies, metropolitan borough councils and Government office regions are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.
3. The figures refer only to the main payment run so they do not include the late payment series figures. We estimate that there are approximately 100,000 people in Great Britain paid in late payment runs (0.8 per cent. of all payments). Since most of the payment runs are to people who are not receiving another benefit from DWP and whose claims had not been received by the qualifying week, most are men aged 60 to 64.

Source:
Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Crime

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many recorded rape offences in Northern Ireland, including attempted rape, led to convictions in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* gender of the victims. [180631]

Paul Goggins: The information is not available in the requested format. At present Northern Ireland court proceedings and sentencing data sources do not include victim information in relation to the commission of an offence.

Table 1 shows the number of recorded rape offences (including attempted rape) from 1998-99 by age group and gender of victim while table 2 outlines the number of prosecutions and convictions for rape offences (including attempted rape) for the calendar years 1996 to 2005 (the latest available years). Court data are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Recorded crime data cannot be routinely reconciled with prosecution and conviction data as the former relate to the number of offences whereas the latter relate to the number of offenders brought before the courts. In addition, recorded crime data denote each offence as it has been initially recorded and this may differ from the offence for which a suspect or suspects are subsequently proceeded against in the courts.

Government are committed to improving the rates of successful prosecution in rape cases. Specialist police units, staffed by highly skilled and trained personnel, are dedicated to enhancing the service to victims of rape and sexual assault and both PSNI and the Public Prosecution Service are seeking to develop models of best investigative practice so that more offences can achieve the threshold for prosecution.

The Northern Ireland Office and the Department of Health and Social and Personal Services have also jointly developed, and consulted on, a Draft Regional Strategy for addressing Sexual Violence in Northern Ireland which will address these issues through a robust action plan delivering on strategic objectives in three key areas—crime prevention, better victim support and improved protection and justice measures. The Strategy is to be published this spring.

Table 1: Recorded rape or attempted rape offences by age and gender of victim 1997-98 to 2006-07

	Age under 18	*Age 18-64*	*Age 65+*	*Age unknown*	*All ages*
1997-98					
Male	—	—	—	—	—
Female	118	149	0	4	271
Total	118	149	0	4	271
1998-99					
Male	—	—	—	—	—
Female	135	171	3	15	324
Total	135	171	3	15	324
1999-2000					
Male	—	—	—	—	—
Female	131	160	1	19	311
Total	131	160	1	19	311
2000-01					
Male	—	—	—	—	—
Female	95	125	1	11	232
Total	95	125	1	11	232
2001-02					
Male	—	—	—	—	—
Female	108	179	0	5	292
Total	108	179	0	5	292
2002-03					
Male	—	—	—	—	—
Female	164	192	0	1	357
Total	164	192	0	1	357
2003-04[1]					
Male	5	0	1	0	6
Female	165	222	2	0	389
Total	170	222	3	0	395
2004-05					
Male	9	7	0	1	17
Female	157	204	2	0	363
Total	166	211	2	1	380
2005-06					
Male	20	15	0	0	35
Female	134	218	3	1	356
Total	154	233	3	1	391
2006-07					
Male	27	20	0	0	47
Female	151	257	1	1	410
Total	178	277	1	1	457

[1] Prior to a change in legislation which took place during 2003/04, males could not be classed as victims of rape.

Source:
Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

Table 2: Number of prosecutions and convictions for rape or attempted rape 1996-2005

	Prosecutions	*Convictions*
1996	69	15
1997	61	21
1998	48	18
1999	36	8
2000	26	10
2001	34	17
2002	30	10
2003	31	10
2004	37	18
2005	30	8

Source:
NIO Statistics and Research Branch

Demonstrations

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the Parades Commission has met the organisers of the Gay Pride parade held in Belfast on 4 August 2007. [160864]

Paul Goggins: The organiser of the 2007 Belfast Pride parade has met with the Parade Commission's Authorised Officers to review the event. A follow-up meeting between the parade organiser and the full Parades Commission is scheduled for 30 January 2008 to discuss the matter further.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what products featuring departmental or Government branding were procured by his Department in each of the last five years. [179755]

Mr. Woodward: Products featuring departmental or Government branding which were procured by the Northern Ireland Office in the last five years are listed as follows:

Delegate Packs
Back drops
Pens
Pads
Coasters
Folders
Compliment Slips
Business Cards
Name Badges
Headed Paper and
Christmas Cards.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many posters or displays there are in the offices of his Department and its agencies displaying the names and photographs of Ministers; and what the cost has been of producing such posters or displays in the last five years. [179849]

Mr. Woodward: There are no such displays in my departmental buildings.

Police: Roman Catholicism

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what he expects the percentage of Roman Catholics in the police in Northern Ireland to be by March 2008. [178320]

Paul Goggins: I am advised that as of 15 January 2008, the forecasted figure for Catholic representation of regular officers in the Police Service of Northern Ireland at the end of March 2008 is 23.97 per cent. The current Catholic composition within PSNI regulars is 23.62 per cent.

We are committed to reaching our objective of 30 per cent. Catholic composition in the PSNI regulars by 2010-11.

Prisoners Release: Foreigners

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many convicted foreign national prisoners were released from prisons in Northern Ireland in the last year. [179903]

Paul Goggins: The total number of convicted foreign national prisoners released from prisons in Northern Ireland between 14 January 2007 and 14 January 2008 was 122.

The following breakdown shows the reason for release.

	Number
Released Time Served (Fine defaulter)	59
Released Time Served (Sentenced prisoner)	24
Discharged at Court (Time Served on Remand)	17
Discharged at Court (Non-custodial sentence)	15
Released fine paid (Fine defaulter)	7

The details of all these prisoners were bought to the attention of the Border and Immigration Agency in line with guidance agreed between the Northern Ireland Prison Service and the Border and Immigration Agency.

Prisoners: Costs

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average running cost is expected to be of providing a prisoner place in Northern Ireland in 2008. [178319]

Paul Goggins: The cost per prisoner place (CPPP) target for 2008-09 is £81,500. The projected outturn for the current year is around £82,000 which is down from the outturn £90,298 in 2006-07.

The Northern Ireland Prison Service has worked hard on implementing the various strands of the three-year efficiency package and this will contribute to yielding significant financial savings that will assist NIPS in meeting the current year and CSR07 CPPP targets.

The Northern Ireland Prison Service also has under way a significant capital build programme that will create additional cellular accommodation over the term of the CSR07 period thus enabling the service to continue delivering its downward CPPP trend.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Relations

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made by the Improvement and Development Agency on the establishment of a group of accredited peers from local government and the voluntary sector on preventing extremism. [181187]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 22 January 2008]:* By early February 2008, the Improvement and Development Agency will have accredited approximately 30 peers to

work with local authorities on the Preventing Violent Extremism agenda. The peers are a mix of local politicians and cabinet members with responsibility for preventing extremism; senior local government officers; and senior members from the voluntary sector. A schedule of pilot visits to local authorities is being planned for spring 2008.

Community Relations: Religion

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Wycombe of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1304W, on community relations: religion, where the three pilots already launched are taking place; and where the two pilots due to be launched in 2008 will take place. [181880]

Mr. Dhanda: The Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programme for faith leaders is currently being piloted in four areas: Bradford, Leicester, Tower Hamlets and Sheffield. The option of a fifth pilot site was explored, but we assessed that four sites were sufficient to pilot the programme.

Council Housing: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the proposed Office for Tenants and Social Landlords will *(a)* set targets for local authorities which have housing stock and *(b)* have power to inspect local authorities which have housing stock. [176195]

Yvette Cooper: I announced on 15 October 2007 that an independently chaired advisory panel will carry out further work with stakeholders in order that the Office for Tenants and Social Landlords should regulate local authorities' social housing management functions within two years of it commencing its' operations. Decisions on the nature of the regulatory framework will be made in due course upon consideration of the panel's recommendations.

Council Tax Benefits: Tax Rates and Bands

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households in England have a zero liability for council tax due to 100 per cent. council tax benefit. [180157]

Mr. Plaskitt: I have been asked to reply.

As at May 2004, the most recent available figure, 3,185,000 households received full council tax benefit.

Departmental ICT

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female members of staff working in her Department were issued with personal digital assistants in each year since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [181402]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fire Services: Floods

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what charges the Fire and Rescue Service may make for pumping water out of commercial premises which have flooded; and if she will make a statement. [180524]

John Healey *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* English Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) can charge for the provision of services other than fire-fighting services under Section 19 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. This includes the provision or removal of water.

It is a matter for the individual fire and rescue authority concerned to determine its policy on costs and charges for pumping out commercial premises.

Fire Services: Planning

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what advice has been given to fire and rescue authorities on pre-planning for major hazards and incidents since the Buncefield fire in December 2005. [180173]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* Fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) are required by the fire and rescue service national framework to have in place and maintain an integrated risk management plan (IRMP) which reflects local need and sets out plans to tackle effectively both existing and potential risks to communities. The IRMP enables the authority to tailor cover for fire and other incidents to local circumstances—evaluating where risk is greatest and allocating resource accordingly. It is a requirement that the IRMP is subject to a full consultation with the local community before it is agreed and published.

CLG has issued no specific guidance on planning for major hazards and incidents since December 2005.

Fire Services: Risk Assessment

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been given to fire and rescue authorities since the Buncefield fire in December 2005 on the exchange of information on risk assessments between fire and rescue authorities and other agencies. [180175]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* No advice has been issued. However, the draft fire and rescue service national framework, about which Communities and Local Government is currently consulting, would make it mandatory for each fire and rescue authority to:

have regard to the risk analyses completed by Local and Regional Resilience Forums, including those reported in external Community Risk Registers and internal risk registers

review the effectiveness of their cross-border integration arrangements with neighbouring authorities, and set these out appropriately in their integrated risk management programmes.

Furthermore, we intend to issue "good practice" guidance on the integrated risk management plan (IRMP), and the Civil Contingencies Act after the Major Incident Investigation Board has completed its work on the Buncefield fire, and the Government have produced a single consolidated response to its recommendations.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Community Nurses

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many family nurse partnership (FNP) programmes are in operation; how many family nurses there are; how many and what proportion of *(a)* families and *(b)* children (i) have been provided with information on and (ii) are accessing these programmes; where the programmes are located and what criteria were used to determine these locations; what plans there are to expand the FNP programme; what targets and indicators there are for the programme; what research and evaluation is being carried out into it; when the results of that research will be published; and if he will make a statement. [180987]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 23 January 2008]:* There are 10 Family Nurse Partnership Pilot sites in operation in England, which began operating from March 2007 and which will be running as Pilot sites until early 2010. Across the 10 sites there are a total of 57 family nurses, including supervisors. By 4 January 2008, 1,332 mothers had been provided with information by a family nurse about the Family Nurse Partnership programme. Of these, 1,143 (85 per cent.) took up the offer of enrolment.

The Pilot sites are Barnsley, Derby City, County Durham and Darlington, Manchester, Slough, Somerset, South East Essex, Southwark, Tower Hamlets and Walsall.

The criteria used to determine these locations as suitable for the Pilot Phase of the Family Nurse Partnership are at Annex A.

The targets and indicators for sites operating the Family Nurse Partnership in England are listed as "fidelity requirements" at Annex B.

Over the 2007 Spending Review period (2008-09 to 2010-11) we will be investing £30 million to:

conduct the final year of the small scale testing phase of the Family Nurse Partnership;

increase the number of sites testing and delivering the Family Nurse Partnership intervention in England by 20 sites in 2008-09 , with the decision about possible further expansion in subsequent years being informed by evaluation outcomes from operating the first 30 sites;

conduct a research trial into the impact of the Family Nurse Partnership in England; and

support integration of the Family Nurse Partnership into the universal Child Health Promotion Programme.

An interim evaluation report of the Pilot Project's first year will be published in the spring. The final evaluation report of the Pilot is expected to be available in spring 2009, although evaluation of the second year of the pilot has not yet been commissioned. It is also intended to commission a research study to evaluate the impact of the FNP in this country.

Annex A

Criteria to determine the 10 family nurse partnership pilot sites

Criteria 1: Strong partnership working and a high degree of NHS/LA service integration

Criteria 2: Community engagement

Criteria 3: Commitment to progressive universalism in health led child and family services

Criteria 4: Workforce capacity and capability

Criteria 5: Effective local leadership

Criteria 6: Demographic profile and capacity to identify at risk families

Criteria 7: IT capacity

Criteria 8: Record of successful innovation

Criteria 9: Project implementation plan that demonstrates the capacity and capability to successfully deliver the programme to the timetable outlined in the background information

Criteria 10: Resources

Annex B

Family-Nurse Partnership Fidelity Requirements

Objectives concerning fidelity to program model

Program is reaching the intended population of low-income, first-time mothers:

1. 75 per cent. of eligible referrals are enrolled in the program

2. 100 per cent. of enrolled women are first-time mothers (no previous live birth)

3. 60 per cent. of pregnant women are enrolled by 16 weeks gestation or earlier

Program attains overall enrolment goal and recommended caseload:

4. A caseload of 25 for all full-time nurses within 8-9 months of program operation

Program successfully retains participants in program through child's second birthday:

5. Cumulative program attrition is 40 per cent. or less through the child's second birthday

6. 10 per cent. or less for pregnancy phase

7. 20 per cent. or less for infancy phase

8. 10 per cent. or less for toddler phase

Nurse home visitors maintain established frequency, length, and content of visits with families:

9. Percentage of expected visits completed is 80 per cent. or greater for pregnancy phase

10. Percentage of expected visits completed is 65 per cent. or greater for infancy phase

11. Percentage of expected visits completed is 60 per cent. or greater for toddler phase

12. On average, length of home visits with participants is = 60 minutes

13. Content of home visits reflects variation in developmental needs of participants across program phases:

	Percentage
Average time devoted to content domains during Pregnancy	
Personal Health	35-40
Environmental Health	05-07
Life Course Development	10-15
Maternal Role	23-25
Family and Friends	10-15
Average time devoted to content domains during Infancy	
Personal Health	14-20
Environmental Health	07-10
Life Course Development	10-15
Maternal Role	45-50
Family and Friends	10-15

	Percentage
Average time devoted to content domains during Toddlerhood	
Personal Health	10-15
Environmental Health	07-10
Life Course Development	18-20
Maternal Role	40-45
Family and Friends	10-15

Education: Prisons

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government have taken to improve the quality of prison education since 2001. [176005]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The transfer of responsibility for offender learning from the Home Office in 2001, to the Department for Education and Skills, now the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, brought the offender learning agenda within mainstream learning and skills arrangements. This led to the introduction of heads of learning and skills, a new senior role within each prison responsible for co-ordinating delivery. Offender learning is inspected by Ofsted (and its predecessors) to the same standards as mainstream education, with published reports since 2002.

Between August 2005 and August 2006, the Learning and Skills Council completed the introduction of a new offender learning and skills service. This service is designed to integrate delivery both inside and outside prisons, as well as ensuring the quality is consistent with that available in the outside community.

The new delivery arrangements are governed by the policy framework set out in the 'Reducing Re-Offending Through Skills and Employment' Next Steps document, published jointly by the then Department for Education and Skills, the Home Office, and the Department for Work and Pensions in December 2006. Many of the further changes set out in the Next Steps document are now being piloted in our two test bed regions, the West Midlands and east of England.

Geronimo Communications

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 16 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1272W, on Geronimo Communications, what information his Department holds on any payments made by Geronimo Communications other than to departmental bank accounts; and if he will make a statement. [181123]

Kevin Brennan: DCSF has three departmental bank accounts, an HM Paymaster General bank account and two commercial bank accounts. All payments received by DCSF are credited to one of these three bank accounts. There are no records of any payments being received from Geronimo Communications and credited to any of these accounts.

Nursery Schools: Greater London

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many free nursery places have been provided in London in each of the last 10 years. [180604]

Beverley Hughes: Information about the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds in London is shown in the table.

Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1,2,3] filled by three and four-year-olds in London—position in January each year

	3-year-olds			*4-year-olds*		
	Maintained nursery and primary schools[4]	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*	*Total 3-year-olds*	*Maintained nursery and primary schools[4]*	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*	*Total 4-year-olds*
1998	42,300	n/a	42,300	n/a	n/a	[6]85,000
1999	44,900	n/a	44,900	n/a	n/a	[6]87,500
2000	46,500	[7]12,100	58,600	n/a	n/a	[6]87,000
2001	46,700	[7]20,800	67,500	n/a	n/a	[6]87,800
2002	46,900	[7]32,700	79,600	78,100	[8]13,500	89,600
2003	47,400	[7]29,400	76,800	75,000	[8]14,300	89,300
2004	46,700	[9]28,000	75,300	74,000	[10]14,000	88,000
2005	46,600	[9]30,100	76,700	73,600	[10]13,000	86,600
2006	47,700	[9]32,300	80,000	73,500	[10]13,400	86,800
2007	48,800	[9]34,800	83,600	74,200	[10]14,000	88,200

n/a = not available.
[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[3] Prior to 2002, information on early education places taken up by four-year-olds was derived from returns made by local authorities as part of the Nursery Education Grant (NEG) data collection exercise. These data do not differentiate between the maintained and private, voluntary and independent sectors.
[4] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Annual Schools' Census.
[5] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Annual Schools' Census.
[6] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.
[7] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.
[8] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census supplementary data collection exercise and the Annual Schools' Census.
[9] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the Annual Schools' Census.
[10] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the Annual Schools' Census.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 19/2007 "Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2007", available on my Department's website

www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/

Primary Education

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many year 1 pupils there were in schools in England in each of the last five years. [179310]

Jim Knight: The available information is provided in the table.

Nursery, primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2, 3]: Number (headcount) of pupils in national curriculum year group 1[4]: Position in January each year 2003 to 2007: England

	Nursery	Primary[1]	Secondary[1, 2]	Special[3]	Total[1, 2, 5]
2003[5]	0	580,620	40	3,640	584,300
2004	30	568,050	30	3,340	571,440
2005	10	563,970	160	2,960	567,100
2006	10	544,110	210	3,010	547,340
2007	10	533,200	270	2,830	536,320

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies.
[3] Includes maintained and non maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[4] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[5] Figure provided for secondary schools in 2003 excludes anomalous national curriculum year group data reported by one school.
Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Special Educational Needs: Greater Manchester

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on children with *(a)* special educational needs and *(b)* dyslexia in (i) Cheadle constituency and (ii) Stockport metropolitan borough council area in each of the last five years. [180073]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* The information requested is submitted to the Department according to local authority areas, rather than districts within an area. Cheadle is a district of Stockport Local authority. The information for Stockport LA about the amount spent on children with special educational needs is as follows:

Budgeted net expenditure on the provision of education for children with special educational needs by Stockport local authority: 2003-04 to 2007-08

	£
2003-04	14,181,000
2004-05	17,038,000
2005-06	20,558,000
2006-07	20,963,000
2007-08	20,941,000

The Department does not collect separate figures on how much was spent on children with dyslexia.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Archaeology

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has for the long-term future of the Portable Antiquities Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [180100]

Margaret Hodge: The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is funded by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) and so any decisions on its future funding will be taken by the MLA. In recognition of the importance of the scheme, I am very pleased to be able to confirm that the MLA has announced that it intends to maintain current levels of support for the PAS in 2008-09. The MLA will consider options for future funding of the PAS in the context of its priorities for museum collections and public participation.

The PAS is of national importance and the MLA is committed to seeing it thrive and evolve. The MLA will continue to work with the British Museum and other stakeholders to build on the scheme's success in advancing archaeological knowledge—for finders, museums and, most importantly, the wider public.

Arts: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in Library all correspondence between his Department and the East of England Development Agency on funding of arts projects in Peterborough in the last 12 months. [181132]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 22 January 2008]:* My Department has no record of any such correspondence.

Capita

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was paid by his Department to Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries in each financial year since 2000; which contracts were awarded by his Department to Capita Group plc in each year from 2000-01 to the most recent available date; what the cost was of each contract; what penalties for default were imposed in contract provisions; what the length was of each contract; whether the contract was advertised; how many companies applied for the contract; how many were short-listed; what criteria were used for choosing a company; what provision was made for renewal without re-tender in each case; and if he will make a statement. [180703]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information that is currently held is listed as follows. Some of the records are not available or are held centrally by other Government Departments.

Question:

How much was paid to Capita Group and its subsidiaries in each financial year since 2000?

Answer:

	£
2000-01	69,350
2001-02	95,139
2002-03	7,862
2003-04	9,854
2004-05	7,540
2005-06	102,855
2006-07	428,464
2007-08	470,913

Question:

Which contracts were awarded by DCMS to Capita since 2000-01?

Answer:

2001—Framework Agreement to support quinquennial reviews of non-departmental public bodies.

2007—Air Ticket Booking Service

Question:

What the cost was of each contract?

Answer:

Quinquennial Reviews—£49,000

Air Ticket service—£23,000 to date

Question:

What penalties for default were imposed in contract provisions?

Answer:

None.

Question:

What the length was of each contract?

Answer:

Quinquennial Reviews—five years

Air Ticket service—four years

Question:

Whether the contract was advertised?

Answer:

Quinquennial Reviews—Yes. *Official Journal* of European Union advert issued.

Air Ticket Service—Yes. *Official Journal* of European Union advert issued by OGC Buying Solutions.

Question:

How many companies applied for the contract?

Answer:

Quinquennial Reviews—24 companies applied.

Air Ticket service—three companies applied.

Question:

How many were short-listed?

Answer:

Quinquennial Reviews—10 companies short-listed.

Air Ticket service—three companies short-listed.

Question:

What criteria were used for choosing a company?

Answer:

Quinquennial Reviews—Knowledge and Experience, Relevant Skills, Quality Management, Theme Based Expertise, References.

Air Ticket service—Ability to provide the service to agreed standards, implementation plan of service, Quality Assurance Plans, Experience of personnel to be involved within contract, Evidence of existing customer satisfaction and service provision, Contingency planning.

Question:

What provision was made for renewal without re-tender in each case?

Answer:

None.

Departmental-Email

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will take steps to reduce the number of hard copies of e-mails printed by officials in his Department. [179473]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department is already taking steps to reduce the unnecessary printing of e-mails. My Department has introduced multifunctional printing devices which allow double-sided printing as default. Staff are encouraged as part of the environmental management system to conserve paper by reducing the amount of printing generally. My Department is also introducing an electronic content management system which means that e-mails will no longer need to be printed for the Department's formal record.

Departmental Property

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on leasing property in each of the last three years. [181094]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has spent the following on leasing property in the last three financial years.

			£
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
2-4 Cockspur Street	4,913,005.16	4,922,663.00	4,720,321.25
Grove House, Orange Street	596,312.52	596,312.52	596,312.52
Oceanic House, Cockspur Street	573,400.00	573,400.00	578,688.00
Queens Yard, Tottenham Court Road	497,667.61	552,250.00	552,250.00
Blandford Street	n/a	93,695.00	93,695.00
Total	6,580,385.20	6,738,320.50	6,541,275.70

n/a =Not applicable

Gambling: Licensing

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many *(a)* operating licences, *(b)* premises licences and *(c)* personal licences the Gambling Commission withdrew in each year since October 2005; [181052]

(2) how many applications for *(a)* operating, *(b)* premises and *(c)* personal licences the Gambling Commission received in each year since 2005; [181392]

(3) how many applications for *(a)* operating, *(b)* premises and *(c)* personal licences the Gambling Commission declined in each year since 2005. [181393]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The table shows the number of applications for operating and personal licences that were received by the Gambling Commission under the Gambling Act 2005 (the 2005 Act) and their equivalents under the previous legislation, the Gaming Act 1968 (the 1968 Act). It also shows numbers of applications which were withdrawn by applicants or declined by the Gambling Commission, and licences and certificates revoked by the Gambling Commission.

Information relating to the application for society lottery registrations under the Lotteries and Amusements Act 1976 is not included in the table.

The figures for the 1968 Act relate to each financial year listed and those for the 2005 Act to the calendar year of 2007. Applications for operating and personal licences under the 2005 Act could be received from January 2007, prior to the Act coming fully into force on 1 September 2007.

Figures for premises licences under the 2005 Act are not yet available. Licensing authorities are responsible for considering and issuing gambling premises licences under the 2005 Act. They are expected to send their first annual returns to the Gambling Commission by the end of January 2008.

Gaming Act 1968 Applications

	Applications received	*Withdrawn*	*Declined*	*Revoked*
April 2005-March 2006				
Casino:	—	5	0	0
New	67	—	—	—
Transfer/ substitute	3	—	—	—
Continuance	35	—	—	—
Bingo:	—	0	0	0
New	8	—	—	—
Transfer	10	—	—	—
Gaming Machine Suppliers	171	6	0	0
S. 19 Personal certificates	3,481	316	0	26
April 2006-March 2007				
Casino:	—	15	0	0
New	58	—	—	—
Transfer/ substitute	1	—	—	—
Continuance	24	—	—	—
Bingo:	—	2	0	0
New	10	—	—	—
Transfer	6	—	—	—
Gaming Machine Suppliers	79	6	0	0
S.19 Personal certificates	3,490	443	0	28
April-August 2007				
Casino:	—	5	0	0
New	0	—	—	—
Transfer/ substitute	2	—	—	—
Continuance	0	—	—	—
Bingo:	—	1	0	0
New	4	—	—	—
Transfer	3	—	—	—
Gaming Machine Suppliers	30	0	0	0
S.19 Personal certificates	1,009	105	0	8

Gambling Act 2005 Applications

	Applications received	*Withdrawn*	*Declined*	*Revoked*
Operators licences	2,866	104	15	13
Personal licences	3,644	293	2	0

National Lottery

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much National Lottery funding has been spent on *(a)* arts, *(b)* heritage, *(c)* community sport, *(d)* school sport and *(e)* capital funding for schools in each year since 1997. [181141]

James Purnell *[holding answer 22 January 2008]:* National Lottery expenditure for the good cause sectors specified is set out in the table, subject to the qualifications given. The figures are for the United Kingdom as a whole.

£ million (rounded)

	Arts: drawdown from the NLDF by the six arts/film distributors	Heritage: drawdown from the NLDF by the Heritage Lottery fund	Sport: drawdown from the NLDF by the five sports distributors	School sport: payments by New Opportunities Fund/Big Lottery Fund under the PE and Sport in Schools and School Sports co-ordinators programme	Other sport: payments by NOF/big Lottery fund under the community Sports Programmes, Space for Sport and the Arts and Football Foundation
1997-98	356	133	188	0	0
1998-99	366	196	397	0	0
1999-2000	259	277	317	0	0
2000-01	272	290	293	0	0
2001-02	275	262	359	11	0
2002-03	246	265	377	3	2
2003-04	295	324	315	21	11
2004-05	298	308	242	74	11
2005-06	275	374	264	211	39
2006-07	228	367	209	183	43

Political Impartiality

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the declared party political affiliations are of members of the boards of *(a)* the National Lottery distributors, *(b)* non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* agencies within the responsibilities of his Department. [181142][1]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In accordance with the Code of Practice of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments, board members are required to declare details of political activity and are asked to include the name of the political party they have been active for. Applicants are not required to provide details of party political membership or affiliation but may do so if they choose.

Of currently serving board members for DCMS bodies, 47 board members in total have made a political activity declaration. Of these, eight are from a lottery distributor; 39 from a non-departmental sponsored body and none from departmental agencies.

In terms of political activity this can be further broken down as follows: Of the eight lottery distributor board members who made a declaration: seven were active for the Labour party and one declared political activity independent of a political party. Of the 39 non-departmental sponsored body board members who made a declaration, 11 were active for the Conservative party, 23 for the Labour party, 3 for the Liberal Democrats and two declared politically independent activity.

Public Libraries: Closures

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many public libraries have closed in England in each of the last 10 years. [180386]

Margaret Hodge: This information is not held centrally. However, the Public Library Statistics, published annually by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), contain data establishing the total number of public library service points open for more than 10 hours per week. The House of Commons Library holds copies for the period in question.

1. *[Official Report, 7 February 2008; Vol. 471, c. 7MC.]*

Sports: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1006-07, on sports: finance, how much funding in each year was provided from *(a)* his departmental budget and *(b)* Lottery funding. [176815]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The figures in the table represent the actual spend (or 'outturn') on sport, from 1997-2000, as set out in the Department's published appropriation accounts, and for 2001-06 in the Department's resource accounts. Details of the 2007-08 allocation for sport as at the winter supplementary estimate can be found in central Government supply estimate 2007-08, winter supplementary estimates (HC29).

Departmental outturn

	£ million
1997-98	50.1
1998-99	49.4
1999-2000	51.6
2000-01	52.6
2001-02	63.9
2002-03	109.8
2003-04	78.9
2004-05	111.5
2005-06	117.5
2006-07	169.5
2007-08[1]	187.4

Lottery funding for England

	£ million
1997-98	153
1998-99	357
1999-2000	251
2000-01	232
2001-02	309
2002-03	313
2003-04	261
2004-05	232
2005-06	400
2006-07	296
2007-08[2]	227

[1] Plans figures as at winter supplementary estimate
[2] Projected income figure

Sports: Health Education

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Sport England have spent on providing information on sports and fitness facilities to the NHS Choices website. [181394]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 23 January 2008]*: Neither DCMS nor Sport England has spent any funds on providing information on sports and fitness facilities to the NHS Choices website beyond the staff time incurred to do so. The data are provided from the Active Places dataset.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how often Sport England are required to provide updated information on sports and fitness facilities for inclusion on the NHS Choices website. [181395]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 23 January 2008]*: Sport England provides updated information on sports and fitness facilities for inclusion on the NHS Choices website upon request, otherwise every six weeks.

Sports: Schools

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what the expected annual salary is of a competition manager in school sport partnerships; [179062]

(2) how much has been spent on training competition managers in each year since 1997. [179063]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The National School Sport Strategy was launched in 2002. Initial funding focused on the school sport partnership infrastructure of partnership development managers, school sport coordinators and primary link teachers. Funding for competition managers began in 2005.

Grants, based on the number of competition managers and senior competition managers allocated to county areas, are passed to the host organisation, for example a school sport partnership.

The current grants envisage a salary of up to £30,000 for competition managers and £40,000 for senior competition managers, as well as up to £1,000 for professional development. However, it is for the host organisation to decide upon the precise salary, and training allocation. The Department does not hold this information centrally.

As part of their work, the Youth Sport Trust is also funded to provide central support and resources for the development of competition managers.

There are currently 90 competition managers in post comprising 67 competition managers and 23 senior competition managers.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Admiralty House

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster for how many months each vacant ministerial residence in Admiralty House has been unoccupied; and if he will consider renting out such properties to individuals other than Ministers. [176506]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1080W. The Admiralty House flats are an integral part of the Cabinet Office estate. A change in their use would therefore not be appropriate.

Christmas

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much his Department and its agencies have spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in each of the last five years. [171433]

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how much his Department spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* postage of Christmas cards in 2007; [176906]

(2) how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Minister for the Olympics spent on (i) Christmas cards and (ii) postage of Christmas cards in 2007. [176913]

Gillian Merron: For information on Christmas cards sent in 2003 and 2004, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Haltemprice and Howden (David Davis) by my right hon. Friend the Member for South Shields (David Miliband) on 10 January 2005, *Official Report*, column 82W. In 2005, the Department spent £2,816 on Christmas cards, 40 per cent. of which was donated to charity. For 2006 and 2007, the Cabinet Office has used an on-line e-card at no additional cost to the Department. The cost of any Christmas cards sent by the Department is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

No departmental funds have been used for staff Christmas parties.

Christmas trees are situated at certain points on the Cabinet Office Estate, which includes 10 Downing street, such as in the reception of the main buildings and at the front door of 10 Downing street. The following costs include the purchase, decoration and environmentally friendly disposal of the trees. The cost in each of the last five years was £13,294 (2006), £12,968 (2005), £13,159 (2004), £8,399 (2003) and approximately £5,151 (2002).

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers are employed in each salary band in his Office; [180473]

(2) how many appointments of *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in each salary band have been made to his Office in each month since 27 June 2007. [180472]

Gillian Merron: As of 1 April 2007, the number of full-time equivalent civil servants by salary band in the Cabinet Office is as follows:

Band	Total
SCS	223.56
A	350.64
B2	383.23
B1	296.41
C	224.13
Ungraded	1.2
Total	1,479.17

Between 1 April and 30 December, the size of the Department has reduced from 1,479 to 1,340.

On numbers of appointments, the Department generally has a high level of turnover compared to other Government Departments, because there are significant numbers of staff on fixed term appointments, on loan from other Government Departments or on secondment from external organisations, bringing in people with relevant skills/expertise to work on current priorities. There were 476 appointments in 2006-07.

The number of full-time equivalent civil servants in each band, appointed to the Cabinet Office each month since 27 June 2007 is as follows:

	Start month							
Band	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
SCS	4	4.83	1	1	4	3.59	0	18.42
A	3	9.58	9	5.78	13	7	5	52.36
B2	1	9	5	11	6	6	2	40
B1	1	12	3	5	6	4	4.83	35.83
C	0	3	1	4	8	10	3	29
Total	9	38.41	19	26.78	37	30.59	14.83	175.61

Since 2003, the Government have published details on special adviser names, numbers and costs in an annual written ministerial statement. For the most recent information I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, 147-50WS.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his role is with regard to *(a)* the operation of the political office at 10 Downing street, *(b)* the development of Government policy, *(c)* responding to day-to-day events and *(d)* forward-planning of Government announcements; whether that role has changed in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [181232]

Edward Miliband: My ministerial responsibilities are set out in the List of Ministerial Responsibilities which is available in the Libraries of the House and on the Cabinet Office website at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ministerial_responsibilities.aspx.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment the Cabinet Office has made of whether *(a)* the Prime Minister's Office and *(b)* the Cabinet Office have met the Departmental Strategic Objective of ensuring the highest standards of propriety and integrity in public life. [181309]

Edward Miliband: The Government are committed to upholding the highest standards of propriety and integrity in public life as set out in the Ministerial Code, the Civil Service Code, the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers and the seven principles of public life. Maintenance of these standards is scrutinised by Parliament including the Public Administration Select Committee and other bodies including the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

Electronic Mail

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance he has issued to his Department's *(a)* staff and *(b)* special advisers on the use of non-government e-mail accounts for official purposes. [174812]

Gillian Merron: The Cabinet Office has a protective security policy, in which the controls and procedures apply to all staff, including special advisers.

Government Departments: Correspondence

Mr. Horam: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidelines he has provided to Government Departments on responding to letters and e-mails from members of the public on *(a)* acknowledging receipt of the correspondence and *(b)* the time allowed for a substantive answer to be sent. [181137]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1081W.

PRIME MINISTER

10 Downing Street: Smith Institute

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister on how many occasions since 27 June 2007 *(a)* the Smith Institute and *(b)* SI Events Ltd have used facilities at No. 10 Downing street. [180242]

The Prime Minister: Information on official and charity receptions held at Downing street will be published in the usual way following the end of the financial year.

Christmas

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Prime Minister how much his Office has spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in each of the last five years. [171428]

The Prime Minister: In 2006 my predecessor (the right hon. Tony Blair) sent approximately 1,700 official Christmas cards at a cost of £460. For previous years I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by my predecessor on 19 December 2002, *Official Report*, column 936W; 20 December 2004, *Official Report*, columns 1350-1W and 30 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 63W.

For parties and decorations I refer to the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron) today.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister how many staff are employed by his Office. [181282]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling) and the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 819W.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1076W, on Departments: ministerial policy advisers, whether Mr Bob Shrum provides him with potential consultancy, speech-writing or related advice, in relation to his official duties. [181226]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Edward Miliband) on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1076W.

Manpower: Prime Minister's Office

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 625W, on manpower: Prime Minister's Office, how many staff hours were spent on average on speechwriting in his Office in each week of the last month. [179643]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 615W.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Binley: To ask the Prime Minister what the terms and conditions of Mr Stephen Carter's employment as Chief of Strategy and principal adviser are; and what rules apply to the retention of interests in outside bodies by special advisers. [180560]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the press notice issued by my Office on 7 January 2007, copies are available on the No. 10 website at:

http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page14174.asp

A copy of this webpage has been placed in the Library of the House.

Special advisers are appointed under the terms and conditions set out in the Model Contract and Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

Ministers: Official Gifts

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Prime Minister when the rules governing gifts received by Ministers and registered as part of the Donated Asset Reserve were last updated. [180122]

The Prime Minister: The arrangements for the handling of gifts are set out in chapter 7 of the Ministerial Code which was issued in July 2007.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Prime Minister how much depreciation has taken place of items held in the Donated Asset Reserve over the last 12 months. [180314]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my predecessor (the right hon. Tony Blair) on 4 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 151W.

Official Visits

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Prime Minister on how many occasions he has visited (*a*) Wales, (*b*) Scotland, (*c*) Liverpool and (*d*) London since his appointment. [180981]

The Prime Minister: A list of my UK visits will be published in the usual way following the end of the financial year.

Pay

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Prime Minister what the Prime Minister's salary was in each of the last 10 years. [181900]

The Prime Minister: This is a matter of public record and is available in the Libraries of the House.

Prime Minister: India

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Prime Minister what discussions he held during his recent visit to India on discrimination by caste and descent in that country. [181567]

The Prime Minister: During my visit, I announced a new UK three-year development programme of £825 million. This will support the health and education sectors, with a particular focus on bringing education to a greater proportion of Indians, regardless of caste. In addition, I took part in an event on women's empowerment where I discussed among other issues the impact of caste and discrimination in Indian society.

Special Advisers

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Prime Minister what obligations there are on special advisers to (*a*) divest and (*b*) declare financial interests held prior to appointment; and if he will make a statement. [181517]

The Prime Minister: Special advisers are appointed under the terms and conditions set out in the Model Contract and Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Education: Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many trained union learning representatives there were in each year for which figures are available. [178940]

Mr. Lammy: Union learning representatives (ULRs) are lay union representatives, whose main function is to advise union members about their training, educational and development needs. Since the launch of the Union Learning Fund (ULF) in 1998, and the introduction of statutory rights for ULRs to train and carry out their duties in 2003, more than 18,000 have been trained helping more than 400,000 people into learning.

Both employers and workers stand to benefit from ULRs. They are an inexpensive source of expert advice for employers. They are particularly effective in reaching workers with basic skills needs—people who may be reluctant to take advantage of training opportunities. In that sense, ULRs help to stimulate a demand for learning and training among a group which employers find it hard to reach.

Rounded figures for trained ULRs since April 1999 are as follows:

As at April each year	*Number*
1999	700
2000	1,600
2001	3,000
2002	4,700
2003	6,700
2004	10,300
2005	14,000
2006	16,000
2007	18,000

Overseas Students: Finance

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills further to his letter of 7 September 2007 to the Chairman of the Higher Education Funding Council for England, whether a UK resident or citizen with a qualification from an overseas institution deemed to be equivalent to or lower than a qualification which they wish to study will qualify for public funding for higher education courses in English institutions where they have not previously accessed public funding for higher education within the UK. [177292]

Bill Rammell: Subject to exceptions for particular categories of students and subjects on which HEFCE has been consulting, such citizens who wished to study for a qualification equivalent to or lower than the one already obtained from an overseas' institution would not qualify for the purposes of institutional public funding. Our clear priority is to widen participation and increase the incentives for higher education providers to attract and retain more of the millions of people without a first higher education qualification, wherever that qualification was obtained.

Union Learning Fund

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 754-55W, on Union Learning Fund, by what means trained union learning representatives help workers back into learning under the Union Learning Fund. [178341]

Mr. Lammy: Union learning representatives (ULRs) are lay union representatives; whose main function is to advise union members about their training, educational and development needs. Since the launch of the Union Learning Fund (ULF) in 1998, and the introduction of statutory rights for ULRs to train and carry out their duties in 2003, more than 18,000 ULRs have been trained. Latest figures show that last year they helped over 150,000 workers into learning through a wide variety of ULF projects.

ULRs are trained to an approved standard by Unionlearn, the TUC's learning organisation, or their own union to carry out their role in engaging, supporting and helping workers back into learning. This training provides the ULRs with a wide range of skills to help fellow workers back into learning including:

starting conversations at work about the importance of learning and showing that everyone can benefit from improving their skills;

carrying out informal group and one to one interviews in the workplace to find out the learning needs of workers, how these can best be addressed, including where and when;

carrying out Skills for Life screening to identify any literacy or numeracy needs in a relaxed non threatening way to allay any fears individuals may have;

working closely with training providers to customise the content of learning programmes and arranging how and when the learning can be delivered on a flexible basis to enable the widest participation;

supporting learners who may have missed a few sessions of learning and encouraging them to continue by helping to address any needs which may have arisen;

working with employers to set up a learning centre in the workplace.

These are just some of the ways in which ULRs can help workers into learning, but perhaps most important is their ability to engage with those hard to reach learners who might otherwise be too embarrassed to admit their learning needs to an employer or supervisor but who trust a fellow worker who understands their point of view. In that sense, ULRs help to stimulate a demand for learning and training among a group which employers and training providers find it so difficult to reach.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many education or training places were funded through the Union Learning Fund in each year since 1998; and how many of these led to qualifications at level (*a*) 2 and (*b*) 3. [178575]

Mr. Lammy: The Union Learning Fund (ULF) is a source of funding to help trade unions boost their capacity as learning organisations and use their influence with employers, employees and learning providers to encourage greater take up of learning in the workplace. It is not used to fund the provision of training courses but enables trade unions and their union learning

representatives to provide advice, guidance and support in order to help workers access learning opportunities to improve their skill levels.

With the help of ULF, trade unions and their union learning representatives have been really successful in working with employers to help people get back into learning, tackling both organisational and individual skill needs. There are now over 18,000 trained union learning representatives who have helped over 400,000 workers back into learning since the fund was introduced in 1998 there were over 150,000 last year alone, many of whom were Skills for Life learners, those most in need of new skills who employers and training providers find it so difficult to reach.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the 10 most expensive projects funded under the Union Learning Fund were in each year since 1998; and how much each cost. [178582]

Mr. Lammy: Trade unions have a key role to play in promoting the development of learning and skills in the workplace. To help them do this more effectively we introduced the Union Learning Fund (ULF) in 1998. This source of funding is helping trade unions use their influence with employers, employees and training providers to encourage greater take up of learning at work and boost their own capacity as learning organisations. The 10 projects that were awarded the most funding through the ULF in each financial year since 1998 are set out in the following tables identified by the lead union.

Project/union	£
1998-99	
GMB	148,349
AEEU	139,500
USDAW	113,550
GPMU	97,000
MSF	80,135
UNIFI	56,400
MU	50,000
NUJ	50,000
T&G	50,000
UCATT	50,000
1999-2000	
GMB	188,210
AEEU	116,065
MSF	162,144
GPMU	158,009
T&G	155,680
Unison	137,325
ISTC	100,733
USDAW	94,450
CWU	87,950
PCS	84,500
2000-01	
Unison	560,894
GPMU	345,535
MSF	343,720
GMB	343,217
AEEU	246,350
T&G	201,236
NUJ	176,800
UCATT	167,000
CATU	118,808
NUT	117,750
2001-02	
GMB	1,079,568
Unison	831,704
NUT	534,871
T&G	421,540
GPMU	341,804
USDAW	234,892
AEEU	222,450
CWU	210,300
BFAWU	182,206
MSF	161,981
2002-03	
AEEU	1,325,481
Unison	1,198,095
GPMU	889,889
GMB	850,049
CWU	848,000
MSF	835,361
T&G	426,128
BFAWU	354,745
NUJ	349,700
ASLEF	280,000
2003-04	
USDAW	1,263,981
NASUWT	1,234,029
UNIFI	1,173,347
T&G	891,133
GMB	794,766
POA	691,913
NUT	611,350
GFTU	521,000
PCS	463,081
MSF	427,428
2004-05	
GPMU	1,781,950
Rail unions	1,514,600
Amicus	1,478,900
FBU	1,144,000
BFAWU	850,725
Unison	801,600
T&G	588,933
PCS	570,216
UCATT	565,766
GMB	342,522
2005-06	
T&G	2,319,299
GMB	1,933,208
UCATT	510,436
Community	380,658
GFTU	249,445
ATL	221,649
PCS	215,000
MU	196,685

Project (Amicus)	£
BELTU	194,559
USDAW	152,000
2006-07	
Amicus	3,414,517
Unison	2,212,528
Rail unions	1,971,951
PCS	1,366,020
FBU	1,248,168
BFAWU	1,190,233
USDAW	1,166,231
CWU	1,138,438
GMB	931,835
POA	883,360

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was paid under the Union Learning Fund to *(a)* ASLEF, *(b)* BECTU, *(c)* BFAWU, *(d)* Community, *(e)* CWU, *(f)* GMB, *(g)* MU, *(h)* NACODS, *(i)* NUM, *(j)* TSSA, *(k)* UCATT, *(l)* UNISON, *(m)* UNITE, *(n)* UNITY and *(o)* USDAW in each year since 1998. [178577]

Mr. Lammy: Trade unions have a key role to play in promoting the development of learning and skills in the workplace. To help them do this more effectively, we introduced the Union Learning Fund (ULF) in 1998. This funding is helping trade unions use their influence with employees, employers and training providers to encourage greater take-up of learning at work and boost their own capacity as learning organisations. The table sets out how much ULF funding has been awarded to the specific unions in each financial year from 1998/99 up to 2006/07.

Union	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	£ 2006/07
ASLEF		50,000	93,250	88,200	280,000	126,000			
BECTU	44,000	40,000	59,000	50,934	146,254	57,600	43,200	194,559	
BFAWU	34,000	65,946	49,562	182,206	354,745	359,168	850,725		1,190,233
COMMUNITY								380,658	
CWU		87,950	50,000	210,300	848,000	100,000			1,138,438
GMB	148,349	188,210	343,217	1,079,568	850,049	794,766	342,522	1,933,208	931,835
MU	50,000	50,000	38,365				38,300	196,685	
NACODS									
NUM									
TSSA						75,000			
UCATT	50,000	52,000	167,000	50,000	240,599	40,797	566,766	510,436	
UNISON		137,325	560,894	831,704	1,198,095	33,240	801,600	130,000	2,212,528
UNITY/CATU		43,482	118,808	70,070	101,000				
AMICUS,							1,478,900		3,414,517
AEEU	139,500	166,065	246,350	222,450	1,325,581	67,639			
MSF	80,135	162,144	343,720	161,981	835,361	427,428			
GPMU	97,000	158,009	345,535	341,804	889,889	240,133	1,781,950		
UNIFI	56,400	19,000	68,260	82,800		1,173,347			
T and G	50,000	155,680	201,236	421,540	426,128	891,133	588,933	2,319,299	863,600

The recently formed trade union UNITE has not yet received any ULF funding so details have been included of the funding awarded to those unions which have merged to form UNITE—AMICUS, T and G, GPMU, AEEU, MSF and UNIFI.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Complaints

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what procedures his Department has in place to assess the performance of designated representative bodies under the Enterprise Act 2002. [181202]

Mr. Thomas: In order to become a designated super-complainant, bodies must meet a number of stringent criteria. Designations are reviewed every two years to ensure continued compliance. There are also procedures in place for withdrawal of designation if a body no longer meets the criteria or if they are believed to be abusing the super-complaints process (e.g. for competitive advantage or commercial gain). Any super-complainant must also comply with the Office of Fair Trading's 'Guidance for designated consumer bodies'.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what best practice guidance his Department has issued to representative bodies designated under the Enterprise Act 2002 on communication with consumers who have sought advice on obtaining redress under the Act. [181203]

Mr. Thomas: In the case of super-complaints, the Secretary of State has responsibility for the designation of super-complaints bodies. Best practice guidance on the making of super-complaints is the responsibility of the Office of Fair Trading.

In the case of consumer group claims, the Secretary of State is responsible for the designation of specified bodies. Guidance on bringing consumer group claims is the responsibility of the Competition Appeal Tribunal.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what items of his Department's *(a)* revenue and *(b)* expenditure are uprated using (i) the consumer prices index, (ii) the retail prices index and (iii) other measures of inflation. [179941]

Mr. Thomas: Where relevant, contracts which BERR has entered into will contain a clause to adjust expenditure and revenue in accordance with inflation. Revenue derived from charges or fees will follow appropriate guidance, and is subject to an inflator where this is recommended by the fees and charges guide.

Statutory redundancy payments and guaranteed insolvency payments for employees' (paid from the National Insurance Fund), employment tribunal compensatory awards, payments to British Energy relating to contractual historic spent fuel liabilities, and payments in respect of Coal Health provisions are uprated using RPI. Concessionary Fuel payments are uprated using other measures of inflation.

Departmental Consultants

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what consultancy contracts his Department issued in each year since 2005; what the *(a)* value, *(b)* purpose and *(c)* contractor was in each case; and whether the consultant's report is publicly available in each case. [181891]

Mr. Thomas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) published on 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 203W.

Departmental ICT

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female members of staff working in his Department were issued with personal digital assistants in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [181401]

Mr. Thomas: The Department does not keep historic records of the number of personal digital assistants (PDA's) that were issued to staff or any information on the gender of the user as PDA's are issued solely on the basis of business need.

Between 2001 and 2006 there were approximately 400 PDAs in use. These were mainly palm devices although a few HP and Compaq PDAs were purchased. The total has reduced as the number of staff in the Department has decreased. At the beginning of 2007 a Blackberry service was implemented. By January 2008 there were 361 PDAs issued to staff. An analysis of this number shows that 235 of these have been issued to male and 126 to female members of staff.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many posters or displays there are in the offices of his Department and its agencies displaying the names and photographs of Ministers; and what the cost has been of producing such posters or displays in the last five years. [179838]

Mr. Thomas: We have one display board in the reception area of BERR's headquarters at 1 Victoria street, London, bearing the names and photographs of its Ministers, the Permanent Secretary and his team. We cannot identify the specific cost of producing this board, as it was produced as part of a wider re-branding exercise. We have produced around 320 A3 colour posters showing the ministerial team in the current year. These have been produced in-house at negligible cost. It is not possible to provide costs for display boards or posters for previous years without incurring disproportionate costs.

The Insolvency Service has no pictures or displays featuring Ministers in any of their buildings.

Companies House and UK Trade and Investment have no records of producing posters or displays for their offices with the names and photographs of Ministers in the last five years.

Departmental Special Advisers

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what he expects the estimated annual cost to be of *(a)* expenses, *(b)* salary, *(c)* office space, *(d)* administrative support and *(e)* special advisers for Lord Jones of Birmingham in his capacity as Minister of State. [163488]

Mr. Hutton: Lord Jones is Minister of State for Trade and Investment jointly with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and draws the ministerial salary appropriate to a Lords Minister of State.

There are three full-time equivalent staff directly employed to support Lord Jones. Two members of the administrative support staff are paid for by BERR, the other is paid for by the FCO. Information on the cost of Lord Jones' support staff cannot be provided as to do so could identify an individual's salary, which is confidential between the individual and the employer.

Office costs will be accounted for in the 2007-08 departmental annual report and accounts.

Lord Jones has no special advisers.

Employment: Discrimination

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many cases of age discrimination have been brought before the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service and found in favour of the employee in cases where discrimination took place against an employee for being too *(a)* young and *(b)* old in each of the last 10 years. [177967]

Mr. McFadden: Complaints of alleged age discrimination under the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006, which came into operation on 1 October 2006, are made to the Employment Tribunal Service, not ACAS. Such complaints are then usually passed to ACAS for conciliation.

In the period 1 October 2006-31 December 2007, ACAS received 2,750 cases for conciliation in which a complaint of age discrimination was one of the matters, or the sole matter, complained of. Without a detailed examination of the grounds of each claim, it is not possible to say what proportion of these claims alleged the claimant had been discriminated against on the basis of their being too young or too old, or were related to some other matter.

Over the same period, excluding those claims which were struck out, ACAS operational records indicate that a resolution was brokered in 90 per cent. of cleared cases in which one of the matters, or the sole matter, complained of was age discrimination. Where cases are not resolved in conciliation, they are subsequently heard by the Tribunal Service.

First Solution Money Transfer: Insolvency

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the insolvency service investigation into First Solution Money Transfer Limited has concluded. [181914]

Mr. McFadden: On 6 July 2007 companies investigation branch ('CIB') (which is part of the Insolvency Service), appointed investigators following the sudden closure and apparent collapse of First Solution Money Transfer Ltd. A number of clients reported having lost money that was sent through this company destined for dependant family overseas.

On 2 August 2007 CIB petitioned the court to wind up the company and appoint the official receiver as provisional liquidator to protect and preserve the assets. On 21 November 2007 a winding up order was made and the official receiver was appointed liquidator of the company. As a result of a meeting of creditors held on 19 December 2007 an external liquidator from Tenon Recovery was appointed and that firm will now deal with the realisation of assets and distributions to creditors. The official receiver has a further statutory role, to investigate the causes of the company's failure, and to report to the Secretary of State regarding the conduct of the directors in respect of the company's trading, under the terms of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986. Furthermore, the official receiver is under a duty to report any evidence of criminality to an appropriate prosecuting body.

Meanwhile the CIB appointed investigators are continuing their work and CIB are hopeful of receiving the investigators' final report in the near future and decisions can then be made on further action. It would be inappropriate to issue progress reports in the meantime. CIB's investigation under the Companies Act benefits from the use of compulsory powers, but the Act only permits disclosure of the investigators' report through a statutory gateway. In particular there is no provision which allows publication of the report.

Multinational Companies

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff in his Department are working to promote the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's guidelines for multinational enterprises; and if he will make a statement. [181740]

Mr. Thomas: The UK's National Contact Point (NCR) for the OECD Guidelines is currently managed by officials from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR), the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. BERR dedicate one full-time official to working on the NCP and are in the process of recruiting a second, while the Foreign Office and DFID both currently contribute 20 per cent. of one official's time.

Natural Gas: Distribution

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how many households in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority do not have access to mains gas; and if he will make a statement; [181069]

(2) what percentage of homes are within 100 yards of a mains gas supply, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority. [181070]

Malcolm Wicks: As part of its regional and local energy statistics publication programme, BERR has published the number of domestic gas meter points in each local authority in Great Britain. A document listing the estimates comparing the number of domestic meter points with the estimates of the number of households in each region and local authority for 2004 (the latest year for which both sets of data are complete) has been placed in the Libraries of the House. Corresponding data are not available for Northern Ireland.

The Government do not hold information about the proximity of homes to gas mains.

Overseas Trade: Far East

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what conclusions have been reached on the scope for raising the UK's trade profile in *(a)* Malaysia, *(b)* Qatar, *(c)* Singapore, *(d)* South Korea, *(e)* Thailand and *(f)* Vietnam, as set out in the July 2006 five year strategy on prosperity in a changing world; and if he will make a statement. [180815]

Mr. Thomas: As outlined in UK Trade and Investment's (UKTI) five year strategy, "Prosperity in a Changing World", we have deployed our overseas network resource to achieve a step change in the UK's profile in emerging markets. To date, the following additional resources (UK-based civil servants and local engaged (LE) officers) have already been deployed or are planned for the following countries in question:

Market	*New resource deployed*	*New resource planned*
Malaysia	One UK-based	—
Qatar	One UK-based and two LE	—
Singapore	One UK-based	—
South Korea	—	—
Thailand	One UK-based	—
Vietnam	One UK-based	One LE

Post Office: Finance

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the budget was for the running of Post Office Ltd. in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2005; and what it is expected to be in 2008. [181279]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the right hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions were held with the Post Office on the timing of the issue of recommendations on post office closures prior to the announcement of dates by the Post Office; on what date he was made aware by the Post Office of the proposed dates for publication of proposals for post office closures under the various area plans; and on what date he first discussed the question of purdah with the Post Office. [175662]

Mr. McFadden: Following publication in May 2007 of the Government's response to the public consultation on the Post Office network, my officials have engaged in regular discussions with Post Office Ltd. on the timetable for post office closures, including purdah.

Supercomplainer Procedures

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on how many occasions each of the designated representative bodies under the Enterprise Act 2002 have used the supercomplainer procedures. [181200]

Mr. Thomas: *Which?* has made five super-complaints to the Office of Fair Trading—private dentistry, care homes, Northern Ireland banking, credit card interest calculation methods, and the Scottish Legal Profession. Citizens Advice has made two—doorstep selling and payment protection insurance. Postwatch has made one super-complaint, on mail consolidation and the National Consumer Council has made one, on home collected credit. Energywatch has made one complaint—on billing processes—to Ofgem in its (Ofgem's) capacity as a concurrent regulator.

Telephone Services

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which of his Department's *(a)* agencies and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies collect and monitor information relating to telephone contact centres. [175725]

Mr. Thomas: The Department's central records do not contain the information to answer this question. Therefore, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform could answer this question only at disproportionate cost.

Trade Unions: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Certification Officer have produced on whether the fixed costs of (a) photocopiers and (b) other equipment may be fully charged to the general fund of a trade union in circumstances where that equipment is used for political purposes. [181283]

Mr. McFadden: Neither the Department nor the Certification Officer has produced guidance on this issue.

UK Trade and Investment

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many significant interventions UK Trade and Investment are expected to make in 2008. [180262]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment's 2007 comprehensive spending review settlement set high level targets for UKTI. These include annual targets for high value foreign direct investment successes; helping businesses to exploit overseas business opportunities; and increasing the quantity of R and D in the UK through business internationalisation. The targets are set out in full in UKTI's 2007 autumn performance report (Cm 7284, December 2007). Business plans are being put in place to deliver these targets.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what changes have been made to the overseas network of UK Trade and Industry to deliver the increase in the UK profile in *(a)* China, *(b)* India, *(c)* Brazil, *(d)* Indonesia, *(e)* Mexico, *(f)* Russia, *(g)* Saudi Arabia, *(h)* South Africa, *(i)* Turkey and *(j)* the United Arab Emirates as set out in the July 2005 five year strategy on prosperity in a changing world; and if he will make a statement; [180817]

(2) in which countries in UK Trade and Industry's overseas network staff reallocations took place in the financial years *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 to date; what further reallocations are planned in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09; and if he will list these changes. [180813]

Mr. Thomas: As part of UK Trade and Investment's (UKTI) Strategy, "Prosperity in a Changing World", £5.6 million of resources has been redeployed to help achieve a step change in the UK's profile in emerging markets. As a direct result of this exercise, UKTI staff resources (full-time equivalents (FTEs) of UK based civil servants and locally employed staff (local)) have now been reinforced in the following markets, which include China, India, Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey and the UAE:

2006-07 market	*FTE UK-based*	*FTE local*
Brazil	3	—
China	2	2
Hong Kong	—	1

2006-07 market	FTE UK-based	FTE local
India	2	—
Malaysia	1	—
Mexico	—	—
Qatar	1	2
Russia	—	1
Saudi Arabia	—	1
South Africa	1	—
Total	10	7

2007-08 market	FTE UK-based	FTE LE
Brazil	3	1
China	7	5
Hong Kong	1	3
India	6	2
Indonesia	—	1
Malaysia	—	—
Mexico	2	3
Russia	1	8
Saudi Arabia	—	1
Singapore	1	—
South Africa	1	—
Taiwan	—	4
Thailand	1	0
Turkey	1	5
Vietnam	1	0
Total	25	33

2007-08 market	FTE UK-based	Planned LE
China	2	—
Dubai	1	—
India	—	7
Saudi Arabia	1	1
Vietnam	—	1
Total	4	9

2008-09 market	FTE UK-based	Planned LE
China	—	—
Dubai	—	—
Russia	2	—
Turkey	1	—
Vietnam	—	—
Total	3	0

UK Trade and Investment: Arms Trade

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what effect the transfer of responsibility for defence trade promotion from the Defence Export Services Organisation to UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) will have on the number of *(a)* UK and *(b)* overseas staff employed by UKTI; and if he will make a statement. [180807]

Mr. Thomas: UKTI is not an employer in its own right. For the majority of its civil service manpower requirements it draws on staff employed by one or other of its two parent Departments—BERR and the FCO.

The transfer of responsibility for defence export support from the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO) to UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) will result in approximately 240 full-time equivalent (FTE) posts being transferred to BERR/FCO. Of these, approximately 200 are in the UK and 40 overseas. The precise figures will be determined following detailed analysis of DESO's structure and staffing currently being undertaken as work on the transfer proceeds.

Of the UK posts, approximately 50 are filled by military staff who will transfer on loan to UKTI/BERR. The remaining approximately 150 UK-based civilian posts will be filled by staff on a combination of permanent and loan transfer terms from MOD to UKTI/BERR. The transfer will increase UKTI's UK presence from just under 900 to just under 1,100 FTEs (a figure that includes both UKTI's headquarters operation and its teams in the nine English regions).

Of the overseas civilian posts which will transfer to UKTI/FCO, approximately 20 are filled by UK based staff and 20 by locally engaged staff. The transfer will increase UKTI's overseas presence from approximately 1,250 to just under 1,300 FTEs.

UK Trade and Investment: Manpower

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many of UK Trade and Investment's overseas staff are provided by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; and if he will make a statement. [180811]

Mr. Thomas: UKTI is not an employer in its own right. For the majority of its civil service manpower requirements it draws on staff employed by one or other of its two parent Departments—BERR and the FCO.

The current full-time equivalent (FTE) number of staff working overseas for UK Trade and Investment is approximately 1,250. Of these, 200 FTE positions are filled by UK civil servants, with the remaining 1,050 FTE positions filled by staff recruited locally by the relevant overseas post. Approximately 85 of the UK civil servants positions are filled by BERR members of staff, on loan to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The remainder (115) of these are filled by FCO employees.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which countries have seen an *(a)* increase and *(b)* decrease in UK Trade and Investment staff in the context of the July 2006 five year strategy on prosperity in a changing world; and if he will make a statement. [180812]

Mr. Thomas: In the context of the UKTI's five-year strategy, "Prosperity in a Changing World", the following countries have seen changes to staff deployment:

Increases

Brazil
China
Hong Kong
India
Indonesia
Malaysia
Mexico
Qatar

Russia
Saudi Arabia
Singapore
South Africa
Taiwan
Thailand
Turkey
Vietnam
Decreases
Australia
Canada
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Japan
Kuwait
Latvia
Lithuania
Malta
Nigeria
Poland
Slovakia
Spain
Sweden
Trinidad and Tobago
Uganda
US
Uruguay

An increase in staff resources in Dubai will take place later this year.

Weatherseal Holdings: Complaints

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what consideration he has given to applying the provisions of Part 8 of the Enterprise Act 2002 in response to the volume of consumer complaints generated by Weatherseal Holdings plc and its subsidiaries. [181176]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 23 January 2008]:* The Secretary of State does not have powers to apply the provisions of Part 8 of the Enterprise Act 2002. Part 8 is enforced by Trading Standards, the Office of Fair Trading and in Northern Ireland the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment. If an enforcer such as Trading Standards receives sufficient complaints or intelligence about a trader they may consider action under the Act.

Weatherseal Holdings: Standards

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of Weatherseal Holdings plc's and its subsidiaries' compliance with the consumer credit legislation. [181177]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 23 January 2008]:* None. This would be a matter for the Office of Fair Trading.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Council: Film

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the decision of the British Council to close its dedicated film office; what cost savings he expects to be made accordingly; and what evaluation was carried out into the impact of this decision on the effectiveness of the British Council to communicate its key messages abroad. [180126]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The British Council has a dedicated film department as part of its wider arts group. The British Council arts group is currently undergoing internal restructuring and will be undertaking a public consultation on a new arts strategy. Finalised decisions have not yet been taken on the future of this department. Expertise in film will be retained at its current level and may be increased thereby demonstrating the British Council's commitment to its film activity.

The British Council anticipates no change to their global arts budget as a result of this restructuring. As film expertise will remain a substantial part of any new structure, no formal evaluation was undertaken.

Christmas

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much Ministers in his Department spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* the postage of Christmas cards in 2007. [180513]

Meg Munn *[holding answer of 23 January 2008]:* Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers sent a total of 474 cards in 2007. The cost of the cards came to £493.50, with postage of £76.34. The majority of these cards were delivered using the internal mail system.

Climate Change

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many departmental *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* civil servants and *(c)* consultants, contractors or secondees working full-time or part-time for his Department attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali. [179195]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 16 January 2008]:* 10 Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials attended some or all of the 13th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bali, Indonesia. Seven of these staff are normally based in Jakarta, including our ambassador to Indonesia, Charles Humfrey, and three are normally based in London, including my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's Special Representative for Climate Change, John Ashton.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed Conflict

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the plans of the Government of the

Democratic Republic of Congo to expel the Lord's Resistance Army from the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo; what assessment he has made of such plans; and if he will make a statement. [179484]

Meg Munn: The Governments of Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Burundi signed an agreement to co-operate on the threat of 'negative forces' in September 2007. I welcome this as a sign that illegal armed groups will not be allowed to operate in the region. The Lord's Resistance Army is engaged in a process of peace talks with the Government of Uganda, which we support. I have received no reports to suggest that the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo will intervene, while negotiations between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army continue.

Departmental Databases

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what audits his Department and its agencies have carried out in relation to personal data and IT equipment in each of the last 10 years. [176480]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) main IT system, Firecrest, is accredited to handle classified information in accordance with Government security policies. As such it is subject to constant monitoring, but it would not be in the public interest to disclose in detail the methods used.

Personal data have been included within our usual information audits of individual Departments, which measure performance against FCO information management policies. Until now, personal data have not been subject to separate central audit. We are, however, reviewing our procedures as part of the Government's data handling review, see paragraph 29 of the Interim Progress Report available at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/upload/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/publications/reports/data/data_handling.pdf.

Departmental Public Finance

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will break down his Department's planned near cash funding by strategic objective for financial years 2008-09 to 2010-11. [179193]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is a complex organisation whose structures in the UK and overseas reflect a mix of geographical and functional responsibilities. Staff costs account for approximately 55 per cent. of departmental discretionary near-cash expenditure. I refer the hon. Member to my reply of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1140W: the vast majority of Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff work on more than one strategic objective. It is therefore not possible to provide a full answer on the basis requested. Nevertheless the following table setting out planned expenditure on strategic programme activities for the next three years illustrates the priority being accorded to work in the four areas highlighted in the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary on 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 52-53 WS.

	£ million (near-cash)		
	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Counter Terrorism/Counter Proliferation	35.30	41.00	56.00
Low Carbon/High Growth Economy	13.70	19.70	24.70
Strong International System	9.35	9.35	9.35
Conflict Prevention and Resolution	19.30	19.30	19.30

Departmental Redundancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost was of redundancies in his Department in the 12 months preceding *(a)* 30 June 2004, *(b)* 30 June 2005 and *(c)* 30 June 2006. [175336]

Meg Munn: It is the policy of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to do all we can to avoid compulsory redundancies. But, following the 2004 spending review, we have carried out a restructuring exercise to realise efficiency savings. This early retirement programme will enable us to reduce the size of the senior management structure in the FCO by 18 per cent. by 31 March 2008. The following totals also include compensatory early retirement packages for staff in the delegated grades involved in restructuring exercises:

	Total (£)
12 months preceding 30 June 2004	3,217,003
12 months preceding 30 June 2005	10,901,738
12 months preceding 30 June 2006	16,189,129

The amounts quoted include FCO costs to the Cabinet Office to cover the additional years included in compensatory packages, compensatory lump sums under the Principle Civil Service Pension Scheme and annual pension payments until the officer reaches 60.

All payments to early retirees have been calculated and paid in strict accordance with the terms of the standard Civil Service Compensation Schemes.

Embassies

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 158W, on embassies, if he will list the *(a)* (i) name, (ii) location and (iii) function of the (A) seven embassies, (B) four embassy offices, (C) one office and (D) six consulates opened since 1997 and *(b)* three consulates upgraded to embassies. [181049]

David Miliband: The missions referred to in my answer to the right hon. Member on 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 158W are as follows:

	Post name	*Country*	*Status*
Posts opened			
2000-01	Tripoli	Libya	British Embassy
2001-02	Kabul	Afghanistan	British Embassy
2001-02	Pyongyang	Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea	British Embassy

	Post name	*Country*	*Status*
2001-02	Dushanbe	Tajikistan	British Embassy
2002-03	Chisinau	Moldova	British Embassy
2002-03	Dili[1]	East Timor	British Embassy
2004-05	Baghdad	Iraq	British Embassy
1997-98	BanjaLuka	Bosnia and Herzegovina	British Embassy Office
2004-05	Basra	Iraq	British Embassy Office
2004-05	Kirkuk	Iraq	British Embassy Office
2006-07	Almaty[2]	Kazakhstan	British Embassy Office
1999-2000	Pristina	Kosovo (Serbia)	British Office
1999-2000	Chongqing	China	British Consulate General
1999-2000	Gothenburg	Sweden	British Consulate General
2000-01	Conakry	Guinea	British Consulate
2000-01	Bamako[1]	Mali	British Consulate
2000-01	Port-au-Prince	Haiti	British Consulate
2000-01	Denver	USA	British Consulate
Posts upgraded to embassies			
2001-02	Asmara	Eritrea	British Embassy
2001-02	Bamako[1]	Mali	British Embassy
2002-03	Conakry	Guinea	British Embassy

[1] Posts opened and closed during this period.
[2] Office left in place after embassy relocation to Astana.
Note:
Year—April to March

The size and role of British embassies and high commissions differ from post to post, but most are comprised of the following Sections: Consular, Visa, Commercial, Political/Press and Public Affairs, and Management. A British embassy office is a subsidiary of the embassy.

Consulates and Consulate Generals are subordinate posts which carry out a range of functions mainly comprising of Consular, Commercial and Visa work.

The British Office in Pristina is responsible for managing the UK's relationships with the UN Mission in Kosovo, the Provisional Institutions of Self-government and other local actors.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office continues to manage our overseas network to reflect changing demands and challenges, ensuring that our resources are aligned with our priorities, and that the UK has a cost-effective and flexible network of overseas representation. We will continue to adjust our estate assets in individual countries to meet our operational needs.

Gaza: Politics and Government

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent meetings he has held with the government of Israel on the humanitarian situation in Gaza. [181566]

Dr. Howells: Our ambassador in Tel Aviv regularly raises our concerns with the Israeli government about the security and humanitarian situation in Gaza. My right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for International Development issued statements about the situation in Gaza on 30 October 2007, 11 January 2008 and 21 January 2008.

Most recently, I raised these concerns with the Israeli ambassador on 17 January 2008. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary is due to speak to Foreign Minister Livni today, and will again make clear our concerns.

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made, together with European Union member states' foreign ministers, to Israel on the situation in Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [182420]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will be discussing the situation with his European colleagues at the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on 28 January.

The Government continues to believe that Israeli security and Palestinian suffering and hardship need to be addressed together, and they can only be addressed through mutual recognition, which will be vital to long-term stability in the area.

As my right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and Secretary of State for International Development said on 21 January:

"The recent escalation of violence between Gazans and Israelis is extremely grave".

Our ambassador in Tel Aviv regularly raises our concerns with the Israeli government about the security and humanitarian situation in Gaza.

My right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and Secretary of State for International Development also issued statements about the situation in Gaza on 30 October 2007, 11 January 2008 and 21 January 2008.

Most recently, I raised the situation in Gaza with the Israeli ambassador on 17 January 2008.

Middle East: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to his Sunday Times article of 6 January 2008, what his estimate is of the cost of transferring staff from Europe to the Middle East and South Asia. [179192]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's written ministerial statement of 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 52-3WS.

Detailed plans for the transfer of staff resources from Europe to the Middle East and South Asia are still at an early stage. We will not be in a position to estimate costs until we have finalised timings and confirmed all the specific changes that we will need to make.

Thomas Dandois

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what representations he has received on the detention of Thomas Dandois, a joint British-French national in Niger; [179477]

(2) if he will discuss the case of Thomas Dandois, currently detained in Niger, with the Foreign Minister of France; [179479]

(3) if he will make representations to the Government of Niger requesting the release of Thomas Dandois. [179480]

Meg Munn: Mr. Dandois and his French colleague were released from prison on bail on 18 January. There were no travel restrictions placed upon them as a condition of their bail and they have returned to France. The judgment on their case will take place at a later date.

Mr. Dandois is a dual French-British national who entered Niger on his French passport. He and his colleague were given consular assistance by the French embassy in Niger. The Government worked with the French embassy, through their representatives in Niamey, and with the French Foreign Ministry to clarify the status of the charges against Mr. Dandois. We will continue to liaise with the French Government and monitor the case.

We have received one previous parliamentary question, fourteen representations from hon. Members and a Peer and a number of letters from members of the public on this case.

JUSTICE

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the policy of British jobs for British workers will affect his Department's recruitment policy. [179882]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice will continue to apply the civil service nationality rules in respect of eligibility for employment in their recruitment and appointment procedures.

Elections: Fraud

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated research on the effectiveness in preventing electoral fraud of requiring electors in polling stations to sign for their ballot paper. [181003]

Bridget Prentice: Seven local authorities undertook electoral pilot schemes that required electors to provide their signature before being issued with their ballot papers in polling stations at the May 2006 local elections. Four local authorities did so at the May 2007 local elections.

The Government have not commissioned research on this issue. However, in its statutory evaluation of the pilot schemes the Electoral Commission noted that public opinion research carried out in the pilot scheme areas suggested that requiring voters to provide a signature may provide a deterrent effect in relation to personation.

The Government continues to believe that requiring electors to sign for their ballot paper will help to deter opportunists from defrauding the system and improve levels of public confidence.

Harassment Act 1997

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* investigations and *(b)* prosecutions there were under the Harassment Act 1997 in each year since the Act came into force. [181572]

Maria Eagle: Information covering defendants proceeded against under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 since the act came into force on 16 July 1997 has been provided in the table. Data are provided on the principal offence basis and cover the period from 1997 to 2006 in England and Wales.

	Number proceeded against
1997	780
1998	6,194
1999	7,934
2000	8,631
2001	8,331
2002	8,335
2003	8,434
2004	8,501
2005	8,425
2006	8,101

Information on investigations is not held by the Ministry of Justice.

Langley House Trust

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the terms of the service level agreement with the Langley House Trust are for the provision of secure beds for persons supervised in the community; and when the contract was let. [181213]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service has a service level agreement (SLA) with the Langley House Trust, under which the trust is funded to provide two enhanced supervision beds at its Longcroft project for offenders assessed as high risk of serious harm on release from custody who are also identified as having mental health problems.

The National Offender Management Service has a second SLA with the trust, under which the trust is funded to provide accommodation in the community for offenders who are subject to statutory supervision by offender managers in probation boards. The level of supervision required for each offender is determined by the offender manager, taking into account the facilities at each trust project.

The current SLAs commenced on 1 April 2007 and will run until 31 March 2008.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in Langley House Trust accommodation have *(a)* absconded, *(b)* breached the conditions of their curfew and *(c)* breached the hostels' rules in another way in each year of the contract. [181214]

Maria Eagle: Figures for residents whose places are funded by the National Offender Management Service under the SLAs are not recorded separately; the figures below are for the whole of the trust resident population. The proportion of trust residents under the SLAs during 2007-08 was around a third.

In 2007-08, *(a)* five trust residents absconded, and *(b)* 46 breached the conditions of their curfew, including three who had absconded. While all breaches of hostel rules, including minor ones such as use of bad language, are recorded in individual residents' files, overall numbers are not compiled—*(c)*. However, where breaches of rules lead to a resident's eviction or recall to prison, that is recorded. In 2007-08, 99 residents were evicted, of whom 40 were recalled to prison.

One resident under the enhanced supervision SLA absconded during 2007-08. None breached curfew, and as explained above, there are no available records of other rule breaches.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he is intending to review the contract with the Langley House Trust for the provision of secure accommodation places. [181216]

Maria Eagle: Yes. The current service level agreements with the Langley House Trust came into effect on 1 April 2007 and will expire on 31 March 2008. We will review the position in light of our operational requirements before deciding whether to renew the arrangements and, if so, on what terms.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how performance against the contract with the Langley House Trust is monitored. [181217]

Maria Eagle: The trust provides a monthly return as set out in the service level agreements (SLAs), covering various matters, such as the admission and departure of offenders, breaches and convictions for further offences. Officials use the monthly returns to monitor the trust's performance against the SLA, including through regular meetings during the year with the Trust's Director of Offender Management Additionally, under the terms of the enhanced supervision SLA, the trust is required to complete a brief progress report on each resident and a departure report following the end of the placement.

An annual report on performance is also to be submitted. The trust is to co-operate with inspections and audits, internal and external as required and attend meetings as convened by the Public Protection Unit in the National Offender Management Service as is reasonable. The Ministry of Justice is currently carrying out an audit of the public protection processes in the trust.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether there have been breaches of the terms of the contract with the Langley House Trust since it was let. [181218]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service is aware of two breaches of the service level agreements (SLAs) since they were let. There has been one breach of the main SLA which was in respect of the performance standards audit, which was not finalised by the deadline, but is being finalised now.

Under the terms of the enhanced supervision SLA, the National Offender Management Service is aware of one occasion where checks were not made on a resident as frequently as was requested by the local multi-agency public protection panel.

Legal Aid

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many legal aid representation orders have been granted by magistrates courts in each month since the re-introduction of means testing for legal aid in 2006. [181014]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the information requested. The numbers of orders reported as being granted each month are subject to minor adjustments as cases are processed and progress through the system.

	Representation orders granted
October 2006	34,254
November 2006	44,281
December 2006	34,815
January 2007	47,842
February 2007	43,790
March 2007	46,849
April 2007	43,153
May 2007	47,501
June 2007	47,063
July 2007	47,974
August 2007	47,272
September 2007	43,198
October 2007	48,573
November 2007	45,686
December 2007	33,968

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of legal aid in the UK was in each of the last 10 years. [179600]

Maria Eagle: The cost of legal aid in England and Wales and in Northern Ireland for each of the last 10 financial years is shown in the following table. Responsibility for legal aid in Scotland is devolved and is therefore a matter for the Scottish Parliament.

£ million net

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
England and Wales	1,529.6	1,628.1	1,550.1	1,663.7	1,717.0	1,908.5	2,076.7	2,038.0	2,027.8	1,980.3
Northern Ireland	28.9	30.1	34.7	37.7	41.5	45.0	49.9	58.9	57.5	69.0
Total	1,558	1,658	1,585	1,701	1,759	1,954	2,127	2,097	2,085	2,049

Legal Aid: Expenditure

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on legal aid in each of the last 10 years *(a)* in cash terms and *(b)* as a proportion of annual total public expenditure. [181012]

Maria Eagle: Table 1 as follows shows legal aid cash expenditure in each of the last 10 years. Table 2 as follows shows that expenditure for both England and Wales and for Northern Ireland as a proportion of total managed expenditure. Legal aid in Scotland is a devolved matter, funded out of the Scottish block grant which also forms part of total managed expenditure.

When compared to other main domestic areas of public spending, legal aid has been one of the fastest growing areas of public sector spending over the past years. For example, the average annual real-terms growth of legal aid over the past 25 years to 2006-07 was 5.7 per cent. This compares with 4.4 per cent. for social care and protection; 4.2 per cent. for public order and safety; 4.1 per cent. for health and 1.9 per cent. for education.

Table 1

£ million, net

	England and Wales	*Northern Ireland*	*Total*
1997-98	1529.6	28.9	1,558
1998-99	1628.1	30.1	1,658
1999-2000	1550.1	34.7	1,585
2000-01	1663.7	37.7	1,701
2001-02	1717.0	41.5	1,759
2002-03	1908.5	45.0	1,954
2003-04	2076.7	49.9	2,127
2004-05	2038.0	58.9	2,097
2005-06	2027.8	57.5	2,085
2006-07	1980.3	69.0	2,049

Table 2

Percentage

	England and Wales	*Northern Ireland*	*Total*
1997-98	0.47	0.01	0.48
1998-99	0.49	0.01	0.50
1999-2000	0.45	0.01	0.46
2000-01	0.46	0.01	0.47
2001-02	0.44	0.01	0.45
2002-03	0.45	0.01	0.46
2003-04	0.46	0.01	0.47
2004-05	0.41	0.01	0.43
2005-06	0.39	0.01	0.40
2006-07	0.36	0.01	0.37

Legal Aid: Fees and Charges

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment his Department has made of the impact of the new legal aid fee scheme on the number of legal practices undertaking criminal legal aid work. [181013]

Maria Eagle: Reforms to criminal legal aid were introduced on 14 January 2008 and included the introduction of fixed fees for police station work. Prior to the introduction of these reforms a national re-tender of the General Criminal Contract, which provides access to legal aid work for providers, took place in October last year.

Of those firms that already held a contract, 2,295 re-tendered, while a further 90 applications were received from new providers. In total there has been a reduction of only 5 per cent. in the number of providers delivering Criminal Legal Aid work under the new contract, which also came into effect on 14 January. This has had no impact on the accessibility of legal advice to clients in criminal legal aid cases.

Legal Services Commission: Fees and Charges

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much money the Legal Services Commission has received by way of *(a)* recovered costs and *(b)* interest on statutory charges in each year since 1997. [180507]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is shown in the following table. Data for the years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 relate to the former Legal Aid Board, which was replaced by the Legal Services Commission in 2000. The reduction in recovered costs was due to the removal of money cases such as personal injury from scope in 2000 following the introduction of conditional fee arrangements in 1995.

£000

Financial year	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Recovered costs	37,850	36,550	27,190	23,440	23,220	13,450	18,440	5,590	5,950	4,570
Interest on Statutory charges	3,290	1,040	5,180	6,130	8,100	8,230	8,130	7,030	9,180	9,450

Members: Correspondence

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he will reply to the letter of 22 November 2007 from the hon. Member for Hornchurch on a new prison at Beam Reach, Rainham. [181781]

Mr. Hanson: I replied to the hon. Member on 16 January 2008.

Ministry of Justice

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he will publish the Brennan report on the structure of his Department. [181224]

Mr. Straw: I refer the hon. Member to my reply to the hon. Member for Arundel and South Downs (Nick Herbert) on 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1206W.

National Offender Management Information System

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to date of developing the C-NOMIS IT system for prisons and probation in England and Wales has been. [181219]

Mr. Hanson: The total expenditure on the NOMIS Programme, of which C-NOMIS forms the very major part, to the end of December 2007 is estimated at £179 million.

Financial and business benefit from work completed on C-NOMIS is preserved. Nearly all of the expenditure

attributable to C-NOMIS is relevant to its future use in HMPS as 'Prison NOMIS'. The other projects in the programme will continue to derive benefit from the investment and work to date.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the financial consequences for his Department's budget are of not rolling out C-NOMIS to the Probation Service. [181220]

Mr. Hanson: The C-NOMIS project as originally intended included the roll out of C-NOMIS to the Probation Service. This was unaffordable and the revised plans now ensure that the overall costs will be contained within the Department's budget. The business change and continuity consequences of not rolling out C-NOMIS to the probation service have been handled by other measures contained within the overall NOMIS programme.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the developers of C-NOMIS, EDS, will be paid any compensation as a consequence of the system not being rolled out to the probation service. [181221]

Mr. Hanson: EDS will receive no compensation as a result of the C-NOMIS system not being rolled-out to probation areas. 'Prison NOMIS' continues the development of C-NOMIS, preserving the financial and business benefit from work completed to date.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of how the decision not to roll out C-NOMIS to the probation service will affect its ability to comply with end-to-end management of offenders. [181222]

Mr. Hanson: Following the NOMIS programme strategic review, and taking into account the Offender Management (OM) strategic review, the newly revised and deliverable NOMIS programme will ensure both the protection of the public and the continued successful implementation of the Offender Management Model and end-to-end offender management.

The programme will ensure that offender managers have access to necessary information to effectively manage offenders within custody and the community. Building on and preserving work completed to date, the programme will enable staff in both prisons and probation access to information required to support OM.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his original estimate was of the final cost of rolling out C-NOMIS to the Prison Service and Probation Service. [181223]

Mr. Hanson: When originally initiated in June 2004, the estimated lifetime costs, before VAT, cost of capital and depreciation was £234 million.

Personal Injury

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of the merits of introducing measures to cap the level of fees for legal services in personal injury claims cases; and if he will make a statement; [179891]

(2) what steps he plans to take following the consultation exercise on case track limits and the claims process for personal injury claims that closed on 13 July 2007 in relation to personal injury claims; and if he will make a statement; [179892]

(3) what plans he has to reform the civil justice system in respect of personal injury claims; and if he will make a statement; [179893]

(4) when his Department plans to publish the responses to the recent consultation on case track limits and the process for personal injury claims. [180060]

Bridget Prentice: The consultation paper: "Case track limits and claims process for personal injury claims" set out proposals for improving the system for certain personal injury claims, including proposals for fixed recoverable costs. These proposals represent a significant reform of the claims process for personal injury claims and it has been important to give careful consideration to the numerous and diverse range of views that we have received. A summary of responses and the Government's next steps will be set out in the Response to Consultation, which we aim to publish by the end of March.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the impact of referral fees on the personal injury claims process; and if he will make a statement. [180061]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice has not assessed the impact of referral fees in personal injury claims. The Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) is responsible for the regulation of lawyers and ensuring that they comply with Rule 9 of the Solicitors Code of Conduct 2007 which sets out the requirements on referral fees. The SRA are currently reviewing the provisions on referral fees and considering a range of options to improve compliance with Rule 9.

Peterborough Prison: Prisoners Release

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convicted prisoners held at HMP Peterborough were released early as a result of prison overcrowding in the latest period for which figures are available. [180993]

Mr. Hanson: The End of Custody Licence was introduced on 29 June 2007. Eligible prisoners serving between four weeks and four years may be released under licence from prison up to up to 18 days before their automatic release date.

Up to the end of November 2007, the latest date for which figures are available, there had been 325 prisoners released under the End of Custody Licence scheme from HMP Peterborough; 77 of these were during the month of November.

The total number of releases by offence group, sentence length, age, gender, ethnicity and prison establishment have been published on the Ministry of Justice website for the first week of the scheme, the remainder of July, and every subsequent month since then.

The monthly published figures can be found on separate links under the following main link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

Data on releases up to the end of December 2007 will be published at the end of January 2008 according to the schedule of MoJ statistical publications

http://www/justice.gov.uk/docs/moj-stats-schedule.pdf

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what key performance indicator is used to assess the effectiveness of drug treatment in prisons. [181488]

Mr. Hanson: The key performance indicators listed in the table as follows are currently used to monitor drug treatment performance. Research indicates that prison drug treatment, with effective follow-up in the community, can reduce the level of reoffending by at least 10 per cent.

	Target		
Key performance indicators	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Number of prisoners entering clinical services (Detoxification/Maintenance)	27,000	27,500	27,500
Number of prisoners undergoing initial assessment[1]	61,400	61,400	61,400
Percentage of prisoners completing treatment programmes they have started	65	65	65
Random Mandatory Drug Testing (MDT) positive rate	[2]	[2]	[2]

[1] Through CARATs (counselling, assessment, referral, advice and throughcare services) or YPSMS (young persons substance misuse service)
[2] Improve on previous year

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1601W, on Drugs: prisons, how many detainees began clinical drug treatment on *(a)* detoxification and *(b)* extended prescribing programmes in 2006-07. [181571]

Mr. Hanson: During 2005-06, 51,520 prisoners entered prison detoxification and drug maintenance programmes.

Since April 2007, these two interventions have been reported separately. In the period April to October 2007, the following clinical interventions for prisoners with drug dependence in prisons were provided: *(a)* detoxification 26,932; and *(b)* extended prescribing 7,263. This is a total of 34,195 interventions.

Note:

P. Simon data can fluctuate as prison establishments finalise their entries.

Source:

P. Simon database, HM Prison Service.

Prisons: Education

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what steps the Government have taken to improve education and training provision in prisons since 1997; [175182]

(2) what progress has been made on developing an integrated Learning and Skills Service as indicated in the Government's Reducing Re-offending National Action Plan. [174549]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The transfer of responsibility for offender learning from the Home Office in 2001, to the Department for Education and Skills, now the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, brought the offender learning agenda within mainstream learning and skills arrangements. This led to the introduction of Heads of Learning and Skills, a new senior role within each prison responsible for co-ordinating delivery. Offender learning is inspected by Ofsted (and its predecessors) to the same standards as mainstream education, with published reports since 2002.

Between August 2005 and August 2006, the Learning and Skills Council completed the introduction of a new Offender Learning and Skills Service. This service is designed to integrate delivery both inside and outside prisons, as well as ensuring the quality is consistent with that available in the outside community.

The new delivery arrangements are governed by the policy framework set out in the 'Reducing Re-Offending Through Skills and Employment' Next Steps document, published jointly by the then Department for Education and Skills, the Home Office, and the Department for Work and Pensions in December 2006. Many of the further changes set out in the Next Steps document are now being piloted in our two test bed regions, the West Midlands and East of England.

Prisons: Young People

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many juvenile sentenced receptions there were in to *(a)* prisons, *(b)* local authority units and *(c)* secure training centres in England and Wales for (i) less than one month, (ii) between one and three months, (iii) between three and six months and (iv) between six and 12 months in each of the last five years. [173546]

Mr. Hanson: The figures for *(a)*, the number of juveniles received under sentence into all prison establishments in England and Wales can be found in the following table.

Sentence length	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Less than or equal to one month	26	48	55	76	108
Greater than one month and less than or equal to three months	931	32	162	200	239
Greater than three months and less than or equal to six months	2,411	2,141	2,257	2,361	2,246
Greater than six months and less than 12 months	967	876	867	854	864

For *(b)*, local authority secure children's homes, and *(c)* secure training centres, data to provide the figures in the form requested are not available. Obtaining the information would involve extensive manual work on individual case files which would constitute disproportionate cost.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Security

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the safety of departmental staff working in Afghanistan following the bombing of the Serena Hotel. [181228]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: On security grounds we cannot release details of security assessments. Staff safety and security remain the top priority and every security incident is considered carefully. Current security provisions are under constant review, to ensure that we provide maximum safety to our staff. We have already made a number of enhancements as a result of recent incidents.

Africa: Fossil Fuels

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* evaluated on the effect on poverty levels of his Department's expenditure relating to the oil and gas extractive industries in Africa. [181096]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has no direct investments in the oil and gas industry in Africa. DFID does provide assistance to governments to improve their capacity to make best use of oil and gas revenues, though most of this investment is not in Africa. Recent expenditure in Africa includes Sudan, where DFID looked at the impact of oil and gas development on the war and its impact on peace and the social and economic situation.

DFID supports the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) which aims to increase the potential of extractive industries as an engine for economic growth and sustainable development. It seeks to improve transparency over payments made to governments by extractives companies and revenues received by governments in resource rich developing countries and also works on building mechanisms to hold governments accountable for these revenues. We have measured impacts to date in terms of the number of countries signed up to implement EITI, of which nine are African countries. DFID has also provided approximately £2.4 million in bilateral support to the Nigerian Government. Evidence of EITI's success is currently anecdotal. For instance, over 90 per cent. of Nigeria's revenue comes from oil and gas. Since its inception in 2001 the Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) has carried out technical studies which so far have led to the recovery of £500 million in otherwise forgone revenues. The new independent EITI Secretariat will conduct impact reviews and qualitative evaluation work as part of their annual review. These will be presented at the next EITI Conference which will take place in the autumn.

To date DFID has spent approximately £6.9 million to support EITI work. The majority of this support has been in the form of contributions to the EITI Multi Donor Trust fund (MDTF) (about £3.32 million) which supports resource rich developing country governments to implement EITI.

Nine African countries that have been assessed by the EITI Board to be successfully implementing EITI are Cameroon, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Nigeria. These countries have now been assessed as candidate countries.

Seven African countries that are implementing EITI and will be assessed in 2008 by the EITI Board are Chad, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Madagascar, Sao Tome and Principe, and Sierra Leone.

Britain-Russia Development Partnership

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) when his Department last reviewed the Britain-Russia Development Partnership; and if he will make a statement; [180832]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Foreign Secretary on the delivery of aid to Russia since November 2006; what the outcome was of these discussions; and if he will make a statement. [180833]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Following a review of our development partnership with Russia in 2004, DFID closed its bilateral programme in March 2007.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I have not held specific discussions on Russia aid delivery since November 2006. We continue to channel UK support through multilateral organisations working in Russia, for example the European Union, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the World Bank.

As a large middle income country and G8 member, Russia has a growing potential to contribute to global and regional poverty reduction. This is an issue we have already begun to explore with Russia.

Climate Change: Agriculture

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what research his Department is undertaking to examine the effectiveness of agricultural adaption to climate change in low income countries. [181062]

Mr. Thomas: The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), to which DFID contributes £20 million per year, has been researching how effectively farmers in low income countries cope with the effects of climatic variability for nearly four decades. CGIAR centres have strong capabilities in crop breeding, natural resources management and policy development, which have been used to help farmers deal with vulnerability.

CGIAR centres are increasing their research on areas affected by climate change.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what items of his Department's *(a)* revenue and *(b)* expenditure are uprated using (i) the consumer price index, (ii) the retail price index and (iii) other measures of inflation. [180038]

Mr. Thomas: We do not centrally record items of revenue and expenditure which are uprated using indexes and other measures of inflation; we are not

therefore able to provide a comprehensive list. We have, however, identified the following items:

	Expenditure
Consumer prices index	Contract China – AIDS Roadmap Technical Support project
Retail prices index	1. DFID's overseas pensions 2. The following contracts: (a) ARIES (Activities Reporting Information E-System) – implementation partner/software supplier (b) Quest EDRM (Electronic Document and Records Management System) (c) East Kilbride headquarters building maintenance, which includes the retail prices index inflator, in conjunction with BMI (building maintenance information) cost indices
Other measures of inflation	
Average earnings index	1. The following contracts: (a) Human resources payroll database (b) Bespoke software support – human resources payroll
Other	(c) Palace Street headquarters security guarding

Departmental ICT

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female members of staff in his Department were issued with personal digital assistants in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [181360]

Mr. Malik: The numbers of Personal Digital Assistants issued in each year to staff in the Department for International Development were as follows:

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Male	'	'	165	39	'	45	51
Female	'	'	120	37	'	30	30
Unknown	'	'	8	2	'	0	1
Total	'	'	293	78	'	75	82

' no data

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff in his Department work on programmes on *(a)* education, *(b)* health, *(c)* nutrition and *(d)* child protection; and if he will make a statement. [180647]

Mr. Malik: Thematic programmes in the Department for International Development (DFID) are managed in a number of different ways, and by advisory and administrative staff based in geographical departments—both in the UK and across our network of over 50 offices overseas. Those staff do not necessarily work exclusively on any one programme, and they are in turn supported by staff in our central policy and research teams. DFID's staff also contribute indirectly to the thematic programmes managed by the large multi-lateral donor organisations and non-governmental organisations.

The information requested is not therefore available at the level of detail required. However, as an indicator of the numbers involved, DFID currently employs 84 specialist health and education advisers, and a further 96 administrative and support staff whose job titles indicate that the management of health, education and related programmes forms a significant component of their work.

Gaza: Politics and Government

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps his Department has taken to improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza. [181565]

Mr. Malik: In 2007-08 DFID has given £15.6 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency to provide essential services such as food, housing and education to Palestinian refugees in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and the region. Refugees make up 70 per cent. of Gaza's population. We have provided £15 million to the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) since 2006. The TIM funds emergency fuel and electricity production, water and sanitation services for Gaza, as well as health services and allowances for Palestinian Government workers in Gaza and the West Bank. We have also given £1 million to fund ICRC's emergency appeal for the West Bank and Gaza.

The recent deterioration in the humanitarian situation is not due to a lack of international assistance. It is the result of Israel's decision to close all crossings into the Gaza Strip. Yesterday, the Secretary of State for International Development and the Foreign Secretary issued a statement expressing deep concern about the situation and calling on all parties to facilitate opening of the crossings.

We are encouraged by Israel's decision today to allow limited deliveries of industrial fuel into Gaza but we will continue to monitor the humanitarian situation closely.

HIV Infection: Children

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he plans to take to ensure that the *(a)* needs and *(b)* rights of children affected by AIDS will remain a priority; when the updated strategy for tackling HIV and AIDS is published. [181091]

Mr. Malik: The needs and rights of children affected by AIDS will continue to be a UK priority when 'Taking Action', the UK strategy for tackling HIV and AIDS in the developing world, is published later this year. It will also be a focus of high-level discussion at the forthcoming Global Partners forum on children affected by AIDS.

We are grateful to a number of organisations, including the Working Group on Orphans and Vulnerable Children of the UK Consortium on AIDS and International Development, for their supportive engagement in the work that is under way to update the strategy.

Kosovo: Overseas Aid

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of his Department's spending in Kosovo is assigned to conflict prevention, particularly small arms eradication; and if he will make a statement. [180831]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Although no DFID spending in Kosovo has been assigned to conflict prevention the UK has allocated funding through the joint DFID, FCO and MOD Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP).

In 2007-08 £3 million was allocated from the GCPP for conflict prevention in Kosovo, mainly for the return of refugees, demobilisation of former Kosovan combatants, improvements in Kosovo's Ministries of Justice and Internal Affairs, and resolving property rights in Kosovo.

In 2007 the UK Government, working with the Provisional Institutions of Self Government and the United Nations Development Programme, provided £73,000 for the collection and destruction of seized small arms. DFID, the FCO and the MOD are actively considering future funding of programmes in this area for 2008.

Malnutrition: Finance

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's budget was allocated to tackling malnutrition as part of his Department's aim to meet Millennium Development Goal One in each of the last five years; what the projected budget is for the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [180648]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: DFID does not separately record investment specifically on malnutrition but focuses its expenditure on reducing the causes of chronic malnutrition by investing in essential public services such as the provision of health, water, nutrition and education, as well as programmes that give the poor income and food.

Overseas Aid

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of overseas development aid and assistance was spent on population and reproductive health in *(a)* 2001-02, *(b)* 2002-03, *(c)* 2003-04, *(d)* 2004-05, *(e)* 2005-06 and *(f)* 2006-07. [177319]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* DFID is the second largest donor to the health sector. Details on the amount of DFID's bilateral expenditure spent in the health sector and directly on population and reproductive health activities over the last six years are shown in the table.

It is difficult to estimate exactly how much of DFID's support to the health sector goes to population and reproductive health. DFID uses a range of funding mechanisms, including bilateral health system financing via government budgets, health sector support and multilateral support, and directly targeted projects. Many of these funding streams cannot easily be attributed to specific components of overall health improvement.

Table 1: DFID bilateral expenditure on population and reproductive health activities, 2002-03 to 2006-07, (£ million)

		Of which		
	Total DFID bilateral expenditure	*expenditure in the health sector*	*Population and reproductive health activities*	*Proportion: Population and reproductive health over DFID total bilateral expenditure*
2001-02	1,511.2	230.5	36.8	2.4
2002-03	1,745.9	268.3	39.0	2.2
2003-04	1,935.1	310.7	44.5	2.3
2004-05	2,110.9	368.1	40.8	1.9
2005-06	2,502.0	440.4	20.5	0.8
2006-07	2,561.8	489.6	28.6	1.1

This trend reflects the changing ways in which we give aid, using a combination of budget support and multilateral assistance. The figures in the third column only include directly targeted support and exclude other expenditure which will have an impact on population and reproductive health in developing countries such as broader support to strengthen health systems. DFID bilateral expenditure in the health sector grew by an annual average of 16.3 per cent. over 2001-02 to 2006-07 and totalled £2.1 billion over this period.

DFID also provides multilateral assistance to a range of organisations, some of which is used on population and reproductive health activities. For example, DFID provided over £126 million in support to the UN's Population Fund over the period 2001-02 to 2006-07.

Oxfam: Finance

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much Oxfam received from his Department in each of the last three years, broken down by project or programme; and how much is expected to be given in the next financial year. [180512]

Mr. Thomas: Total DFID expenditure through Oxfam is set out in the table. Under the current Public Partnership Agreement (PPA) Oxfam GB and DFID collaborate on three strategic areas: sustainable livelihoods; strengthening the voice of the poor in decision-making; and supporting young people as advocates for pro-poor change. In addition, DFID supports Oxfam GB's humanitarian and campaigning work.

DFID expenditure through Oxfam (£ thousand)

	Total	*Partnership Programme Agreement*	*Humanitarian Assistance*	*Country and other DFID Programme*
2004-05	19,006	7,228	9,283	2,494
2005-06	20,894	9,500	9,173	2,220
2006-07	19,648	8,900	9,795	953

Expenditure data for 2007-08 will not be available until after the end of the fiscal year.

Russia: Overseas Aid

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid was provided to Russia in each of the last three years; what proportion of each year's total was *(a)* direct government to government assistance, *(b)* assistance to Russian civil society and

(c) funding for international institutions and non-governmental organisations; how much will be granted for the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [180834]

Mr. Thomas: Details of the UK's bilateral assistance and imputed multilateral assistance to Russia in each of the last three years are laid out in the following tables.

Table 1: UK total bilateral gross public expenditure (GPEX) on development 2004-05 2006-07

	Total UK bilateral GPEX to Russia (£000)	Proportion going directly to Government of Russia	Proportion going to Russian civil society (percentage)	Proportion going to international and non-governmental bodies (percentage)
2004-05	15,133	0	10	90
2005-06	5,684	0	13	87
2006-07	5,945	0	7	93

Details of expenditure for 2007-08 will not be available until after the end of the fiscal year, the budget for 2007-08 is £0.8 million.

Table 2: Imputed UK share of multilateral official development assistance (ODA) 2004-05

	Russia (£000)
2004	20,127
2005	16,605

DFID is currently developing detailed plans for allocating its budget over the three-year period 2008-09 to 2010-11 following the outcome of the comprehensive spending review announced in October. Individual country and regional allocations will not be finalised until March 2008.

HEALTH

Accidents: Roads

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many road accident related emergency admissions to hospitals in Tamworth constituency there were in each year since 1997, broken down by (a) age and (b) sex. [179394]

Mr. Bradshaw: The count of finished admission episodes, for emergency admissions where the external cause was 'road traffic accident' (admission methods 21-28), that the former Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth Primary Care Trust (PCT) was responsible for, in each year since 1997-98 for which data are available, broken down by age and sex, is shown in the following table.

	Age				
	Under 18		Over 18		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Unknown
2006-07	*	25	18	57	—
2005-06	*	10	21	56	—
2004-05	*	7	21	56	—
2003-04	*	18	19	49	—
2002-03	8	16	16	53	—
2001-02	*	12	25	45	—
2000-01	11	12	7	53	—
1999-2000	14	25	24	63	—
1998-99	8	14	24	45	—
1997-98	8	20	28	55	*

Notes:
1. For reasons of confidentiality numbers between one and five have been suppressed and shown as "*"
2. Finished admission episodes (FAE)
An FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
3. Cause code
The cause code is a supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects.
4. Data quality
HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 national health service trusts and PCTs in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
5. Ungrossed data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (ie the data are ungrossed).
6. PCT and strategic health authority (SHA) data quality
PCT and SHA data were added to historic data-years in the HES database using 2002-03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on PCT of Treatment and SHA of Treatment are poor in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, with over a third of all finished episodes having missing values in these years. Data quality of PCT of general practitioner (GP) practice and SHA of GP practice in 1997-98 and 1998-99 are also poor, with a high proportion missing values where practices changed or ceased to exist. There is less change in completeness of the residence-based fields over time, where the majority of unknown values are due to missing postcodes on birth episodes. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data.
7. Assessing growth through time
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.
Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the Information Centre for health and social care

Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust: Health Services

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what new services and buildings (a) have been provided and (b) are planned for the Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust since the approval of the NHS Local Improvement Finance Trust in the area. [179667]

Mr. Bradshaw: The national health service local improvement finance trusts (LIFTs) are mainly designed to support primary care trusts and local authorities to develop their primary health and

community care services. Therefore, no new services and buildings have been provided, or are planned, for Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust through the NHS LIFT established in its area.

However, Redbridge and Waltham Forest LIFT has delivered £15 million of investment to deliver three new one stop primary care health centres. Barking and Havering LIFT has also delivered £66.5 million investment to deliver eight new facilities open to patients with two more under construction.

	Barking and Havering LIFT schemes
Completed	Thames View Healthcentre, Barking (Primary Care Centre)
	Harold Hill Centre, Gooshays Drive, Harold Hill (Primary Care Centre)
	Broad Street Centre, Dagenham (Support facilities for Community Mental Health team)
	Cranham (GP/Community services)
	Church Elm Lane, Dagenham (GP/Community Services)
	South Hornchurch, Rainham (GP/Community Services)
	Chadwell Heath Healthcentre (GP/Community services)
	Marksgate, Romford (GP/Community services)
Under construction	Barking Town Centre (general practitioner (GP)/Community services
	Porters Avenue (GP/Community services)

	Redbridge and Waltham Forest LIFT schemes
Completed	Wood Street, Waltham Forest (Primary Care and Children Specialist Health Centre)
	Comely Bank, Waltham Forest (GP/Community services)
	Manford Way, Hainault (GP/Community services)

Barnet Hospital: Standards

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the quality of *(a)* nursing care and *(b)* cleaning services at Barnet hospital. [177994]

Ann Keen: The quality of nursing care and cleaning services are matters for the local national health service.

On 5 July 2007, the Healthcare Commission (HCC) issued Barnet and Chase Farm hospitals NHS Trust with an improvement notice.

The improvement notice related to the 'Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections'. The code outlines compulsory duties to prevent and manage healthcare-associated infections such as meticillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus and Clostridium difficile. All NHS trusts should be compliant with these duties.

Further to a follow up visit on 31 October 2007, the HCC announced on 20 December 2007 that the trust had made improvements in infection control and was compliant with the requirements of the improvement notice that had been issued on 5 July.

Barnet Primary Care Trust: Waiting Lists

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reduce diagnostic waiting times for patients in Barnet primary care trust area; and if he will make a statement. [177899]

Mr. Bradshaw: Rapid accurate diagnosis is key to delivery of the 18 week target. The Department has developed three clinically-led national programmes, in imaging, endoscopy and physiological measurement, to support the national health service in reducing waiting times for diagnostic tests including residents in Barnet primary care trust (PCT).

The Independent Sector London Diagnostics scheme, offering a range of diagnostic assessments, is also available to patients in the Barnet PCT area. Diagnostics available through the London Diagnostics scheme include magnetic resonance imaging, x-ray, ultrasound, echocardiography, echocardiography (screening), electrocardiogram, blood pressure monitoring, endoscopy and phlebotomy.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* average and *(b)* longest waiting time was in the Barnet Primary Care Trust area for (i) operations for (A) cataracts, (B) heart disease, (C) hip replacement, (ii) cancer, (iii) an MRI scan and (iv) a CT scan in (1) 2006-07, (2) 2007-08 to date and (3) 1997; in each category of treatment how many procedures were conducted; and if he will make a statement. [177930]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following tables show the average (median) and longest waiting times and total admissions in the Barnet Primary Care Trust (PCT) area for the trauma and orthopaedic speciality (including hip replacements) the ophthalmology speciality (including cataract surgery), and the cardiothoracic speciality (including heart surgery) for 2006-07, 2007-08 to date and 1996-97, and waiting times and total activity for MRI and CT scans for 2006-07, 2007-08 to date. Figures for waiting times and activity for MRI and CT scans in 1997 is not available.

Statistics on average waiting times for cancer patients and average waiting times for different types of cancer treatment are not collected centrally. Cancer waiting times' standards of a maximum wait of 31 days from diagnosis to first cancer treatment, and a maximum wait of 62 days from urgent referral for suspected cancer to first cancer treatment were introduced for all cancer patients from December 2005. In the last quarter (July to September 2007) national performance against these standards was 99.7 per cent. and 97.2 per cent. respectively. This information is not available by individual PCTs.

Today waiting times are at a record low; patients can expect a maximum 13 week wait for their first out-patient appointment and a maximum six month wait for an operation.

Latest data show that over half of admitted patients (patients who require admission to hospital for treatment) and over three quarters of non-admitted patients are treated within 18 weeks.

In-patient waiting statistics concerning the trauma and orthopaedic specialty for the Barnet PCT area

	Month ending	Area	Median waiting time (weeks)	Longest wait	Total admissions
2007-08	September	Barnet PCT	7.3	22-23 weeks	2,701
2006-07	March	Barnet PCT	7.1	22-23 weeks	2,747
1996-97	March	Barnet HA	18.0	18-20 months	1,825

In-patient waiting statistics concerning the cardiothoracic surgery specialty for the Barnet PCT area

	Month ending	Area	Median waiting time (weeks)	Longest wait	Total admissions
2007-08	September	Barnet PCT	n/a	10-11 weeks	49
2006-07	March	Barnet PCT	n/a	8-9 weeks	162
1996-97	March	Barnet HA	13.76	9-11 months	283

In-patient waiting statistics concerning the ophthalmology specialty for the Barnet PCT area

	Month ending	Area	Median waiting time (weeks)	Longest wait	Total admissions
2007-08	September	Barnet PCT	5	22-23 weeks	979
2006-07	March	Barnet PCT	5.5	25-26 weeks	1,691
1996-97	March	Barnet HA	14.32	12-14 months	1,484

Diagnostic waiting statistics concerning MRI scans in the Barnet PCT area

	Month ending	Area	Median waiting time (weeks)	Longest wait	Total activity
2007-08	October	Barnet PCT	2.8	12-13 weeks	3,914
2006-07	March	Barnet PCT	4.5	31-32 weeks	4,928

Diagnostic waiting statistics concerning CT scans in the Barnet PCT area

	Month ending	Area	Median waiting time (weeks)	Longest wait	Total activity
2007-08	October	Barnet PCT	2.4	12-13 weeks	5,394
2006-07	March	Barnet PCT	3.2	11-12 weeks	8,011

Notes:

1. The data are reported as a snapshot at a point in time. For this purpose the latest available period within the financial year is used.
2. The figures for trauma and orthopaedics, cardiothoracic and ophthalmology specialities show the median waiting times for patients still waiting for admission at the end of the period stated. In-patient waiting times are measure from decision to admit by the consultant to admission to hospital.
3. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits. This should be taken into account when interpreting the data.
4. The parliamentary question states heart, hip and cataract operations. These are sub-sets of the cardiothoracic, trauma and orthopaedic and ophthalmology specialities respectively.
5. Data are not collected for the 1997 period for MRI and CT scan waiting times.
6. For the cardiothoracic speciality, when there is less than 50 waiters in the category, no median has been calculated as the small data set may lead to statistical inaccuracies.
7. Activity numbers are provided for MRI and CT scans, and admission data are provided for the trauma and orthopaedics, cardiothoracic and ophthalmology specialities. These terms both directly relate to the number of procedures undertaken.

Bexley Care Trust: Cancer

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by Bexley care trust on cancer services in each of the last three years. [178078]

Mr. Bradshaw: Expenditure by Bexley care trust on cancers and tumours for the past three financial years is shown in the following table. Figures were collected as part of the programme budgeting returns.

Bexley care trust net expenditure on 'cancer and tumours'

Financial reporting year	Net expenditure (£000)
2004-05	15,978
2005-06	16,224
2006-07[1]	15,690

[1] Due to definitional changes in data, it may not be appropriate to compare expenditure in 2006-07 with earlier years.

Chiropody

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to collect centrally information on *(a)* the allocation by primary care trusts of funding to chiropody services and *(b)* the number of chiropody clinics. [179647]

Ann Keen: There are no central plans to collect information about funding for chiropody services or the number of chiropody clinics. It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health and to commission services accordingly. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community, including the provision of chiropody.

Death: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in improving mortality rates in Barnet for *(a)* cancer, *(b)* heart disease and *(c)* stroke; and if he will make a statement. [178069]

Ann Keen: Cancer mortality rates can be found in the following table, which gives the age-standardised mortality rate from cancer, for all persons aged under 75 years in Barnet for the years 2002-06:

Age-standardised mortality rate from cancer[1], all persons aged under 75 years[2], in England, strategic health authorities and primary care organisation[3], 2002-06[4]

	Rate per 100,000 (persons)				
	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Barnet	100	105	105	101	99

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00 to C97.

[2] Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[3] Based on boundaries as of 2007. The 152 primary care organisations include 148 primary care trusts (PCTs), and four care organisations (COs).

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

The Department is committed to reducing the mortality rate from cancer. Major progress has been made over the past 10 years and especially since the publication of the National Health Service Cancer Plan, which set out the first ever comprehensive strategy to tackle cancer and was the first time any Government had drawn up a major programme of action linking prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care and research. Significant achievements include:

extending breast screening to women aged 50 to 70 years. The number of new cancers diagnosed through breast screening has increased by over 60 per cent.;

rollout of the bowel cancer screening programme—the first programme to target both men and women;

major reductions in waiting times for patients with suspected cancer referred urgently by their general practitioner's (99 per cent. seen within 14 days, up from 63 per cent. in 1997);

over 99 per cent. of patients receiving their first cancer treatment within one month of diagnosis (the 31 day target);

over 97 per cent. of urgently referred patients being treated within two months of referral (the 62 day target);

expansion of the cancer work force; and

provision of unprecedented numbers of new equipment.

With regard to heart disease and stroke, the information requested is not held centrally. However, the Department's target as set out in "Our Healthier Nation" is to reduce deaths from cardiovascular disease (coronary heart disease and stroke and related diseases) by 40 per cent. in people under 75 by 2010 has been met five years early. The mortality rate has fallen 40.3 per cent. between 2004-06 over the 1995-97 baseline.

Dental Services: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve access to NHS dentists in Barnet; and if he will make a statement. [177987]

Ann Keen: The dental reforms implemented in 2006 gave primary care trusts (PCTs), for the first time, the responsibility for providing or commissioning dental services in their area. It is for PCTs to assess local needs, review current service provision and develop services to meet local needs. Increasing the number of patients seen within national health service dental services is now a formal priority in the NHS Operating Framework for 2008-09 and we have supported this with a very substantial 11 per cent. uplift in overall allocations to PCTs from 1 April 2008.

Departmental ICT

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female members of staff in his Department were issued with personal digital assistants in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [181357]

Mr. Bradshaw: At the end of 2007, there were 672 personal digital assistants in issue in the Department; 334 to male and 338 to female members of staff. It would incur disproportionate expense to provide the information by gender for each year from 2001 to 2006 as the asset register does not contain an audit trail of allocation to members of staff. Mobile assets are assigned and reassigned as staff join, leave or change roles within the Department.

Eastern Area Strategic Health Authority: Vetting

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospitals in the Eastern Area Strategic Health Authority have experienced delays in appointing new staff as a result of changes made to the fast track system of Criminal Records Bureau checks. [179589]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not held centrally. Staff recruitment is a matter for local NHS employers.

Edgware Hospital: MRSA

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* MRSA and *(b)* C. difficile occurred at Edgware hospital in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08 to date; and if he will make statement. [178328]

Ann Keen: The mandatory scheme for surveillance of health care associated infections comprises data from acute NHS hospital trusts. Mandatory surveillance does not cover hospitals, such as Edgware hospital, that are managed by primary care trusts.

Emergency Calls

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many emergency calls were made to the ambulance service in each region in each of the last five *(a)* years and *(b)* new year periods; and how many of these calls were for alcohol-related health problems in each case. [181682]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the number of emergency calls made to the ambulance service in each region between 2002-03 and 2006-07 (the latest data available) can be found in the following table:

Emergency calls received

Ambulance service	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*thousand 2006-07*
England	4,934.7	5,322.8	5,623.8	5,960.1	6,333.4
North East	244.1	262.7	279.7	291.8	362.0
North West	705.8	751.2	779.7	832.0	887.0
Yorkshire	469.9	503.8	522.6	552.6	555.5
East Midlands	419.7	451.3	473.2	459.7	523.3
West Midlands	411.0	441.5	472.8	511.7	541.5
Staffordshire	121.0	125.0	134.8	156.3	125.3
East of England	436.2	492.1	543.3	581.1	625.6
London	1,030.6	1,088.6	1,153.9	1,231.6	1,288.8
South East Coast	403.3	436.1	460.3	493.0	494.4
South Central	277.8	323.1	330.0	336.6	356.1
Great Western	179.2	189.0	200.9	219.8	232.5
South Western	224.9	246.6	259.5	280.5	328.1
Isle of Wight	11.1	11.8	13.0	13.4	13.3

The information in the table is taken from the latest Statistical bulletin "Ambulance Services, England 2006-07", published by the Information Centre. The data are split by ambulance trust configuration at 31 March 2007. However, it should be noted that there were mergers of the majority of NHS trusts providing ambulance services in 2006 (with the exception of London and the Isle of Wight, where the boundaries did not change). For the other trusts, excluding London and the Isle of Wight, the data up to and including 2005-06 for the new trusts are based upon data provided by the trusts in their previous configurations to arrive at the composite figures shown. In addition, with the exception of Great Western Ambulance Trust (which was established on 1 April 2006) the new trusts were established on 1 July 2006 and therefore 2006-07 data for those trusts consist of similarly mapped composite data from 1 April to 30 June 2007 together with the actual figures returned by the new trusts for the remainder of 2006-07. Further details about how the figures were arrived at can be found at page 1, and the footnote to table 3 of "Ambulance Services, England 2006-07".

There is no defined 'new year' period in the collection of the number of emergency calls. Information on the number of emergency calls that were alcohol-related is not collected centrally.

Emergency Calls: Standards

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if his Department will collect information on the average response time to emergency calls by each national health service ambulance trust. [181647]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has no plans to do so. The ambulance response time data that are collected, and which include the number of emergency calls received by ambulance trusts across England and their performances against the targets set, are published annually. The latest statistical bulletin, "Ambulance Services, England, 2006-07" was published in June 2007 and is available in the Library and on the Information Centre for health and social care website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs

Gastrointestinal System: Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on treating gastrointestinal disease in England in each of the last five financial years for which figures are available. [178034]

Ann Keen: The Department published figures in the annual resource accounts showing the following gross expenditure on 'problems of the gastro intestinal system' for the last four financial years.

Financial reporting year	*Gross expenditure (£000)*
2003-04	3,164,671
2004-05	3,526,063
2005-06	3,973,450
2006-07	3,851,576

The figures are calculated from programme budgeting data, which were collected for the first time in financial year 2003-04.

Comparison between 2005-06 and 2006-07 figures is not straightforward due to a combination of factors:

the use of new Healthcare Resource Group data (HRG4) to calculate costs;

a reassignment of primary diagnosis codes to programme budgeting category;

the introduction of the new programme budgeting sub-categories; and

a change in the methodology for calculating non-admitted patient care costs.

General Practitioners: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve access to GP services in Barnet; and if he will make a statement. [177992]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is the responsibility of the local national health service to improve access to general practitioner (GP) services in their own areas.

However, we are advised by NHS London that 2007-08 will see an extra £250,000 made available to practices by Barnet primary care trust (PCT) to improve access to GP services. From 2008-09, £400,000

will be accessible on a recurrent basis to be mainly used to keep surgeries open longer.

The Department's aim nationally is that at least 50 per cent. of GP practices in each PCT area will be providing extended opening hours at weekends and/or at weekday evenings offering access to routine appointments, based on patients' expressed views and preferences.

Health Professions: Employment

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in implementing the Social Partnership Forum's action plan to maximise employment opportunities for newly qualified health care professionals; and if he will make a statement. [177824]

Ann Keen: Since the Partnership Agreement was launched in February 2007, the Social Partnership Forum has overseen the development and promulgation of work supporting the maximisation of graduate employment opportunities and launched an action plan in April 2007.

NHS Employers is responsible for monitoring progress against each of the action plan recommendations.

The Social Partnership Forum considered a draft interim report in November 2007, which will be published in due course.

Since July 2007, the Department has monitored the number of candidates registered in the newly qualified health care professional pools. There has been a 19 per cent. reduction registered between 11 July 2007 and 7 January 2008.

Health Services: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations his Department has received from the National Screening Committee in favour of *(a)* universal and *(b)* targeted screening for (i) heart disease, (ii) kidney disease, (iii) stroke and (iv) diabetes. [178259]

Ann Keen: The United Kingdom National Screening Committee (UK NSC) recommended to the Department that screening certain subgroups of the population who are at high risk of type 2 diabetes is feasible, but that it should be undertaken as part of a vascular risk management programme in which the whole population should be offered a risk assessment that could include, among other risk factors, measurement of blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose.

The National Service Framework for Kidney Disease in England recommends that people at increased risk of developing or having undiagnosed chronic kidney disease, especially people with diabetes or hypertension are identified, assessed and their condition managed to preserve kidney function.

Following this, the Department is developing detailed proposals for the programme in England and the UK NSC is working with them.

Hearing Aids: Digital Technology

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data are used for determining funding for digital hearing aids and NHS audiology services. [181072]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Funding for hearing aids and audiology services is provided to primary care trusts (PCTs) as part of their general allocations. It is the responsibility of local health organisations to determine the level of audiology funding based on their knowledge of the needs of their local populations.

The PCT general allocations are calculated on a weighted capitation basis.

Heart Diseases: Health Services

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans his Department has to co-ordinate local NHS trusts' cardiac rehabilitation programmes; [175539]

(2) what steps his Department plans to take to assist local NHS trusts to meet the target for the availability of cardiac rehabilitation services set out in the National Service Framework 2003. [175540]

Ann Keen: Cardiac rehabilitation is an evidence based, cost effective and life saving treatment, delivered by nurses and professionals allied to medicine. At best, it is multi-disciplinary, helping with the medical, behavioural, psychological and social restoration of the whole patient. Nurses and physiotherapists have key roles to play but others such as pharmacists, dieticians and psychologists should also be involved.

Chapter seven of the Coronary Heart Disease National Service Framework, published in March 2000, issued appropriate guidance to the national health service about the provision of cardiac rehabilitation services. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guideline 48, "MI: secondary prevention" was subsequently issued in May 2007. This provided updated guidance to the NHS on secondary prevention in primary and secondary care for patients following heart attack and emphasised the importance of rehabilitation for these patients.

The Heart Improvement programme, an NHS support team for cardiac networks, includes cardiac rehabilitation within its work programme. A new National Cardiac Rehabilitation Audit has been introduced across England, jointly sponsored by the British Heart Foundation and the Healthcare Commission. This will provide stronger evidence on effectiveness and encourage providers to appraise and improve their cardiac rehabilitation services.

Putting guidance into practice is a matter for the NHS, working in partnership with stakeholders, including cardiac networks, and the local community. It is the responsibility of NHS organisations to plan and develop services based on their specific knowledge and expertise.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital coronary care units have closed in the last 10 years. [180106]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 21 January 2008]*: This information is not collected centrally. The decision to close hospital coronary care units is a matter for the local national health service.

Hospital Wards: Gender

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made on the phasing out of mixed sex wards in NHS hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [177823]

Ann Keen: Guidance issued to the national health service requires the provision of single sex accommodation, which can take a number of forms. NHS trusts may provide single rooms, single sex bays within a mixed ward, single-sex wards or combinations of these types. We do not collect information on the number of trusts who have mixed sex wards per se.

The NHS Operating Framework for 2008-09 includes a requirement for primary care trusts to agree, publish and implement stretching local plans for improvement, with identified time scales and monitoring mechanisms. The NHS Institute for Improvement and Innovation published "Privacy and Dignity—the elimination of mixed sex accommodation. Good practice guidance and self assessment checklist", in December 2007 to support the NHS in delivering this.

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions he has had on the phasing out of mixed sex wards in hospitals; and if he will make a statement; [179340]

(2) how many mixed sex wards there are in *(a)* England and *(b)* Greater London, broken down by London borough. [179341]

Ann Keen: Single-sex accommodation should be the norm for elective care, and remains the ideal for all admissions. We have made this clear in this year's operating framework.

Guidance issued to the national health service requires the provision of single sex accommodation, which can take a number of forms. NHS trusts may provide single rooms, single-sex bays within a mixed ward, single-sex wards or combinations of these types. We do not collect information on the number of trusts who have mixed sex wards per se.

The NHS Operating Framework for 2008-09 includes a requirement for primary care trusts to agree, publish and implement stretching local plans for improvement, with identified timescales and monitoring mechanisms.

Hospitals: Cleaning Services

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much additional funding has been given to *(a)* Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Trust and *(b)* all other hospital trusts for a deep clean. [177837]

Ann Keen: Information on the costs of individual trust plans for deep cleaning is not held by the Department. All trusts were required to submit and agree their deep clean plans, including costs, with primary care trusts and providers in their area by 14 December 2007 and this process has been monitored and assessed by the strategic health authorities.

I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement issued on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 134-35WS, in which the Department made available information on the funding to support the deep clean of the national health service at regional level.

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when *(a)* West Suffolk, *(b)* Addenbrookes and *(c)* Ipswich hospitals will receive a deep clean; [179187]

(2) how many hospitals in the eastern area have been deep cleaned in the last 12 months. [179239]

Ann Keen: All trusts were required to submit and agree their deep clean plans with primary care trusts in their area by 14 December 2007 and this process has been monitored and assessed by strategic health authorities (SHAs). An interim local progress report about the implementation of deep cleans will be published by SHAs shortly. All deep cleans will be complete by the end of March 2008.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median (i) inpatient and (ii) outpatient waiting times were in each year from 1993-94 to 2006-07, as given by (A) Korner and (B) Hospital Episodes Statistics data. [174779]

Mr. Bradshaw: The figures are shown in the following tables.

It should be noted that Korner data measure the numbers still waiting at the end of a period, while Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES) measure the time waited for patients admitted during a year. HES figures do not take into account periods of suspension for medical and social reasons.

The NHS has delivered access targets through better waiting list management. This means that routine cases are seen "in turn" once clinical priorities have been treated. Median waits initially increase as the longest wait patients are treated and this is reflected in the HES figures.

Inpatient mean and medians in weeks from 1994

	Korner aggregate returns		*HES*	
Year ending	*Median commissioner*	*Mean commissioner*	*Median provider*	*Mean provider*
March 1994	14.4	20.2	5.9	13.0
March 1995	12.5	17.8	6.1	12.9
March 1996	11.8	15.9	6.0	12.6

Inpatient mean and medians in weeks from 1994

	Korner aggregate returns		HES	
Year ending	*Median commissioner*	*Mean commissioner*	*Median provider*	*Mean provider*
March 1997	13.2	18.1	5.7	11.8
March 1998	14.9	20.0	5.9	12.8
March 1999	12.9	18.6	6.4	14.1
March 2000	12.9	18.7	6.1	12.9
March 2001	12.6	18.1	6.3	13.3
March 2002	12.7	17.4	6.7	13.7
March 2003	11.9	15.6	7.0	14.1
March 2004	10.2	12.4	7.1	13.6
March 2005	8.5	10.6	7.4	12.0
March 2006	7.3	8.7	7.3	11.1
March 2007	6.2	7.4	7.0	10.4
October 2007	5.0	6.2	n/a	n/a

Notes:
1. HES figures relate to patients admitted during financial year ending March.
2. Korner figures relate to numbers waiting as at 31 March (or at 31 October for the current figures).

Source:
QF01 return, HES.

Outpatient mean and medians in weeks from 1994

	Korner aggregate returns		HES	
Year ending	*Median commissioner*	*Mean commissioner*	*Median provider*	*Mean provider*
March 1994	5.4	9.4	n/a	n/a
March 1995	5.8	9.1	n/a	n/a
March 1996	6.1	8.7	n/a	n/a
March 1997	6.1	8.6	n/a	n/a
March 1998	6.4	9.2	n/a	n/a
March 1999	6.9	10.0	n/a	n/a
March 2000	7.4	11.1	n/a	n/a
March 2001	7.4	10.8	n/a	n/a
March 2002	7.3	10.4	n/a	n/a
March 2003	7.2	8.7	n/a	n/a
March 2004	7.0	7.9	n/a	n/a
March 2005	7.0	7.5	7.0	8.3
March 2006	6.5	6.9	6.9	7.8
March 2007	5.0	5.6	n/a	n/a

Notes:
1. HES figures relate to patients admitted during financial year ending March. Outpatient HES only available from 2004-05.
2. Korner figures prior to March 1998 are provider based.

Source:
QM08R return, HES.

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what patients groups and professional and industry representatives he has met in relation to his Department's consultation arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances and related services to primary care. [179172]

Dawn Primarolo: On 9 March 2006, the former Minister of State met Lord Campbell-Savours and a representative from the Ileostomy and Internal Pouch Support Group. The Disability Lobby raised the review during a meeting with the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Ivan Lewis) on 26 April 2007.

Lambert Hospital

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has for the future of the Lambert hospital; [179258]

(2) what the staffing levels are at Lambert hospital in Thirsk. [179268]

Ann Keen: The organisation or reconfiguration of local services is a matter for the national health service locally; in this instance the North Yorkshire and York primary care trust (PCT) working in conjunction with clinicians, patients and other stakeholders.

Information on staffing levels at the Lambert hospital is not held centrally. This can instead be obtained direct from the North Yorkshire and York PCT.

Liver Diseases

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps *(a)* he has taken in each year since 1997 and *(b)* plans to take in each of the next three years to reduce the incidence of liver disease; what discussions (i) he, (ii) Ministers in his Department and (iii) officials have had since January 2007 with representatives of *(A)* the medical profession and *(B)* the brewing industry on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [177131]

Dawn Primarolo: We are concerned about the increasing incidence of—and mortality from—liver disease. Since 1997, we have taken important action on a number of fronts to combat the primary causes of liver disease, namely alcohol misuse, viral hepatitis and obesity.

In 2004, the Government published the first ever cross-Government alcohol strategy. The Government's renewed alcohol strategy, 'Safe. Sensible. Social—the next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy', published in June 2007, builds on this and focuses on 18-24 year-old binge drinkers, young people under 18 who drink alcohol and harmful drinkers.

In 2007, the Department negotiated a ground breaking agreement with the drinks industry and by the end of this year we expect the majority of alcoholic drink labels to include alcohol unit information.

As part of the recent spending review, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that a new national priority for the national health service would be to reduce the rate of hospital admissions for alcohol related conditions. This is expected to encourage earlier identification of, and intervention for, people who drink too much, linked to advice and support from general practitioners or hospitals—shown to be the best way of reducing the kind of 'everyday' drinking which, over time, can lead to liver disease and other problems.

The Government will shortly be embarking on a £10 million advertising campaign on alcohol and health—the biggest ever. This will focus on daily drinking guidelines, so that people are better able to estimate how much they are drinking.

We have in place a range of measures to prevent and control Hepatitis B and C, which can cause serious liver disease. For example, the Hepatitis C Action Plan for England, launched in 2004, sets out a framework of action to improve the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis C, and is supported by a centrally funded awareness campaign.

Evidence shows a direct link between obesity and fatty liver disease. Reducing obesity across the population is a key Government priority. Action to tackle obesity in both adults and children will be taken forward through the new cross-Government obesity strategy.

In addition, we are considering the possibility of developing a strategy for liver disease, which would cover health promotion as well as the full range of health services. Decisions will be informed by preliminary work undertaken in 2007, which has included a series of informal meetings with members of the medical profession and other stakeholders.

I recently met with Professor Ian Gilmore, president of the Royal College of Physicians, to discuss tackling alcohol related harm. Since January 2007, Ministers and officials have also met with the Food and Drink Federation, Alcohol Concern, the Wine and Spirits Trade Association, British retail Consortium and other representatives of the alcohol industry.

Macular Degeneration

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on decisions relating to treatment for macular degeneration. [179055]

Ann Keen: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has published a second Appraisal Consultation Document (ACD) on Lucentis (ranibizumab) and Macugen (pegaptanib) for the treatment of wet age-related macular degeneration. Stakeholders had until 14 January 2008 to provide comments on the ACD and these comments will be considered by NICE's Appraisal Committee before the guidance is finalised. NICE expects to publish its final guidance later in 2008.

Further detailed information on this appraisal is available on NICE's website at:

http://guidance.nice.org.uk/page.aspx?o=207024

Mental Health

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps have been taken to increase provision of mental health in-reach teams in prison for those with mental illnesses which are not severe or enduring; [181487]

(2) how much funding is allocated for mental health in-reach teams in prisons in 2007-08. [181489]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Since 2005-06, primary care trusts have been allocated £20 million a year for mental health in-reach teams in prisons.

This investment funds 102 mental health in-reach teams, which employ 360 (whole time equivalent) mental health staff.

In addition, this year an additional allocation of £2.5 million was made to further develop mental health services within male and female local prisons in line with guidance set out in the Offender Mental Health Care Pathway, published in 2005 by the Department.

Mental Health Services: Greater London

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many mental health wards have been closed in hospitals in Greater London since 1997, broken down by primary care trust. [178458]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 14 January 2008]*: The information requested is not collected centrally.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is expected to complete its assessment of Sunitinib. [181497]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently appraising sunitinib (Sutent) along with three other drugs, bevacizumab, sorafenib and temsirolimus, for renal cell carcinoma. We understand that subject to appeals, NICE expects to publish final guidance to the NHS in early 2009. Further information on this appraisal can be found on NICE's website at:

www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=11817

The Department has made it clear to national health service organisations that it is not acceptable to refuse to fund a treatment simply because if has not yet been appraised by NICE.

NHS: Cleaning Summit

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date the NHS chief executive's Cleaning Summit will be held. [179115]

Ann Keen: The date for the Cleaning Summit will be finalised shortly.

NHS: Complaints

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints about care in the national health service are under investigation by the Healthcare Commission; and what the average length of time between the start of an investigation and the publication of a report on it has been in the last 12 months. [180164]

Mr. Bradshaw: As at 17 January 2008, the Healthcare Commission had 1,795 open independent reviews about national health service care. This compares with approximately 4,000 at the same time in 2007. At the end of December 2007, the average length of time for independent reviews was less than four months; this compares with 7.2 months at the end of December 2006.

NHS: Disease Control

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance he has issued to the NHS on,procedures for induction and training on infection prevention and control for staff. [179116]

Ann Keen: There is a statutory obligation for all national health service organisations under the code of practice for the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections, to ensure that all staff are suitably educated in the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections. In addition, the Knowledge and Skills Framework includes health, safety and security as a core aspect of all jobs under "Agenda for Change". The Knowledge and Skills Framework makes clear that it is vital that each member of staff takes responsibility for promoting the health, safety and security of patients, clients, the public, colleagues and themselves. This would include reducing the risks of healthcare associated infections.

Skills for Health has developed competence frameworks and national occupational standards for healthcare staff in all sectors of the workforce. These include competencies and national occupational standards in infection prevention and control. More information on this can be found on the Skills for Health website at:

www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/page/competences/completed-competencesprojects/list/infection-prevention-and-control#

The Department is currently working together with partners in the Social Partnership forum, such as trade unions and employers, to develop and implement workforce policies in relation to tackling healthcare associated infections. This will include producing a guide this year for local employers on how Human Resources processes such as training, induction and disciplinary action can be best used to encourage good practice in infection control.

In addition, the Department is working with undergraduate and postgraduate deans, the General Medical Council, the Medical Royal Colleges and the Nursing and Midwifery Council to ensure that training in infection prevention and control is embedded at all stages of medical and nurse training.

There are a number of resources that are available to train staff in best practice in infection prevention and control. These include:

the NHS Infection Control programme, a free online resource funded designed to increase understanding of infection control practice in clinical and non-clinical staff this is available at: www.infectioncontrol.nhs.uk;

the National Resource for Infection Control, a one-stop shop for infection control guidance which is available at: www.nric.org.uk; and

online training for doctors on methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus and Clostridium difficile which is available at: www.doctors.net.uk.

NHS: Drugs

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received from manufacturers of medical consumables on the classification of their products by his Department; what steps he plans to take in response; and if he will make a statement. [165559]

Mr. Bradshaw: Following publication of "Arrangements under the Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances and related services to Primary Care revised proposals" on 6 September 2007, the Department received a number of representations that indicated that some errors highlighted in the item classification table in the November 2006 consultation had not been corrected in the latest published consultation document.

In summary, 478 editorial changes have been requested; the majority could be considered errors, for example incorrect reference codes.

In addition, 124 omissions have been identified mainly as a result of companies change of ownership during the course of this consultation.

These will be corrected when the classification is revisited.

NHS: Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what public funds in addition to those announced in the 2007 Spending Review have been allocated to the *(a)* programme of preventative care, *(b)* checks in GP surgeries and *(c)* screening programme announced by the Prime Minister on 7 January 2008; [180229]

(2) how much funding will be provided for the screening programme announced by the Prime Minister on 7 January 2008. [180340]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) on 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1033W.

NHS: Greater London

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much revenue was received from the sale of NHS property in London in each year since May 1997. [180635]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is collected on the cash receipts from the sale of NHS capital assets in annual audited summarisation schedules. Information is not available on the sale of assets which have not been capitalised. The following table includes sales by health authorities, strategic health authorities, primary care trusts and national health service trusts in London from 1 April 2000 to 31 March 2007 by financial year. Receipts include sales to other NHS organisations as well as to the private sector. Information is not held prior to 2000 by individual NHS bodies therefore 2000-01 is the earliest year which can be provided.

Receipts from the sale of NHS capital assets in London

	Receipts from all capital assets (£000)
2000-01	141,962
2001-02	136,075
2002-03	93,876
2003-04	142,550
2004-05	143,272
2005-06	123,951
2006-07	84,122

NHS: Negligence

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to paragraph 21, page 67 of his Department's resource accounts for 2006-07, on what basis his Department calculated the periods over which clinical negligence provisions are expected to be payable. [178286]

Ann Keen: All clinical negligence claims are managed and accounted for by the NHS Litigation Authority. In arriving at its valuation of provisions when constructing its own annual accounts the authority effectively reviews the value of individual reported claims against the national health service.

This review is part of the continuous legal process adopted by the authority and includes an assessment of the likely timing of settlement of each claim, ie the point at which any damages payable are likely to be agreed along with associated third party costs. For claims not yet reported but where the negligent incident is considered to have already occurred the authority makes a global incurred but not reported (IBNR) provision in its accounts. This IBNR provision is an actuarially assessed value based upon extensive data, held by the authority, relating to the level of reporting of negligent incidents within the English NHS.

The value of this IBNR provision is also subject to an assessment of likely timing both in regard to when the claims are likely to become reported but also when they are likely to settle.

Essentially the authority then combines the individual claims data for all known claims with the global IBNR calculation in order to arrive at a forecast regarding the future timing and value of the settlement of claims against the NHS and it is these results which are reported within paragraph 21 on page 67.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to paragraph 21, page 67 of his Department's resource accounts for 2006-07, for what reason provision for clinical negligence was increased during 2006-07. [178288]

Ann Keen: The reporting of clinical negligence provisions referred to in paragraph 21 are essentially data reported from the activities of the NHS Litigation Authority. There are several reasons for the increases in value of clinical negligence provisions in any given financial period and during 2006-07 the main ones were:

the value of new claims reported to the authority where the negligent treatment had been delivered in the same financial period, ie where a patient has brought a claim for negligence in the same financial year that they allege negligent treatment. (Claims reported in 2006-07 where the negligent treatment was in an earlier financial year would already have been provided for in the accounts of the authority as incurred but not reported (IBNR));

where the value of existing claims has required alteration due to improved or further knowledge regarding the individual claim, eg where the courts have established new values for specific heads of damage or where original valuations excluded damage which is subsequently agreed to be relevant through the litigation process; and

actuarial review of IBNR suggests that forecast values of claims to be reported in the future require amendment, for example because claim reporting patterns appear to suggest more claims than originally forecast are being reported for a particular financial period or periods.

NHS: PFI

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* primary care trusts, *(b)* hospitals and *(c)* other NHS bodies are involved in litigation with private finance initiative contractors. [180725]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are no instances of legal proceedings taking place between an national health service body and a private finance initiative contractor.

NHS: Standards

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure patients *(a)* at Barnet and Chase Farm hospital, *(b)* at the Royal Free hospital, *(c)* at Edgware hospital and *(d)* in the NHS (i) are treated with dignity and respect and (ii) have their human rights observed. [179107]

Mr. Bradshaw: Treating service users with dignity and respect is an important part of hospital care. Hospitals are aware of the need to improve the way in which services are offered to promote dignity and are monitored against it through Healthcare Commission inspections.

I understand that in the most recent Healthcare Commission assessments, for 2006-07, Barnet primary care trust, Barnet and Chase Farm hospitals NHS trust and Royal Free Hampstead NHS trust all met all of the assessments criteria that relate to dignity and respect.

Northwick Park Hospital: Maternity Services

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made in improving maternity services at Northwick Park hospital; and if he will make a statement. [179016]

Mr. Bradshaw: The provision of maternity services at Northwick Park hospital is a matter for the local national health service.

In 2005, the Department introduced "special measures" at the maternity unit at Northwick Park hospital following a report from the Healthcare Commission. Following improvements to the service, these were lifted on 30 September 2006.

We have been informed that the NHS Litigation Authority has recently awarded the maternity unit at Northwick Park hospital level 2, the highest level being 3, in the Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts—a national scheme to gauge the safety of clinical care, meaning that the

'maternity service proactively uses internal and external information to improve clinical care'.

Nurse Family Partnerships

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans there are to extend the services offered by nurse-family partnerships. [180230]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

Over the 2007 spending review period we will be investing £30 million to:

Conduct the final year of the small scale testing phase of the family nurse partnership (called nurse-family partnership in the US), begun in March 2007 on 10 sites in England and running until March 2009;

increase the number of sites testing and delivering the family nurse partnership intervention in England by 20 sites in 2008-09, with the decision about possible further expansion in subsequent years being informed by evaluation outcomes from operating the first 30 sites;

conduct a research trial into the impact of the family nurse partnership in England; and

support integration of the family nurse partnership into the universal child health promotion programme.

Nurses: Training

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many training posts for nurses specialising in *(a)* inflammatory bowel disease, *(b)* upper gastrointestinal cancer, *(c)* lower gastrointestinal cancer, *(d)* stoma care and *(e)* liver disease there were in the last five years. [178033]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

The annual national health service workforce census does not separately identify the number of post-registration training posts from the rest of the nursing workforce.

The Government have supported the development of a range of specialist roles within nursing. However it is for local NHS organisations to commission training places and to deploy specialist nurses in accordance with their local needs.

Osteoporosis: Females

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women have been diagnosed with osteoporotic fractures in each age cohort in the London region in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [178417]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held centrally.

Physiotherapy: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve access to physiotherapy services in Barnet; and if he will make a statement. [177997]

Ann Keen: The provision of physiotherapy services in Barnet is the responsibility of the local national health service.

Nationally, the Department is implementing a therapies improvement programme to improve the available information and data management, and improve access to services provided by allied health professionals. This includes the development of a tool designed to improve access to physiotherapy services.

The Department is also collaborating with the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy to pilot introducing self-referral to physiotherapy.

Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital Stanmore

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the future of the Royal National Orthopaedic hospital, Stanmore. [178070]

Mr. Bradshaw: The future of the Royal National Orthopaedic hospital (RNOH) is a matter for the local national health service (NHS).

However, I am informed that NHS London's Capital Investments Committee discussed proposals for the future of the Royal National Orthopaedic hospital in a meeting on 14 January 2008. The Capital Investments Committee confirmed that it is seeking an outline business case for development of the RNOH's Stanmore site. NHS London expects to receive a fully worked up outline business case from the Trust by the end of February 2008.

Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of adults who received a regular check up on the NHS in the latest period for which figures are available; [167792]

(2) how many more adults in each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11 he expects will receive a regular check-up on the NHS; and how frequently each adult will receive these check-ups; [167793]

(3) by what date he expects his programme for every adult to receive a regular check-up on the NHS to be fully implemented; [167794]

(4) what guidance he has issued to trusts to ensure that every adult receives a regular NHS check-up. [167795]

Mr. Bradshaw: The General Medical Services contract requires general practitioner practices to:

invite all newly registered patients for a consultation within six months of registration;

provide, on request, a consultation to all patients aged 75 or over who have not had a consultation within the last 12 months; and

provide, on request, a consultation for patients aged 16 to 74 who have not had a consultation within the last three years.

There are no data collected centrally on the number of adults who receive such consultations.

The Department is currently developing proposals for a screening programme. The purpose of the screening programme will be to identify people's levels of risk for cardiac and vascular disease so that they can be offered preventive measures.

The exact nature of a vascular risk assessment and management programme—and the operational timescales for implementing the programme—are still the subject of developmental work.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 25 January 2008

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Overseas Sports Programmes

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been allocated by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* UK Sport to overseas sports programmes until 2012. [181786]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 24 January 2008]*: No firm allocations from departmental or UK Sport budgets have been made for overseas sports programmes beyond 2008-09.

Allocations to date for the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 are:

£

	2007-08	*2008-09*
(a) From the Department for Culture, Media and Sport		
Total	£200,000	
(b) From UK Sport		
Total	1,609,000	1,530,000

Sportsmatch UK

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the Government's plans are for Sportsmatch UK; and if he will make a statement. [181782]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 24 January 2008]*: Management of the Sportsmatch programme in England successfully transferred to Sport England's direct control in April 2007. Sport England is in the process of developing and agreeing with Ministers their new three-year strategy for 2008-11. We envisage that small grants, with matched funding, will form a part of the new strategy. Sport England is consulting partners and stakeholders on whether the Sportsmatch brand should continue.

Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what meetings he has had with trades union officials since 1 July 2007; on what dates; and with which trades unions. [179857]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Ministers meet many people as part of the process of policy development. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what items of his Department's *(a)* revenue and *(b)* expenditure are uprated using (i) the consumer prices index, (ii) the retail prices index and (iii) other measures of inflation. [179940]

Mr. Woodward: The requested information is as follows:

(a) Revenue generated by the Northern Ireland Office is based on prices set by Government legislation and therefore the Department does not increase prices through indexation or any other measure of inflation.

(b) The Northern Ireland Office carries out an annual indexation exercise on its Fixed Assets using the Price Index Numbers for Current Cost Accounting as well as the Building Cost Information Service (BCIS), Residential Land Index and the Dwellings Index in relation to Land and Buildings.

Inflation is also taken into consideration in the preparation of business cases for future expenditure in accordance with Treasury guidance.

Departmental ICT

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female members of staff in his Department were issued with personal digital assistants in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [181363]

Mr. Woodward: The figures shown in the following table include the numbers of personal digital assistants, including blackberries and most recently smart phones issued to staff each year within the NI0. It should be made clear however that some of these items may be re-issued when there are staff changes.

	Male	*Female*
2001	0	0
2002	0	0
2003	4	2
2004	3	2
2005	4	2
2006	6	2
2007	4	1
2008	5	4

Please note none of these devices are allowed to be connected directly to the NIO confidential ICT network.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of the helicopters in Afghanistan not fitted with winches are fitted with an alternative device capable of extracting personnel from situations where landing is impossible, broken down by device. [181044]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: None of the Apache or Lynx helicopters deployed to Afghanistan are equipped with a winch or any other device designed to extract personnel from situations where landing is impossible. That is not the purpose of those helicopters. All UK Sea King and all UK Chinooks deployed in Afghanistan are equipped with winches.

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the effect on costs of the changes in arrangements for payment of lump sums under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme coming into force on 8 February 2008. [180518]

Derek Twigg: There are at present 24 personnel with serious multiple injuries who have submitted a claim and will benefit from the change to the multiple injury rule which comes into effect on 8 February 2008. Under the rules of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme, individuals have up to five years in which to make a claim, accordingly, there maybe others who have yet to claim. However, it is estimated that the 24 cases will cost an additional £2-4 million following the revised rule coming into effect.

Estimating the numbers of potential claimants and therefore future costs is always difficult. The Ministry of Defence will meet its obligations to pay entitlements to compensation in accordance with the rules of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what work is being undertaken by his Department on the cost and structure of the Armed Forces' Pension Scheme. [179671]

Derek Twigg: The costs of the Armed Forces Pensions Schemes are routinely monitored by officials. The last significant review of the Armed Forces Pensions Schemes resulted in the Armed Forces (Pensions and Compensation) Act 2004 and the creation of the pension scheme known as AFPS 05 in April 2005. As part of the ongoing process of providing such benefits we are keeping under review how to manage the Schemes' long term liabilities.

Athena Mechanism

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much expenditure from the public purse has been spent on European Security and Defence Policy military operations *(a)* under the Athena mechanism and *(b)* not under the Athena mechanism since January 2004, broken down by operation. [177526]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 10 January 2008]:* The amount spent on ESDP military operations since January 2004 under the Athena mechanism is set out as shown.

The amount spent on ESDP military operations since January 2004 not under the Athena mechanism format includes national borne costs which are held theatre wide rather than for NATO/ESDP (for example in the Balkans). Further work is therefore required to determine these costs as accurately as possible. I will write to the hon. Member as soon as this work is complete.

EU operation	*Where*	*When*	*Under ATHENA (£ million)*
ALTHEA	(Bosnia and Herzegovina	Since July 2004	15.177
EUFORDRC	Democratic Republic of Congo	April 2006 to November 2006	1.417
EUFOR CHAD/ CAR	CHAD/ Central African Republic	Yet to deploy	5.902
Total	—	—	22.496

Substantive answer from Mr. Bob Ainsworth to Dr. Fox:

I undertook to write in answer to your Parliamentary Question of 14 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 878W, with more detail on the amount spent on ESDP military operations since January 2004 not under the Athena mechanism format.

In addition to the figures already provided, the national borne cost for NATO and ESDP missions is £208.95 million for the period requested. As this figure represents a national pan-Balkans commitment it has not been possible to disaggregate further between the NATO-led mission in Kosovo and the missions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, at first led by NATO and after July 2004 led by the EU.

For the EUFOR mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo mission, two staff officers were deployed, but it has not been possible to disaggregate this figure.

For the EUFOR mission to Chad and the Central African Republic, two staff officers have deployed to the French OHQ in Paris and two staff officers will deploy with the Force Headquarters to Chad, but the figure for these costs has not yet been identified.

Departmental Data Protection

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the statement of 22 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1225, on MOD (data loss), whether the laptop stolen on 9 January 2008 was a departmental laptop or a privately owned laptop. [182389]

Des Browne: The laptop stolen on 9 January 2008 was a departmental laptop.

Departmental Equipment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to the answer on 19 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1363-4W, on departmental equipment, how many of the computers which have been stolen since 1998 contained information with a classification of *(a)* none, *(b)* restricted, *(c)* confidential, *(d)* secret and *(e)* top secret; [182387]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 58W, on departmental computers, how many of the computers which were stolen in 2007 had a classification of *(a)* no classification, *(b)* restricted, *(c)* confidential, *(d)* secret and *(e)* top secret. [182390]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As a result of the theft of the Royal Navy laptop, the Ministry of Defence has initiated an investigation into the details of all lost or stolen computers since 2003.

I will write to the hon. Member when the information is available and arrange for a copy of my reply to be placed in the Library of the House.

Devonport Naval Base

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which ships are base-ported at Devonport Naval Base, Plymouth. [182119]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are 26 Royal Navy vessels currently base ported at HM Naval Base Devonport, as shown in the following table :

Class of vessel	*Name of vessel*
Nuclear submarines	HMS Trafalgar
	HMS Turbulent
	HMS Tireless
	HMS Triumph
	HMS Torbay
	HMS Talent
	HMS Trenchant
Amphibious vessels	HMS Ocean
	HMS Albion
	HMS Bulwark
Type 22 Frigates	HMS Campbeltown
	HMS Cumberland
	HMS Chatham
	HMS Cornwall
Type 23 Frigates	HMS Montrose
	HMS Northumberland
	HMS Monmouth
	HMS Sutherland
	HMS Somerset
	HMS Portland
	HMS Argyll
Survey vessels	HMS Echo
	HMS Scott
	HMS Gleaner
	HMS Roebuck
	HMS Enterprise

Health Services: Armed Forces

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 312W, on health services: armed forces, what funding is to be made available for care home funding for war pensioners in each financial year until 2016-17. [179747]

Derek Twigg: Under the War Pensions Scheme the Department has the discretionary power, in Article 21 of the Service Pensions Order, to meet the cost of any necessary expenses in respect of the medical, surgical or rehabilitative treatment of a member of the armed forces that arise wholly or mainly as a result of the disablement due to service before 6 April 2005 where it is not provided free of charge under other legislation of the United Kingdom. This power predates the NHS and is now little used because health care is through the normal mechanisms of the health service.

MOD continues to fund the fees of a small number of war pensioners who are in homes that provide skilled nursing care for the condition for which they receive a war pension. Funding is provided on a case-by-case basis. Funding under the War Pensions Scheme comes from Annually Managed Expenditure, is demand led and is not subject to forecast other than for the purposes of the War Pensions supply estimate.

Lobbying

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many lobbyists have passes giving them access to his Department's building in Whitehall; and if he will make a statement. [174786]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: MOD security policy allows the issue of passes to persons who, for business reasons, require frequent access to MOD buildings and who meet relevant security criteria. Details of the company each individual is employed by are held, but their post title or function is not usually recorded.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in hiring helicopters for use in theatre by *(a)* the UK and *(b)* NATO. [181041]

Des Browne: As the Prime Minister announced on 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 304, NATO has negotiated a contract to lease commercial helicopters to move routine freight in Afghanistan, which will free up military helicopters for other tasks. This contract will commence shortly and will be of significant benefit to UK forces. There are no separate UK commercial helicopter leasing initiatives planned although commercial helicopters were leased for a few days in December 2007 to help deliver Christmas mail and parcels to troops in Afghanistan.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Community Policing

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the recommended minimum number per ward is of participants in key individual networks. [179820]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* Key individual networks (KINs) are intended as a mechanism for neighbourhood policing teams to canvass the opinions of the local public on a broad range of policing-related issues.

The KIN structure is flexible in nature; the minimum number of participants per ward or boundary in KINs is governed by the needs of the community that it

serves. For example, the Metropolitan Police Service has identified its neighbourhoods based on existing ward boundaries. Other police forces have used different methodologies to identify their neighbourhoods such as discussions with local residents and partnerships, together with an analysis of local crime and demographic data.

Community Support Officers: Humberside

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the retention rate of police community support officers was in the Humberside Police Authority area in each year since 2002-03; and if she will make a statement. [180784]

Mr. McNulty: Information on the retention rate of police community support officers in Humberside is a matter for the chief constable and his police authority.

Crime: Databases

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in her Department have had with (i) foreign governments and (ii) foreign intelligence services on granting access to UK databases to foreign law enforcement and intelligence agencies; and if she will make a statement. [180149]

Mr. McNulty: This Government believe that the sharing of data with other countries is fundamental to our ability to tackle serious crime, terrorism and illegal immigration. We have therefore been engaging with our EU partners to pursue a number of projects to improve the exchange of law enforcement data including through the joining up of national databases on DNA, fingerprints and vehicle registration (the Prüm Council Decision), and through the joining up of criminal records databases.

The United Kingdom is a significant provider of information to Europol and Eurojust to facilitate the cross-border prosecution of terrorism and organised crime. We are also in the process of implementing the Schengen Information System II, which will provide us with alerts on matters such as missing persons, fugitives and stolen vehicles.

As part of the G8 the UK has encouraged all states to contribute data to and participate in the Interpol 1-24/7 database for lost and stolen passports and identity documents. G8 states took the lead by being among the first states globally to submit all of their data on both issued and unissued lost and stolen documents to Interpol.

Furthermore, the UK is participating in a project to evaluate the extent that G8 countries share data between their own migration authorities and police and other competent security authorities with a view to development of best practice procedures for this. The UK has also led a project to create the G8 DNA 1-24/7 Sear Request Network, which involves access between national databases (although on a hit/no hit basis only for DNA). It does not include the creation of a common data base, automatically link databases or allow automatic access to an existing database or information held on the database of a G8 state from outside that state itself. All participating states retain direct in-country control to enable them to decline any inquiry.

We have numerous bilateral relationships with key partners both in Europe and beyond, including the United States, which enable our law enforcement and intelligence agencies to cooperate effectively to protect the security of the public in the UK and other countries.

In all cases where the Government shares personal data with other countries, it must ensure the relevant arrangements comply with legal obligations to provide appropriate safeguards for privacy rights, including those set out in the European Convention on Human Rights and the Data Protection Act 1998 (which implemented EC Directive 95/46 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data). Many of the key instruments providing for the sharing of personal data between law enforcement agencies at the EU level incorporate data protection safeguards tailored to the specific types of data to be shared. The Data Protection Framework Decision will, when adopted, set uniform data protection standards for personal data sent from one member state to another, and also to European bodies such as Europol, for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties.

Dogs: Children

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many attacks on children by dogs have been have been recorded in each year since the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 came into force by *(a)* Rottweilers and *(b)* each category of dog banned under the Act. [181153]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not available centrally from the recorded crime statistics. Attacks by dogs are not crimes as defined in law. The relevant offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 relate to an owner or person in charge allowing a dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person or allowing a dog to enter a non-public place and injure any person. These offences would generally be recorded under the Home Office classification 'Less serious wounding' and cannot be separately identified from other offences recorded within that classification.

Essex Police Authority: Costs

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* staff and *(b)* administrative costs of Essex police authority were in each year since 1997. [180626]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not held centrally. The staffing and related costs of the authority are a matter for the Essex police authority.

Essex Police: Emergency Calls

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on the performance of the Essex police emergency call system. [174063]

Mr. McNulty: HMIC inspected all forces in England and Wales across a number of police business areas as part of their Baseline assessments up until 2007. Contact management was one of those business areas. In the three years to 2007, Essex police had been graded Fair (2003-04), Fair (2004-05) and GOOD (2005-06), indicating steady and continual improvement.

In the year to date Essex have been performing very well in respect of their 999 emergency call-handling, answering 92.5 per cent. of call received within 10 seconds, which is 2.5 per cent. above the expected target of 90 per cent. in 10 seconds as laid down in the National Call Handling Standards.

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what restrictions are placed on the activities of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam within the UK; [181339]

(2) what plans she has to reconsider the restrictions placed on the activities of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam; [181340]

(3) how often she reviews the proscription of organisations considered to be involved in terrorism; [181341]

(4) whether the proscriptions of organisations under the Terrorism Act 2000 are indefinite; and if she will make a statement. [181405]

Mr. McNulty: The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was proscribed by the then Home Secretary in 2001. The Terrorism Act 2000 contains a number of offences relating to proscribed organisations including membership, fundraising, inviting support and wearing clothes or displaying articles so as to arouse reasonable suspicion that the wearer is a member or supporter of any such organisation. The Police and Crown Prosecution Service are responsible for, respectively, investigating and prosecuting offences under this legislation.

The proscription of organisations is not subject to a time limit. And an organisation which is proscribed can only be de-proscribed by an order subject to the positive resolution procedure removing it from schedule 2 of the Terrorism Act 2000. However, it is our policy and practice to review regularly proscribed organisations on the current list and to assess whether they should continue to be proscribed. Any person who is affected by an organisation's proscription can apply to the Secretary of State for it to be de-proscribed, and we take any such requests very seriously.

Members: Correspondence

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will reply to Question 164672 tabled by the hon. Member for Cardiff Central, on 12 November 2007 for answer on 15 November; and if she will make a statement. [175550]

Meg Hillier: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2062W.

Merseyside Police: Modernisation

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on the compatibility of the restructuring of the Merseyside police with the framework laid down by her work force modernisation agenda. [164457]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* I am not aware of any restructuring being undertaken by Merseyside police and have received no representations about it.

National Bureaucracy Advisor on Police Reform

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who the current National Bureaucracy Advisor on Police Reform is; and whether the position is vacant. [176054]

Mr. McNulty: The National Bureaucracy Advisor role has been vacant since July 2006. Sir Ronnie Flanagan's Review of Policing, which began on 26 April 2007, is taking forward the work on reducing bureaucracy in the service.

Recommendations for reducing police bureaucracy were made in Sir Ronnie's interim report and are being taken forward by the National Policing Improvement Agency. The agency will be shaping the staffing and leadership of this work to meet the requirements made in Sir Ronnie's report.

Sir Ronnie's final report will be published shortly.

Police Patrolling

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 90W, on police patrolling, what the respective figures are for each year from 1997-98 to 2005-06 based on the same definition used in the answer. [174000]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 18 December 2007]:* The information requested on the percentage of time spent on front-line duties by the Essex police is set out in the following table. This measure was only introduced in 2003-04 and is not available for earlier years, and the definition is kept under review.

Essex police—time spent on front-line duties 2003-04 to 2006-07

	Percentage time spent on front-line policing
2003-04	56.8
2004-05	60.9
2005-06	62.9
2006-07	64.8

Police: Complaints

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many formal complaints were made against *(a)* South Yorkshire police and *(b)* English police forces to the Independent Police Complaints Commission and its predecessor in each of the last five years; and how many of those complaints were upheld. [181045]

Mr. McNulty: Responsibility for the collation and publication of complaints against the police rests with the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

Police: Finance

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects on police involvement in community services of the planned reduction in funding for police authorities in 2008-09. [180295]

Mr. McNulty: There is no reduction in funding for police authorities in 2008-09.

The provisional police funding settlement for the next three years was announced on 6 December 2007. General grant will increase by 2.7 per cent. in each year with each police authority in England and Wales receiving a minimum increase in general grant of 2.5 per cent. for each of those years. In addition, a range of other funding will be made available to all police authorities. In line with the Government's commitment to neighbourhood policing, the settlement includes an increase from £315 million to £324 million for neighbourhood policing provision for 2008-09.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of police officers left the police service *(a)* within two to five years, *(b)* within five to 10 years and *(c)* after over 10 years of joining, in each year since 1997, broken down by police force area. [176315]

Mr. McNulty: Data are available from 2002-03 onwards, and the Home Office only started collecting this level of detail from that year.

These figures are given in the following tables, and are on the same basis as the ones given for police officers who left the service within two years of joining—28 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 471-75W. The number of transfers between forces has been separately identified as these officers, while leaving individual police forces, have not left the police service itself.

Number of police officers leaving the force (with the number of transfers separately identified) and the percentage of total police officer leavers that this figure represents, from 2002-03 to 2006-07[1]

(a) Officers leaving with two to less than five years' service

	2002-03			2003-04		
Police force area	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years' service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years' service*	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years' service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years' service*
Avon and Somerset	4	9	4	7	14	10
Bedfordshire	4	13	14	8	16	15
Cambridgeshire	4	5	5	10	13	14
Cheshire	1	1	1	4	8	7
Cleveland	1	1	2	3	9	11
Cumbria	1	3	5	3	5	10
Derbyshire	3	6	5	1	7	8
Devon and Cornwall	5	7	5	1	8	6
Dorset	1	6	9	3	3	4
Durham	4	5	7	8	10	13
Dyfed-Powys	1	1	2	1	1	3
Essex	20	26	12	7	19	9
Gloucestershire	8	13	16	7	9	18
Greater Manchester	22	42	11	21	40	12
Gwent	0	6	10	4	6	8
Hampshire	10	17	8	12	20	9
Hertfordshire	14	19	10	7	16	10
Humberside	4	8	8	7	14	14
Kent	7	12	6	16	21	9
Lancashire[2]	..	..	..	0	13	10
Leicestershire[3]	10	14	11	0	4	5
Lincolnshire	3	4	5	5	8	13
London, City of[4]	1	2	3	2	3	5
Merseyside	2	5	3	7	16	9
Metropolitan Police	143	187	11	147	205	13
Norfolk	2	3	3	1	3	6
Northamptonshire	2	5	9	4	12	16
Northumbria	3	8	5	4	15	8
North Wales	3	9	12	2	7	12
North Yorkshire	1	2	3	2	4	5
Nottinghamshire	..	10	7	10	14	11
South Wales	4	12	8	5	17	12
South Yorkshire	7	14	8	5	11	7
Staffordshire	3	8	6	3	6	6

Number of police officers leaving the force (with the number of transfers separately identified) and the percentage of total police officer leavers that this figure represents, from 2002-03 to 2006-07[1]

(a) Officers leaving with two to less than five years' service

	2002-03			2003-04		
Police force area	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years' service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years' service*	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years' service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years' service*
Suffolk	8	13	15	–	2	3
Surrey	65	72	29	35	46	31
Sussex	11	15	6	13	21	7
Thames Valley	52	64	17	35	45	14
Warwickshire	4	10	17	4	8	14
West Mercia	3	6	5	0	5	4
West Midlands	51	65	12	46	69	15
West Yorkshire	1	10	4	6	15	6
Wiltshire	0	6	7	5	7	11
Total[4]	483	730	10	471	778	11

	2004-05			2005-06		
Police force area	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years' service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years' service*	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years' service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years' service*
Avon and Somerset	8	16	9	9	24	13
Bedfordshire	4	8	8	6	13	15
Cambridgeshire	10	20	19	13	21	19
Cheshire	3	7	6	3	14	8
Cleveland	6	13	16	8	19	18
Cumbria	1	2	4	2	4	6
Derbyshire	2	11	10	3	11	8
Devon and Cornwall	6	13	7	5	12	6
Dorset	0	4	5	1	9	9
Durham	4	10	12	4	7	7
Dyfed-Powys	1	3	5	2	6	8
Essex	13	22	10	14	26	10
Gloucestershire	1	3	5	5	11	12
Greater Manchester	12	47	13	34	73	15
Gwent	3	7	10	3	12	15
Hampshire	23	31	12	10	21	7
Hertfordshire	14	25	16	11	25	15
Humberside	5	21	19	10	16	10
Kent	10	23	11	11	30	11
Lancashire[2]	6	13	8	3	10	5
Leicestershire[3]	..	..	..	5	11	7
Lincolnshire	1	1	1	4	10	10
London, City of	8	9	15	9	11	14
Merseyside	9	20	9	2	10	4
Metropolitan Police	86	142	10	112	214	13
Norfolk	1	2	3	1	3	3
Northamptonshire	6	14	15	5	6	7
Northumbria	6	8	5	2	14	7
North Wales	0	8	15	0	3	3
North Yorkshire	7	16	18	4	8	8
Nottinghamshire	15	21	14	10	16	10
South Wales	1	6	5	2	14	8
South Yorkshire	6	11	6	3	14	6
Staffordshire	1	7	6	3	6	5
Suffolk	8	11	15	4	7	8
Surrey	32	42	27	15	26	17
Sussex	3	5	2	9	24	11
Thames Valley	38	52	17	36	62	19
Warwickshire	1	3	5	1	5	7
West Mercia	7	12	10	1	9	6
West Midlands	26	54	12	29	66	14
West Yorkshire	11	25	9	11	22	6

Police force area	2004-05 Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)	2004-05 Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years' service	2004-05 Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years' service	2005-06 Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)	2005-06 Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years' service	2005-06 Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years' service
Wiltshire	2	8	10	0	6	8
Total[4]	401	763	11	417	930	11

Police force area	2006-07 Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)	2006-07 Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years' service	2006-07 Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years' service
Avon and Somerset	16	28	17
Bedfordshire	2	12	21
Cambridgeshire	6	10	11
Cheshire	4	11	10
Cleveland	3	8	10
Cumbria	1	9	18
Derbyshire	3	10	-
Devon and Cornwall	3	8	6
Dorset	4	7	6
Durham	1	-	11
Dyfed-Powys	6	6	13
Essex	0	21	-
Gloucestershire	3	9	12
Greater Manchester	32	76	15
Gwent	8	12	18
Hampshire	14	19	9
Hertfordshire	24	45	25
Humberside	6	17	14
Kent	14	27	12
Lancashire[2]	4	20	11
Leicestershire[3]	7	17	12
Lincolnshire	3	10	12
London, City of	6	8	12
Merseyside	4	19	7
Metropolitan Police	86	226	13
Norfolk	2	7	7
Northamptonshire	8	13	13
Northumbria	3	15	8
North Wales	6	13	15
North Yorkshire	6	15	15
Nottinghamshire	7	15	10
South Wales	0	8	4
South Yorkshire	8	18	9
Staffordshire	6	16	14
Suffolk	4	9	17
Surrey	19	32	17
Sussex	12	32	15
Thames Valley	46	77	26
Warwickshire	7	11	15
West Mercia	4	16	11
West Midlands	26	65	13
West Yorkshire	16	38	11
Wiltshire	1	6	10
Total[4]	430	1,011	13

(b) Officers leaving with five to less than ten years' service

	2002-03			2003-04		
Police force area	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years' service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years' service*	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years' service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years' service*
Avon and Somerset	12	25	12	5	14	10
Bedfordshire	6	6	7	8	10	10
Cambridgeshire	12	23	21	8	12	13
Cheshire	2	13	12	4	16	15
Cleveland	1	5	8	2	7	9
Cumbria	3	7	12	0	3	6
Derbyshire	2	7	6	1	4	5
Devon and Cornwall	4	13	8	6	11	9
Dorset	3	3	4	2	8	11
Durham	4	10	14	7	10	13
Dyfed-Powys	2	10	18	0	1	3
Essex	23	35	16	16	22	11
Gloucestershire	1	2	2	3	5	9
Greater Manchester	20	44	12	16	40	12
Gwent	0	9	15	0	4	5
Hampshire	14	22	10	19	32	14
Hertfordshire	21	25	13	8	11	7
Humberside	2	10	10	4	6	6
Kent	18	27	13	12	19	8
Lancashire				0	9	7
Leicestershire	14	28	22	0	10	12
Lincolnshire	2	5	7	2	5	8
London, City of	5	10	17	8	13	23
Merseyside	2	11	6	8	18	10
Metropolitan Police	93	179	10	88	144	9
Norfolk	5	8	9	2	4	8
Northamptonshire	6	7	13	7	14	19
Northumbria	6	17	10	4	20	11
North Wales	2	2	3	1	8	14
North Yorkshire	1	2	3	6	10	14
Nottinghamshire		17	12	6	7	6
South Wales	3	8	5	0	6	4
South Yorkshire	3	14	8	3	12	7
Staffordshire	5	17	13	4	10	10
Suffolk	1	3	4	1	7	9
Surrey	26	30	12	6	12	8
Sussex	17	28	11	17	30	10
Thames Valley	28	40	11	31	42	13
Warwickshire	2	2	3	1	1	2
West Mercia	5	8	7	10	15	12
West Midlands	57	82	16	43	93	21
West Yorkshire	6	18	7	7	25	10
Wiltshire	0	8	10	0	3	5
Total[4]	425	812	11	376	734	11

	2004-05			2005-06		
	Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)	*Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years' service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years' service*	*Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)*	*Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years' service*	*Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years' service*
Avon and Somerset	5	15	9	6	14	8
Bedfordshire	4	5	5	3	3	3
Cambridgeshire	3	9	9	4	12	11
Cheshire	4	6	6	7	14	8
Cleveland	0	8	10	3	8	8
Cumbria	3	4	9	5	7	10
Derbyshire	5	9	8	1	3	2
Devon and Cornwall	7	11	6	5	13	7
Dorset	4	11	14	2	6	6

	2004-05			2005-06		
	Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)	Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years' service	Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years' service	Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service	Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years' service	Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years' service
Durham	2	5	6	7	9	9
Dyfed-Powys	1	7	11	0	6	8
Essex	16	23	10	21	22	8
Gloucestershire	2	3	5	3	6	6
Greater Manchester	13	32	9	19	45	9
Gwent	5	11	15	3	9	11
Hampshire	17	27	10	9	19	6
Hertfordshire	9	15	10	17	23	13
Humberside	1	3	3	6	19	12
Kent	10	20	9	11	21	8
Lancashire[1]	2	8	5	4	6	3
Leicestershire[1]				11	23	14
Lincolnshire	3	8	10	4	7	7
London, City of	5	9	15	3	5	6
Merseyside	4	7	3	6	16	6
Metropolitan Police	62	136	10	77	140	9
Norfolk	3	4	5	2	7	8
Northamptonshire	4	10	11	4	8	9
Northumbria	5	11	7	7	15	7
North Wales	0	0	0	0	10	10
North Yorkshire	1	4	4	7	15	15
Nottinghamshire	2	8	6	8	12	8
South Wales	1	5	4	7	13	7
South Yorkshire	3	13	7	11	19	8
Staffordshire	5	10	8	2	3	3
Suffolk	2	10	14	5	7	8
Surrey	12	16	10	16	24	16
Sussex	19	32	12	6	13	6
Thames Valley	18	25	8	16	36	11
Warwickshire	1	3	5	1	5	7
West Mercia	4	10	9	3	9	6
West Midlands	24	49	11	30	57	12
West Yorkshire	0	19	7	7	14	4
Wiltshire	2	8	10	0	6	8
Total[4]	291	621	9	354	700	8

	2006-07		
Police force area	Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)	Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years' service	Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years' service
Avon and Somerset	7	13	8
Bedfordshire	5	10	18
Cambridgeshire	1	5	6
Cheshire	5	9	8
Cleveland	1	7	9
Cumbria	1	3	6
Derbyshire	3	15	11
Devon and Cornwall	6	13	10
Dorset	4	8	7
Durham	5	8	13
Dyfed-Powys	2	2	4
Essex	0	11	4
Gloucestershire	1	6	8
Greater Manchester	25	69	14
Gwent	2	6	9
Hampshire	8	17	8
Hertfordshire	22	30	17
Humberside	3	7	6
Kent	12	26	11
Lancashire[2]	3	7	4

Police force area	Number of transfers included as part of overall officers leaving the service	2006-07 Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years service	Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years service
Leicestershire	7	15	11
Lincolnshire	4	6	7
London, City of	8	10	15
Merseyside	1	11	4
Metropolitan Police	90	167	10
Norfolk	1	4	4
Northamptonshire	6	8	8
Northumbria	4	16	9
North Wales	6	11	13
North Yorkshire	2	10	10
Nottinghamshire	11	20	14
South Wales	1	19	8
South Yorkshire	19	29	13
Staffordshire	6	9	8
Suffolk	4	9	11
Surrey	22	17	19
Sussex	12	23	10
Thames Valley	23	38	13
Warwickshire	4	8	11
West Mercia	9	18	12
West Midlands	36	63	13
West Yorkshire	2	12	3
Wiltshire	1	10	16
Total[4]	389	792	10

Officers leaving with 10 years or more service

Police force area	Number of transfers included as part of overall officers leaving the service	2002-03[1] Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years service	Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years service	Number of transfers included as part of overall officers leaving the service	Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years service	Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years service
Avon and Somerset	13	133	65	7	83	58
Bedfordshire	17	56	61	20	56	54
Cambridgeshire	13	62	58	12	60	63
Cheshire	1	93	82	8	73	67
Cleveland	2	53	87	8	57	70
Cumbria	4	44	75	0	37	77
Derbyshire	2	90	82	1	62	72
Devon and Cornwall	5	114	74	6	99	77
Dorset	6	46	68	4	49	65
Durham	2	53	72	3	47	60
Dyfed-Powys	2	38	69	7	33	83
Essex	40	131	61	49	147	71
Gloucestershire	1	55	66	4	33	58
Greater Manchester	14	233	62	15	186	56
Gwent	2	44	72	6	60	82
Hampshire	16	157	70	14	132	57
Hertfordshire	47	113	59	33	88	56
Humberside	2	69	66	3	55	57
Kent	21	133	62	36	141	62
Lancashire[2]	..	..	..	0	86	68
Leicestershire[3]	15	76	60	12	56	65
Lincolnshire	1	49	67	2	41	67
London, City of	9	36	61	8	35	63
Merseyside	2	170	87	4	128	73
Metropolitan Police	185	968	56	156	834	53
Norfolk	2	69	75	2	38	75
Northamptonshire	4	36	64	5	40	55
Northumbria	6	119	73	13	127	70
North Wales	—	57	74	3	35	61
North Yorkshire	5	46	79	4	53	72

(c) Officers leaving with 10 years or more service

Police force area	2002-03 Number of transfers included as part of overall officers leaving the service	2002-03 Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years service	2002-03 Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years service	2003-04 Number of transfers included as part of overall officers leaving the service	2003-04 Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years service	2003-04 Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years service
Nottinghamshire		102	74	6	89	72
South Wales	2	108	71	1	113	77
South Yorkshire	5	120	70	2	117	72
Staffordshire	9	94	72	3	78	73
Suffolk	9	57	67	6	46	63
Surrey	34	92	57	7	70	54
Sussex	42	154	63	17	152	52
Thames Valley	60	213	58	63	194	61
Warwickshire	4	34	59	3	40	71
West Mercia	6	89	77	11	81	69
West Midlands	73	292	55	45	281	62
West Yorkshire	13	199	77	12	177	71
Wiltshire	0	58	71	7	42	64
Total[7]	685	4,870	62	630	4,286	63

Police force area	2004-05 Number of transfers included as part of overall officers leaving the service	2004-05 Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years service	2004-05 Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years service	2005-06 Number of transfers included as part of overall officers leaving the service	2005-06 Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years service	2005-06 Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years service
Avon and Somerset	8	111	65	8	131	71
Bedfordshire	15	55	56	9	57	64
Cambridgeshire	11	63	61	8	65	59
Cheshire	7	58	52	32	142	80
Cleveland	1	46	57	10	71	67
Cumbria	1	31	69	15	56	56
Derbyshire	4	83	76	16	121	57
Devon and Cornwall	5	136	76	28	151	70
Dorset	1	51	65	4	74	71
Durham	13	49	60	17	71	69
Dyfed-Powys	0	41	67	11	94	79
Essex	21	144	65	53	172	66
Gloucestershire	5	41	71	13	73	78
Greater Manchester	16	224	63	16	330	67
Gwent	1	51	70	1	46	58
Hampshire	18	171	64	41	222	76
Hertfordshire	20	79	50	23	92	54
Humberside	5	77	68	17	101	65
Kent	22	146	68	56	197	73
Lancashire[2]	6	125	75	50	181	86
Leicestershire[3]	—	—	—	16	106	67
Lincolnshire	0	57	71	8	65	68
London, City of	9	35	59	17	60	76
Merseyside	13	179	79	4	230	84
Metropolitan Police	111	886	64	288	1,155	72
Norfolk	5	67	84	11	70	77
Northamptonshire	8	62	68	11	67	74
Northumbria	8	122	76	38	160	79
North Wales	0	36	67	10	80	81
North Yorkshire	1	56	63	4	76	75
Nottinghamshire	4	101	70	25	128	80
South Wales	2	108	83	25	143	78
South Yorkshire	11	121	69	43	185	77
Staffordshire	6	75	60	10	92	81
Suffolk	4	37	50	12	66	73
Surrey	18	70	44	11	78	52
Sussex	21	138	53	23	135	61
Thames Valley	27	174	56	14	190	58

Police force area	2004-05 Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)	2004-05 Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years' service	2004-05 Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years' service	2005-06 Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)	2005-06 Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years' service	2005-06 Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years' service
Warwickshire	9	55	86	16	58	79
West Mercia	12	81	70	28	127	82
West Midlands	29	266	60	38	301	62
West Yorkshire	13	184	69	50	267	73
Wiltshire	4	52	66	7	49	67
Total[4]	477	4,640	65	1,071	6,022	71

Police force area	2006-07 Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)	2006-07 Number of police officers leaving the force with two to less than five years' service	2006-07 Percentage of police officers leaving with two to less than five years' service
Avon and Somerset	9	110	68
Bedfordshire	8	22	39
Cambridgeshire	11	63	70
Cheshire	8	78	68
Cleveland	7	46	60
Cumbria	0	31	62
Derbyshire	2	106	76
Devon and Cornwall	9	91	69
Dorset	1	81	73
Durham	3	40	63
Dyfed-Powys	3	57	77
Essex	0	210	74
Gloucestershire	1	57	75
Greater Manchester	30	328	67
Gwent	2	39	60
Hampshire	13	154	73
Hertfordshire	22	76	42
Humberside	8	51	67
Kent	14	162	71
Lancashire	10	134	76
Leicestershire	16	99	71
Lincolnshire	6	58	72
London, City of	10	47	70
Merseyside	3	199	76
Metropolitan Police	95	1,226	72
Norfolk	9	77	77
Northamptonshire	19	70	67
Northumbria	3	141	76
North Wales	2	55	63
North Yorkshire	3	61	59
Nottinghamshire	6	106	72
South Wales	1	186	82
South Yorkshire	9	127	65
Staffordshire	8	80	68
Suffolk	3	36	67
Surrey [3]	23	70	37
Sussex	20	128	59
Thames Valley	16	150	51
Warwickshire	1	49	65
West Mercia	13	99	68
West Midlands	23	325	65
West Yorkshire	15	253	73
Wiltshire	2	40	65
Total[4]	434	5,364	68

[1] Leaving figures include police officers leaving the force within the designated range of years of joining or re-joining the service, due to dismissals (including requirement to resign), voluntary resignations, medical retirements, ordinary retirements, all transfers and all deaths.
[2] Data for Lancashire were not available in 2002-03.
[3] Data for Leicestershire were not available in 2004-05.
[4] In order to compare data between 2002-03 and 2006-07 Lancashire and Leicestershire have been excluded from the total.

Police: Training

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officer recruits in England and Wales began residential training in each year since 1999. [176038]

Mr. McNulty: The number of police officer recruits in England and Wales who began residential training in each of the year from 1999 to 2006 is given in the following table. The new Initial Police Learning and Development Programme commenced in April 2006 and, apart from recruits to the Metropolitan Police Service, negated the requirement for a residential element as training is provided locally.

	1999-2000	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*Total 1999-2006*
Forces in England and Wales[1]	3,613	5,787	7,421	7,760	8,434	6,023	3,641	42,679
Metropolitan Police Service[2]	994	1,350	2,748	3,489	3,362	2,351	1,332	15,626
Total	4,607	7,137	10,169	11,249	11,796	8,374	4,973	58,305
Non Home Office force recruits trained for service inside England and Wales								
Total	73	109	101	119	183	311	264	1,169
Non Home Office force recruits trained for service outside England and Wales (Channel Islands)								
Total	53	46	48	29	26	21	19	242

[1] Excludes Metropolitan police force, British Transport police, NCS/NSPIS, Channel Island police and non-Home Office police forces
[2] This figure includes transferees from other forces who underwent residential training

Reoffenders

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persistent and prolific offenders have been identified in each police force area in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [176119]

Mr. McNulty: Data from the performance management arrangements for the prolific and other priority offender programme (JTrack) provides the number of such offenders identified through partnership arrangements in each police force area. The data are provided in the following table. The data cover the two calendar years 2005 and 2006. Figures for the calendar year 2007 are not yet available for publication.

Sum of prolific and priority offenders

Police force area	*At December 2005*	*At December 2006*
Avon and Somerset	239	245
Bedfordshire	123	139
Cambridgeshire	93	110
Cheshire	182	180
City of London	5	12
Cleveland	127	145
Cumbria	66	70
Derbyshire	368	373
Devon and Cornwall	395	365
Dorset	208	208
Durham	61	58
Dyfed Powys	93	82
Essex	258	235
Gloucestershire	100	106
Greater Manchester	739	846
Gwent	79	85
Hampshire	209	274
Hertfordshire	247	149
Humberside	181	214
Kent	334	261
Lancashire	424	367
Leicestershire	330	353
Lincolnshire	155	232
Merseyside	410	445
Metropolitan police	1,080	1,185
Norfolk	131	110
North Wales	159	120
North Yorkshire	56	89
Northamptonshire	195	229
Northumbria	208	236
Nottinghamshire	505	558
South Wales	190	204
South Yorkshire	249	252
Staffordshire	157	252
Suffolk	173	173
Surrey	151	191
Sussex	320	320
Thames Valley	326	351
Warwickshire	74	88
West Mercia	155	120
West Midlands	714	768
West Yorkshire	284	243
Wiltshire	81	73
All forces	10,634	11,116

Notes
1. Figures represent those PPOs in each area who were known to be members of schemes in December of the year concerned, based on JTrack data. 2. If a PPO belonged to more than one scheme during the December of the year concerned then they would be counted more than once.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Freedom of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of Freedom of Information requests received by his Department have given rise to responses that have been published by his Department. [180214]

Mrs. McGuire: This Department has adopted a selective disclosure log whereby only the most interesting and high profile pieces of information released in response to Freedom of Information requests are published. In 2005 and 2006 around 1 per cent. of such responses were published on the Department's web-based Freedom of Information disclosure log. The Department does however routinely publish large amounts of information on its website including policy documents and research, analysis and statistics.

Departmental Manpower

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of posts in his Department have been re-categorised from back office to frontline posts as classified by the Gershon efficiency review in each year since 2004. [172264]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions' target for spending review 2004 is that 10,000 posts will be redeployed from back office to front line posts by March 2008. By March 2007 10,228 posts had been redeployed to the front line. The following table shows the breakdown by year:

By March	*Number of posts redeployed*	*Proportion of total headcount redeployed (percentage)*
2005	1,607	1.3
2006	6,667	5.8
2007	10,228	9.4

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether any of his Department's special advisers also work for organisations outside his Department. [178474]

Mrs. McGuire: Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the Model Contract and Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

Housing Benefit: Havering

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of local housing allowance in Havering on the most recent date for which figures are available. [181656]

Mr. Plaskitt: Nobody is being paid local housing allowance in the London borough of Havering; it has not yet been rolled-out to that borough.

Local housing allowance will roll-out nationally for all new claims in the deregulated private rented sector from 7 April 2008.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when his Department will pay the award of current incapacity benefit and arrears from 3 April due to Mr. Hudspith of Christchurch following the decision of the Appeal Tribunal (Ref. 185/07/00866) on 14 November 2007; and what the reasons are for the time taken to make the payment. [173856]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 13 December 2007]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. Details of benefit claims are confidential so she will write to the hon. Member directly on the matter in question.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 25 January 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking when the award of incapacity benefit arrears due to Mr Hudspith of Christchurch following the decision of the Appeal Tribunal (Ref. 85/07/00866) on 14 November and what the reasons are for the time taken to make the payment. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Details of benefit claims are confidential and I will write to you directly on the matter in question.

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the claim for incapacity benefit by Mr. Bernard Pierce of Verwood, Dorset will be determined; and what the reason is for the time taken. [181135]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 22 January 2008]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 25 January 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking when the claim for incapacity benefit by Mr. Bernard Pierce of Verwood Dorset will be determined and what the reason is for the time taken. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Details of benefit claims are confidential and I will write to you directly on the matter in question.

New Deal Schemes

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his answer of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 467W, on new deal schemes, what employment-related schemes his Department provides for non-EU citizens. [177735]

Caroline Flint: All employment-related schemes are available to non-EU citizens subject to the participant meeting the eligibility criteria of the programme. For the new deals, this usually involves being in receipt of a qualifying benefit.

Pensions

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that those eligible for having pensions restored following the collapse of company schemes are aware of their entitlement. [179725]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There are two methods by which those who have lost their pensions might receive restoration of up to 90 per cent. of their loss. These are the Pensions Protection Fund (PPF) and the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS).

Scheme trustees are responsible for informing scheme members where an approach to the PPF or the FAS is necessary. Both FAS and the PPF provide assistance to trustees with member communications. Both also have websites where scheme details are displayed.

The FAS Operational Unit (FAS OU) which is administered by the Department, contacts individual members once a scheme has been assessed and the trustees have provided the necessary information. Eligible scheme members receive a form and an explanatory leaflet about FAS. The FAS OU may also contact some members by telephone for example where forms have not been returned and people might be missing out on assistance.

Following the Secretary of State's announcement on 17 December extending FAS assistance, the Department has embarked on a programme of communication with trustees, is in the process of restructuring the FAS website, and updates the media regularly on progress.

Personal Accounts: Advisory Services

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to establish a strategy for providing advice and information on personal accounts. [178292]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information about personal accounts will be provided, as with other pension schemes, by the scheme itself. We are also considering what general information will be needed by all those auto-enrolled, whether into personal accounts or another pension scheme.

We already produce information on retirement planning, alongside a number of other organisations, such as the Citizens Advice Bureau, the Pensions Advisory Service and the Financial Services Authority. We have a programme of research underway, the results of which will be published, to establish what more might be needed.

The Thoresen Review, and the Government's action plan on financial capability, will assess the need to add to the services on offer. We will work with these and other organisations to ensure that a range of information and help is available to those who are making decisions about their retirement.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many benefits claimants were prosecuted for fraudulently claiming an amount (*a*) less and (*b*) more than £103,000 in each year since 1997; [181386]

(2) how many benefits claimants were imprisoned for fraudulently claiming an amount (*a*) less and (*b*) more than £103,000 in each year since 1997. [181387]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested as it is not centrally collated.

The Department does hold figures for the total number of prosecutions and the total number of people imprisoned, but these are not centrally available broken down by the amount of the overpayment and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Unemployment Benefits: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children in Peterborough constituency were living in a household in receipt of at least one out-of-work benefit in each year since 1997. [181356]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available prior to 2004. The available information is in the following table.

Children under 16 years of age living in households in receipt of out-of-work benefits in the Peterborough parliamentary constituency, as at April each year

	Number
2004	5,910
2005	5,640
2006	5,415
2007	5,470

Notes:
1. All figures supplied have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. All data represent a snapshot in time of claimants on the computer system, and will therefore exclude a very small number of cases that are held clerically.
3. Data represent children dependent on a parent or guardian who is claiming one or more of incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance, jobseeker's allowance, income support or pension credit.
4. Due to the introduction of child tax credits in April 2003, information on child dependents are not reliably completed on the benefit computer system, therefore children's data has been merged onto JS/JSA/IB/SDA/PC claims from child benefit records with permission from HMRC.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate

Written Questions

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) when he expects to answer question 162357, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 6 November 2007, on incapacity benefit claimants. [171135]

(2) when he expects to answer question 162358, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 6 November, on incapacity benefit. [171148]

Mrs. McGuire: I replied to the hon. Member's questions on 6 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1505W.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Females: Prisoners

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister for Women what steps the Government has taken to reduce the number of women in prison since 1997. [164686]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* The Government launched the Women's Offending Reduction Programme (WORP) in March 2004 to tackle women's offending and to reduce the number of women in prison. This multi-agency strategic programme of work aims to provide a more appropriate response in the community to the particular factors that lead to women offending.

In March 2005, the Government allocated £9.15 million to help support a more local response to women's offending and to establish new initiatives to tackle women's offending in the community—the Together Women Programme. This is the first time that the Government have dedicated funds specifically to tackling women's offending and to exploring how alternatives approaches to custody could work effectively for women.

The Together Women Programme is being delivered over four years through demonstration projects in two regional offender manager regions—Yorkshire and Humberside and the North West. Centres are located in Doncaster, Leeds and Bradford (YH) and Liverpool and Salford (NW). The centres provide a one-stop shop where women from the local community can access appropriate services and interventions such as mental, physical and sexual health, drug misuse, physical and sexual abuse, housing advice and debt, and benefits service.

On 6 December 2007, the Government published its response to Baroness Corston's Review of Women with Particular Vulnerabilities in the Criminal Justice System. This sets out our commitment to build on the work already under way to meet the needs of women offenders and those at risk of offending in the community in order to divert women from custody.

Members' Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many letters her Office and its predecessors received from hon. Members and Peers in each session of Parliament since 1997. [174926]

Barbara Follett: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/peers correspondence. Information relating to 2007 will be published as soon as it has been collated. The report for 2006 was published on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 101-04WS. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what meetings she has had with officials of trades unions since 1 July 2007; and what the date and union or unions involved were in each case. [181011]

Barbara Follett: Ministers meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Departmental ICT

Susan Kramer: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many (*a*) male and (*b*) female members of staff of the Electoral Commission were issued with personal digital assistants in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [181349]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that 23 male and 23 female members of staff have been issued with personal digital assistants since 2006, which was the first year such devices were used.

These figures are broken down as follows:

	Male	*Female*
2006	6	3
2007	17	19
2008	0	1
Total	23	23

Departmental Travel

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how much the Electoral Commission spent on travel (*a*) within and (*b*) outside the UK for officials in each year since it was established; and what percentage of the Commission's overall expenditure was spent on such travel in each such year. [181539]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it only holds information on travel expenditure dating back to the financial year 2003-04. This information is set out in the following table.

	April to December 2007	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*
Local travel costs (£)	186,957	227,147	202,337	266,574	269,480
Overseas travel costs (£)	18,092	5,055	13,931	39,227	32,693
Local travel (Percentage total expenditure)	1.25	1.02	0.92	1.07	1.36
Overseas travel (Percentage total Expenditure)	0.12	0.02	0.06	0.16	0.16

These figures include travel costs for both staff and Commissioners.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many overseas visits were made by staff of the Electoral Commission in each year since it was established; which countries were visited; and what the cost of the visits was in each year. [181459]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the costs associated with international visits by staff are only available from 2003 onwards. No visits have taken place in 2008. The information requested is set out in the following table.

	Number of Visits[1]	*Country visited*	*Cost (£)*
2001	7	Australia	
		Canada	
		Croatia	
		New Zealand	
		Republic of Ireland	
		Spain	
		Sweden	
2002	9	Kosovo (Election Observation)	
		Mauritius	
		Poland	
		Republic of Ireland	
		Russia	
		Spain	
		Sweden	
2003	17	Antigua and Barbuda (Election Observation)	28,773.27
		Armenia (Election Observation)	
		Australia	
		Belgium	
		Canada	
		Germany	
		India	
		Mexico	
		Poland (Referendum Observation)	
		Serbia and Montenegro (Election Observation)	
		Sweden (Referendum Observation)	
		Switzerland	
		Ukraine (Election Observation)	
		USA	
		Zanzibar (Election Observation)	
2004	22	Albania	41,943.79
		Australia (Election Observation)	
		Austria	
		Belgium (Election Observation)	
		Canada (Election Observation)	
		Chile	
		Cyprus (Election Observation)	
		Georgia (Election Observation)	
		Germany (Election Observation)	
		Italy (Election Observation)	
		Latvia (Election Observation)	
		Malta (Election Observation)	
		Netherlands (Election Observation)	
		Poland (Election Observation)	
		Republic of Ireland (Election Observation)	
		Spain (Election Observation)	
		Sweden (Election Observation)	
		USA	
2005	13	Austria	14,361.92
		Canada (Referendum Observation)	
		France	
		Hungary	
		India	
		Mexico	
		Poland	
		Russia	
		Spain (Referendum Observation)	
		USA	
2006	4	Canada (Election Observation)	3,892.68
		Latvia	
		Poland	
2007	9	Canada	12,159.04
		Poland	
		Republic of Ireland	
		Russia	
		South Africa	
		Sweden	
		Switzerland (Election Observation)	
		USA	

[1] Some countries were visited more than once in any given year.

Political Parties: Donations

Ian Lucas: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission (1) how many donations by registered political parties to regulated donees were recorded by the Electoral Commission in each year since 2000; [181777]

(2) how many individual donations to regulated donees by registered political parties were registered by individual regulated donees in each year since 2000. [181778]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it records donations to regulated donees in its register, available on its website. The register indicates that the number of donations reported by regulated donees from political parties were as follows each year since reporting began in 2001:

	Cash donations	*Non-cash donations*	*Overseas visits provided*
2001	0	0	0
2002	0	1	0
2003	0	3	0
2004	0	3	0
2005	1	3	0
2006	0	0	1
2007	1	2	0
2008 (to date)	0	0	0

Ian Lucas: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what steps the Electoral Commission takes when a regulated donee does not register a donation made to him or her by a registered political party at the request of a donor. [181779]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that when it has reason to suspect that a donation to a regulated donee may not have been correctly reported under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, the Commission may make enquiries to establish whether statutory reporting obligations have been met. If the enquiries suggest a breach of the requirements, the Commission may decide to refer the matter to the police and/or to the relevant prosecuting authority, as appropriate. The Commission may also issue further advice and guidance.

Ian Lucas: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how the Electoral Commission monitors compliance with the requirement by registered political parties to advise regulated donees to register donations passed to them at the request of donors. [181780]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that there is no requirement that a political party advise regulated donees to report donations.

However, the Commission works closely with regulated organisations and individuals to ensure that they are aware of the rules. The Commission publishes guidance, runs training sessions and responds to requests for advice.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what research the Electoral Commission has conducted on spending by local party associations under £25,000 a year; and what accounts of associations have been collected as part of that research. [181313]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that, in 2004 and in 2007, it canvassed all registered accounting units to inquire as to whether their total income or gross expenditure was greater than £25,000 for the prior financial year. Those that were under this threshold were asked to confirm so in writing.

The purpose of the exercise was to confirm which accounting units should be submitting accounts to the Commission and which should not. The Commission has conducted no research into spending by those associations under the threshold.

In the course of each canvass, some associations under the threshold provided sets of accounts to the Commission. These were not requested and the Commission has no plans to undertake research into them.

PRIME MINISTER

China

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Prime Minister (1) whether he plans to discuss the human rights situation in Tibet on his forthcoming visit to China; [180054]

(2) whether he plans to raise the issue of the human rights situation in Burma with Chinese officials on his forthcoming visit to China; [180055]

(3) whether he plans to discuss China's use of the death penalty with Chinese officials on his forthcoming visit to China. [180057]

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister whether he discussed *(a)* the Chinese One Child Policy and *(b)* forced abortion with the authorities during his visit to China; and if he will make a statement. [182896]

The Prime Minister: I discussed a wide range of issues on my visit to China. I refer the hon. Members to the press conference I held with Premier Wen of China in Beijing on 18 January 2008. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.pm.gov.uk/output/Page14307.asp

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Prime Minister when he will reply to the letter from the President of the European Parliament of 5 December 2007, on the report by the European Parliament's Committee of Inquiry in the crisis of the Equitable Life Assurance Society. [182432]

The Prime Minister: My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer has replied to the letter.

Official Visits: English Heritage

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Prime Minister how many official visits he has made to English Heritage sites since taking office. [181950]

The Prime Minister: A list of my UK visits will be published in the usual way following the end of the financial year. My visits cover a range of matters and details of them can be found on the No. 10 website.

Written Questions

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister whether it is his practice personally to approve replies to written parliamentary answers in his name. [181977]

The Prime Minister: Yes.

JUSTICE

Driving Under Influence: Prosecutions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions for drink driving offences were pursued against *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each criminal justice area in each of the last 10 years; and how many resulted in conviction. [180411]

Maria Eagle: Available information held on prosecutions and resultant convictions for driving under the influence of alcohol or taking drugs from 1996 to 2005 (latest available) are provided in the following tables. 2006 data will be available later this year.

The data provided cover both drink and drugs offences combined, as they cannot reliably be distinguished separately.

Table A: Proceedings at magistrates courts for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs by gender and police force area: England and Wales, 1996 to 2005

Number of offences

	1996		1997		1998		1999		2000	
Police force area	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
Avon and Somerset	2,574	225	2,836	278	2,574	258	2,690	281	2,427	292
Bedfordshire	1,102	94	1,235	88	1,064	103	879	82	802	82
Cambridgeshire	951	90	1,078	98	1,038	107	915	107	794	88
Cheshire	1,984	244	1,945	220	1,864	230	1,773	229	1,681	218
Cleveland	952	77	943	86	864	83	832	80	779	79
Cumbria	935	84	915	101	845	82	825	100	779	95
Derbyshire	1,645	152	1,684	169	1,558	137	1,481	132	1,441	158
Devon and Cornwall	2,179	227	2,375	262	2,277	254	2,248	259	2,135	286
Dorset	1,214	141	1,223	132	1,172	138	1,091	132	1,083	161
Durham	1,039	100	1,067	73	1,014	120	1,121	130	1,108	110
Essex	2,608	260	2,760	261	2,535	241	2,566	269	2,468	234
Gloucestershire	958	110	1,070	100	954	125	865	106	790	101
Greater Manchester	5,153	415	4,830	405	4,652	465	4,787	467	4,707	479
Hampshire	3,520	353	3,683	416	3,530	390	3,659	403	3,398	414
Hertfordshire	1,454	144	1,693	151	1,665	169	1,678	149	1,500	191
Humberside	1,363	120	1,301	110	1,355	118	1,306	104	1,314	154
Kent	2,638	177	2,364	170	2,624	229	2,606	245	2,559	248
Lancashire	3,178	330	3,334	350	2,831	373	2,893	397	2,550	329
Leicestershire	1,551	112	1,662	120	1,499	116	1,652	126	1,511	140
Lincolnshire	838	71	1,102	104	973	101	930	101	834	77
London, City of	451	53	413	50	303	35	231	28	179	14
Merseyside	2,942	240	2,864	251	2,493	267	2,172	197	2,301	214
Metropolitan Police	16,588	1,453	17,428	1,561	15,026	1,409	13,391	1,329	12,923	1,243
Norfolk	980	95	1,078	96	1,082	115	959	111	913	101
Northamptonshire	984	72	1,155	93	1,117	113	1,110	118	813	85
Northumbria	2,625	166	2,757	216	2,526	260	2,533	260	2,691	267
North Yorkshire	1,335	123	1,316	165	1,194	125	1,091	138	1,026	134
Nottinghamshire	1,986	162	2,081	189	1,856	157	1,850	176	1,734	181
South Yorkshire	2,209	151	2,403	178	1,996	192	1,911	165	2,125	197
Staffordshire	1,939	151	2,092	210	1,944	219	1,709	176	1,825	185
Suffolk	1,054	117	1,037	119	1,021	125	1,044	143	891	111
Surrey	1,358	151	1,367	145	1,286	169	1,350	188	1,516	213
Sussex	2,207	251	2,366	292	2,117	227	2,170	270	2,091	236
Thames Valley	4,144	357	4,172	394	3,955	399	3,818	374	3,489	432
Warwickshire	917	82	815	92	767	88	832	95	777	78
West Mercia	1,947	147	1,970	125	1,809	137	1,707	160	1,587	154
West Midlands	6,271	365	6,761	427	5,938	410	5,129	341	4,766	446
West Yorkshire	4,336	303	4,089	305	3,759	341	3,708	310	3,454	344
Wiltshire	971	98	1,004	114	1,094	90	954	113	876	121

Table A Proceedings at magistrates courts for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drug[1,2] by gender and police force area, England and Wales, 1996 to 2005

Number of offences

Police force area[3]	1996		1997		1998		1999		2000	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
England	93,080	8,063	96,268	8,216	88,171	8,717	84,466	8,591	80,637	8,692
Dyfed Powys	980	115	1,046	117	985	117	936	111	890	95
Gwent	1,016	86	1,146	122	1,211	125	1,119	107	1,209	132
North Wales	1,336	152	1,347	149	1,258	152	1,184	163	1,279	151
South Wales	2,867	231	2,972	267	3,014	295	2,543	280	2,763	312
Wales	6,199	584	6,511	655	6,468	689	5,782	661	6,141	690
England and Wales	99,279	8,647	102,779	9,371	94,639	9,406	90,248	9,252	86,778	9,382

Number of offences

Police force area	2001		2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Avon and Somerset	2,147	256	2,332	293	2,646	333	2,567	384	2,486	387
Bedfordshire	925	88	959	110	1,068	129	1,019	101	1,069	101
Cambridgeshire	800	80	827	100	905	114	1,029	130	1,154	135
Cheshire	1,560	193	2,114	318	1,862	304	2,234	340	1,637	266
Cleveland	890	83	916	96	1,021	115	1,064	119	915	122
Cumbria	720	90	734	98	798	117	865	97	778	145
Derbyshire	1,470	142	1,451	163	1,589	189	1,824	218	1,552	212
Devon and Cornwall	2,317	277	2,389	286	2,574	380	2,429	363	2,295	344
Dorset	1,130	154	1,162	185	1,217	167	1,197	169	1,125	174
Durham	1,054	127	1,101	146	1,150	128	1,188	150	1,070	179
Essex	2,435	282	2,506	294	2,548	299	2,734	376	2,444	381
Gloucestershire	842	108	912	113	866	131	856	139	809	128
Greater Manchester	4,732	503	4,607	512	4,615	578	4,636	559	4,426	590
Hampshire	3,436	384	3,766	474	3,590	451	3,642	479	3,202	497
Hertfordshire	1,621	205	1,826	252	1,852	280	1,834	259	1,780	271
Humberside	1,213	142	1,418	138	1,481	130	1,596	156	1,545	162
Kent	2,571	290	2,686	338	2,802	295	2,928	323	2,798	349
Lancashire	2,256	314	2,545	383	2,668	346	2,634	385	2,623	372
Leicestershire	1,591	139	1,648	169	1,683	187	1,681	187	1,592	185
Lincolnshire	901	90	841	76	1,110	123	1,133	165	1,132	162
London, City of	162	20	229	31	226	22	186	18	196	15
Merseyside	2,299	214	2,287	264	2,748	329	2,874	357	2,932	363
Metropolitan Police	12,549	1,196	14,103	1,390	13,911	1,365	14,089	1,518	13,631	1,410
Norfolk	1,158	135	1,180	175	1,291	143	1,205	169	1,210	169
Northamptonshire	429	35	226	27	793	89	897	103	851	129
Northumbria	2,590	260	2,598	323	2,759	357	2,635	386	2,519	336
North Yorkshire	1,014	144	1,068	139	1,153	172	1,073	152	1,172	180
Nottinghamshire	1,609	177	1,489	127	1,663	187	1,623	205	1,602	199
South Yorkshire	2,039	192	1,954	211	2,133	264	2,227	247	2,203	227
Staffordshire	1,506	167	1,639	231	1,682	217	1,690	251	1,662	257
Suffolk	935	114	1,102	135	1,204	174	1,325	172	1,069	141
Surrey	1,774	281	1,618	232	1,405	210	1,371	200	1,375	242
Sussex	2,352	283	2,268	266	2,357	290	2,182	355	2,195	325
Thames Valley	3,305	376	4,291	512	3,831	481	3,455	451	3,357	450
Warwickshire	844	111	521	94	880	106	814	88	803	114
West Mercia	1,691	183	1,655	223	1,758	213	1,627	186	1,881	156
West Midlands	5,173	431	5,410	448	5,517	476	5,731	597	5,674	575
West Yorkshire	3,419	320	3,772	353	3,813	357	3,900	371	3,876	383
Wiltshire	1,001	126	971	129	958	147	998	131	977	137
England	80,460	8,712	85,421	9,854	88,127	10,395	88,992	11,056	85,617	10,970
Dyfed Powys	856	117	937	132	994	138	949	152	902	143
Gwent	1,142	155	1,059	116	1,174	147	1,149	162	1,057	199
North Wales	1,230	136	1,249	166	1,303	168	1,301	170	1,273	186
South Wales	2,847	328	2,748	350	2,838	388	2,788	372	2,743	392

Number of offences

	2001		2002		2003		2004		2005	
Police force area	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Wales	6,075	736	5,993	764	6,309	841	6,187	856	5,975	920
England and Wales	86,535	9,448	91,414	10,618	94,436	11,236	95,179	11,912	91,592	11,890

Table B: Findings of guilt at all courts for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1] by gender and police force area, England and Wales, 1996 to 2005

Number of offences

	1996		1997		1998		1999		2000	
Police force area	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Avon and Somerset	2,309	203	2,557	255	2,332	234	2,476	252	2,197	265
Bedfordshire	1,011	82	1,063	83	969	91	798	71	722	75
Cambridgeshire	867	84	1,005	88	962	98	844	97	713	80
Cheshire	1,807	227	1,762	207	1,694	209	1,612	215	1,460	192
Cleveland	830	72	847	79	790	80	734	77	706	71
Cumbria	854	73	838	92	779	77	772	99	717	89
Derbyshire	1,460	135	1,472	141	1,420	127	1,346	117	1,272	145
Devon and Cornwall	1,943	201	2,113	229	2,036	229	2,044	233	1,941	258
Dorset	1,064	126	1,097	117	1,056	130	1,002	118	967	148
Durham	943	93	976	68	924	111	1,012	125	1,020	104
Essex	2,323	232	2,505	231	2,223	215	2,289	239	2,244	218
Gloucestershire	876	103	973	95	873	112	792	97	710	94
Greater Manchester	4,711	374	4,433	373	4,293	422	4,412	438	4,358	443
Hampshire	3,230	326	3,390	384	3,237	360	3,355	370	3,085	387
Hertfordshire	1,294	127	1,529	141	1,517	154	1,534	145	1,374	178
Humberside	1,241	112	1,173	101	1,248	110	1,227	96	1,220	151
Kent	2,409	167	2,168	154	2,411	216	2,408	225	2,360	232
Lancashire	2,896	315	3,071	318	2,604	341	2,641	369	2,288	296
Leicestershire	1,380	98	1,536	112	1,376	109	1,507	117	1,404	127
Lincolnshire	771	68	991	97	886	93	852	89	746	70
London, City of	413	51	388	48	269	32	213	23	151	11
Merseyside	2,537	208	2,492	229	2,214	237	1,957	180	1,945	183
Metropolitan Police	13,784	1,231	14,811	1,344	12,663	1,225	11,281	1,133	10,754	1,046
Norfolk	926	87	1,026	90	1,014	104	907	103	840	95
Northamptonshire	861	66	1,023	84	963	99	955	103	716	66
Northumbria	2,265	149	2,434	191	2,222	235	2,231	232	2,372	249
North Yorkshire	1,203	108	1,216	149	1,094	111	996	128	943	130
Nottinghamshire	1,786	145	1,869	162	1,658	146	1,637	165	1,553	169
South Yorkshire	1,988	141	2,142	154	1,820	182	1,774	153	1,942	180
Staffordshire	1,722	132	1,857	179	1,763	192	1,553	158	1,731	137
Suffolk	960	106	939	111	931	111	961	128	805	97
Surrey	1,239	137	1,245	135	1,170	158	1,240	177	1,341	198
Sussex	1,975	225	2,109	264	1,910	203	1,978	246	1,886	226
Thames Valley	3,620	322	3,720	352	3,524	371	3,379	346	3,108	388
Warwickshire	833	74	751	85	704	80	765	91	712	74
West Mercia	1,794	137	1,834	115	1,668	126	1,598	149	1,484	147
West Midlands	5,504	314	5,972	382	5,211	371	4,468	307	4,167	392
West Yorkshire	3,834	268	3,663	290	3,365	384	3,321	276	3,069	306
Wiltshire	917	94	934	107	1,022	86	897	112	816	114
England	82,440	7,213	85,924	7,836	78,815	7,891	75,768	7,799	71,839	7,831
Dyfed Powys	890	103	925	104	886	109	842	102	777	81
Gwent	889	77	1,053	113	1,088	115	979	100	1,093	118
North Wales	1,225	138	1,214	140	1,164	142	1,096	152	1,191	142
South Wales	2,512	219	2,661	232	2,651	252	2,270	256	2,472	285
Wales	5,516	537	5,853	589	5,789	618	5,187	610	5,533	626
England and Wales	87,956	7,750	91,777	8,425	84,604	8,509	80,955	8,409	77,372	8,457

Number of offences

	2001		2002		2003		2004		2005	
Police force area	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Avon and Somerset	1,964	234	2,135	266	2,366	300	2,344	348	2,243	352

Number of offences

Police force area	2001		2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Bedfordshire	837	77	851	104	952	120	932	96	957	93
Cambridgeshire	738	76	761	90	829	164	962	121	1,089	125
Cheshire	1,359	170	1,729	264	1,634	271	1,833	295	1,464	245
Cleveland	814	73	831	90	876	105	960	111	844	115
Cumbria	673	88	676	92	735	108	813	94	721	132
Derbyshire	1,290	121	1,318	147	1,449	168	1,672	202	1,451	194
Devon and Cornwall	2,119	250	2,180	261	2,313	354	2,242	318	2,127	319
Dorset	1,020	131	1,028	171	1,110	154	1,087	152	1,048	159
Durham	982	115	1,002	134	1,049	121	1,134	143	1,002	166
Essex	2,199	257	2,253	269	2,352	270	2,505	348	2,211	338
Gloucestershire	764	101	826	100	772	118	782	131	720	114
Greater Manchester	4,257	458	4,245	475	4,206	537	4,284	527	4,095	558
Hampshire	3,105	359	3,422	424	3,249	414	3,302	441	2,910	462
Hertfordshire	1,475	191	1,661	233	1,657	246	1,634	247	1,589	247
Humberside	1,127	132	1,270	125	1,327	118	1,476	147	1,448	144
Kent	2,315	260	2,433	311	2,535	276	2,710	300	2,693	314
Lancashire	2,020	284	2,258	341	2,336	316	2,360	346	2,382	341
Leicestershire	1,416	130	1,504	155	1,557	168	1,578	176	1,460	171
Lincolnshire	792	85	773	74	999	112	1,057	152	1,027	149
London, City of	144	18	191	30	208	22	151	18	173	11
Merseyside	2,011	184	2,056	237	2,395	292	2,518	331	2,634	330
Metropolitan Police	10,265	989	11,746	1,160	11,486	1,135	11,932	1,295	11,658	1,229
Norfolk	1,027	116	1,067	153	1,146	128	1,086	154	1,115	150
Northamptonshire	370	29	209	27	714	85	825	97	740	113
Northumbria	2,295	235	2,302	286	2,424	323	2,338	337	2,263	298
North Yorkshire	937	129	990	129	1,037	157	988	143	1,073	171
Nottinghamshire	1,441	157	1,305	114	1,476	168	1,479	190	1,445	181
South Yorkshire	1,845	176	1,756	189	1,856	233	2,010	214	2,013	207
Staffordshire	1,359	154	1,489	215	1,539	194	1,508	225	1,490	228
Suffolk	821	99	986	119	1,061	152	1,176	156	974	129
Surrey	1,384	208	1,408	206	1,270	194	1,245	180	1,272	231
Sussex	2,091	267	2,061	245	2,162	268	2,032	336	2,074	305
Thames Valley	2,934	341	3,841	476	3,448	436	3,136	403	3,059	415
Warwickshire	776	104	754	87	824	94	764	81	762	109
West Mercia	1,574	166	1,515	204	1,600	197	1,518	171	1,773	144
West Midlands	4,526	389	4,655	395	4,799	434	5,067	517	5,160	533
West Yorkshire	2,936	284	3,259	304	3,397	323	3,558	339	3,513	350
Wiltshire	929	116	881	124	894	137	908	116	907	131
England	70,931	7,753	75,627	8,826	78,039	9,352	79,906	9,998	77,479	10,003
Dyfed Powys	767	100	815	112	874	121	853	133	806	126
Gwent	1,019	133	971	103	1,014	135	1,039	149	945	184
North Wales	1,099	128	1,121	149	1,169	157	1,193	156	1,194	170
South Wales	2,525	287	2,439	322	2,493	347	2,482	329	2,445	366
Wales	5,410	648	5,346	686	5,550	760	5,567	767	5,390	846
England and Wales	76,341	8,401	80,973	9,512	83,589	10,112	85,473	10,765	82,869	10,849

[1] Offences of aiding, abetting, causing or permitting driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s4(1), 4(2), 5(1)(a), 5(1)(b), 6(4), 7(6), 7A (as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s56); and Transport & Works Act 1992 s31A (as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s52).
[2] Data covers summary offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs (which cannot reliably be distinguished).
Notes:
1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Rape: Sentencing

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders convicted of rape were given indeterminate sentences for public protection in each of the last three years for which information is available. [179910]

Mr. Straw: A research study into prisoners received into prisons in England and Wales under indeterminate sentences for public protection (IPP) between April 2005 and March 2006 found that 46 IPPs had been given for rape or attempted rape. This research study involved confirming individual case details with prisons and has not been repeated. However, data held

in administrative IT systems suggest the number of IPPs given for rape or attempted rape was around 170 in the year from April 2006 to March 2007, and around 140 from April 2007 to November 2007 (the most recent data available).

These figures have been drawn from data returns from prisons and administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

High Sheriffs

Mr. Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, if he will list those counties in which the names on the most recent list of nominations for the position of High Sheriff were chosen *(a)* following open advertisement and *(b)* by a selection committee or board where membership is published. [170231]

Mr. Wills: None of the names on the most recent list of nominations for the position of High Sheriff were chosen following open advertisement, or by a selection committee or board, where membership is published. The arrangements for seeking nominees are a matter for individual counties. It is the responsibility of High Sheriffs in office to provide the names of people suitable to serve in the future. With the help of local selection panels, they should cast the net as widely as possible and consider candidates from a wide variety of backgrounds.

HEALTH

Childbirth: Greater London

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many babies were born at *(a)* Barnet, *(b)* Royal Free and *(c)* Edgware hospitals in (i) each of the last three years and (ii) 2007-08 to date; in each hospital how many pregnancies resulted in complications; how many Caesarean sections were performed in each hospital; and if he will make a statement. [178077]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested can be found in the following tables. However, the latest figures for birth rates at each hospital are only available to 2006-07.

Table 1: Count of finished consultant delivery episodes and total caesarean deliveries for Royal Free Hampstead national health service trust, Barnet hospital and Edgware hospital for 2006-07, 2005-06 and 2004-05. NHS hospitals England and as trusts performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS

	Royal Free Hampstead NHS trust (RAL)		Barnet hospital (RVL01)		Edgware hospital (RVL07)[1]	
	Total finished consultant delivery episodes	Total caesarean deliveries	Total finished consultant delivery episodes	Total caesarean deliveries	Total finished consultant delivery episodes	Total caesarean deliveries
2006-07	3,227	810	3,651	733	274	6
2005-06	3,217	901	3,331	689		
2004-05	3,178	858	3,027	757		

[1] No data available for this organisation for the periods 2005-06 and 2004-05.

Table 2: Count of finished consultant delivery episodes with complications (see separate Diagnosis codes)

	Total finished delivery episodes with complications (Diagnosis codes 060 - 075)		
	Royal Free Hampstead NHS trust (RVL01)	Barnet hospital	Edgware hospital (RVL07)[1]
2006-07	2,159	2,680	153
2005-06	2,284	2,182	
2004-05	2,071	2,141	

[1] No data available for this organisation for the periods 2005-06 and 2004-05.

Notes:

Data Quality:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS Trusts, and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in England. Data is also received from a number of Independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Maternity Coverage and data quality:

The maternity tail data coverage is not as complete as the rest of HES data. There are a number of reasons for the coverage and data quality issues such as:

Trusts submitting a significantly higher number of delivery episodes compared to birth episodes

Trusts failing to submit data on the number of birth episodes where they record a high number of delivery episodes

Trusts failing to submit delivery—the reason for this is that approximately 20 trusts have a stand alone maternity system which is not linked to the Patient Administration System

Trusts identifying a high number of maternity beds available, but not recording any information about deliveries or births

Trusts identifying that they have no maternity beds available, but recording a high number of birth and delivery episodes

Some trusts have space in their maternity system to record 9 birth tails, whereas other systems have space for 18. As deliveries, miscarriages and abortions are all recorded in the birth tail, there are cases where 9 tails is not enough to record all of the relevant data

All Diagnoses count of episodes

These figures represent a count of all FCE's where the diagnosis was mentioned in any of the 14 (7 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in a HES record.

See table 3 for Diagnosis codes used.

Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)

An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.

Episode Type:

2 - Deliver/ Event

5 - Other Delivery Event

Ungrossed Data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:

HES, The Information Centre for health and social care

Table 3

Diagnosis codes	
060	Preterm delivery
061	Failed induction of labour
062	Abnormalities of forces of labour
063	Long labour
064	Obstruct labour due malposition and malpresentation of fetus
065	Obstructed labour due to maternal pelvic abnormality
066	Other obstructed labour
067	Labour and delivery comp by intrapartum haemorrh NEC
068	Labour and delivery complicated by fetal stress [distress]
069	Labour and delivery complicated by umbilical cord complications
070	Perineal laceration during delivery
071	Other obstetric trauma
072	Postpartum haemorrhage
073	Retained placenta and membranes without haemorrhage
074	Complications of anaesthesia during labour and delivery
075	Other complications of labour and delivery NEC

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent in near cash in 2005-06 for each activity in figure A.2 of his Department's Annual Report 2007; and what the level of near cash *(a)* overspend or *(b)* underspend was in relation to each activity. [178011]

Mr. Bradshaw: Departmental expenditure limits, including near cash, apply to the aggregate level of departmental expenditure not individual programmes within the overall budget. The near-cash expenditure in 2005-06 for each activity in figure A.2 of the 2007 departmental report is shown in the following table.

Consumption of resources by activity	*Near cash outturn 2005-06 (£000)*
National health service	72,156
Of which	
Hospital and community health services	68,955
Of which[1]	
Health authorities unified budgets and central allocations and grants to local authorities	68,955
Family health services	2,131
Of which	
General dental services	1,038
General ophthalmic services	358
Pharmaceutical services	1,162
Prescription charges income	-427
Central health and miscellaneous services	793
Of which	
Welfare food departmental expenditure limit	104
European economic area medical costs	343
Other central health and miscellaneous services	346
Departmental administration including agencies	277
Personal social services (PSS)	2,060
Of which	
PSS	181
Local authority social services grants	1,880
Of which	
Training support programme for social services staff	
Grants for adults	1,459
Grants for children	91
Human resources development strategy	63
Grants funded form the invest to save fund performance fund	
NHS superannuation—England and Wales[1]	—
Credit guarantee finance[1]	—
NHS annually managed expenditure[1]	—
Total Department of health resource budget	74,232

[1] This expenditure is outside the Department's expenditure limit and near cash controls.

Departmental Reorganisation

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the future of the Commercial Directorate of his Department; and by what date he intends to introduce any changes to its structure and responsibilities. [181988]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Commercial Directorate will continue to play a major role in providing commercial expertise to the Department and in helping build commercial capability across the national health service. It will

exercise its role in partnership with strategic health authorities and other NHS organisations.

The Commercial Directorate will be reshaped to ensure it is ready for its future responsibilities. This transition is under way and will continue over the coming months.

Dermatology: Finance

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how funding for dermatology services in primary care will change as a result of the recent comprehensive spending review. [181293]

Mr. Bradshaw: In the 2007 comprehensive spending review the national health service received annual growth in revenue resources of 3.7 per cent., above inflation, increasing total revenue expenditure from £86.8 billion in 2007-08 to £104.8 billion in 2010-11. Of these over 80 per cent. is allocated to primary care trusts to provide them with funding to deliver local and national priorities. It is not possible to provide an estimate of how funding for dermatology services will change as it is for local NHS organisations to commission services to meet their local health needs.

English Language

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on English language classes for staff in the last year for which figures are available. [177484]

Mr. Bradshaw: We do not hold central records of expenditure on English language classes. A survey to gather relevant information would involve disproportionate costs. Informally, we believe that a survey would identify very little or no expenditure on such classes.

General Practitioners

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures his Department uses to monitor patients' access to out-of-hours general practitioner services. [180337]

Mr. Bradshaw: We do not collect this information centrally. Primary care trusts have a responsibility to ensure they provide, or secure provision of a high quality, sustainable service that meets the needs of their local population.

All out-of-hours services must be delivered to the national quality requirements, ensuring patients have access to consistently high quality and responsive care, regardless of where they live. Providers must deliver services that meet the quality requirements, as a contractual obligation. The requirements stipulate that:

- patients will be guaranteed a general practitioner consultation—including a home visit if there is a clinical need;
- patients are treated by the clinician best equipped to meet their needs in the most appropriate location; and
- services will be regularly audited to ensure that patients are receiving quality care.

Health Professions: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* hospital doctors, *(b)* nurses, *(c)* GPs, *(d)* GP practice nurses, *(e)* nurse practitioners, *(f)* modern matrons, *(g)* community matrons and *(h)* NHS managers there were in Barnet in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [177908]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is held at national health service trust level only.

The table shows the data held for Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust, Barnet primary care trust and the Royal Free Hampstead NHS trust, which serve the Barnet area, and the former Barnet health authority. 1997 data is available only for the Royal Free Hampstead NHS trust, and Barnet health authority. Latest available data is for 2006.

Over 1.33 million people were employed in the NHS in England as at September 2006. Between September 1997 and 2006 the total number of NHS staff increased by over 280,000 (27 per cent.); the number of doctors and hospital dentists employed in the NHS in England increased by 35,993 (40 per cent.) to 125,612; the number of nurses employed in the NHS in England increased by 79,479 (25 per cent.) to 398,335; and the total number of qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff employed in the NHS in England increased by 38,200 (40 per cent.) to 134,498.

We are now moving away from year-on-year growth in the NHS workforce to more of a steady state where there is a closer match between demand and supply. The focus now is strengthening frontline capacity through increases in productivity and skill mix. In some cases, productivity gains may mean that fewer staff are needed to deliver the same service outcomes.

All qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff, medical and dental staff[1], general practitioners (GPs) (excluding retainers and registrars)[2] and practice nurses in each specified organisation as at 30 September each specified year

Number (headcount)

	1997	*2006*
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS trust specified staff total	[3]—	2,366
All doctors	[3]—	585
Of which:		
Medical and dental staff[1]	[3]—	585
GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)[2]	[3]—	[3]—
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	[3]—	1,692
Of which:		
Practice nurses	[3]—	[3]—
Modern matron	[3]—	11
Community matron	[3]—	0
Administrative managers	[3]—	89
Barnet health authority*		
GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)[2]	195	n/a
Practice nurses	135	n/a

All qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff, medical and dental staff[1], general practitioners (GPs) (excluding retainers and registrars)[2] and practice nurses in each specified organisation as at 30 September each specified year

	Number (headcount)	
	1997	2006
Barnet PCT specified staff total	[3]—	711
All doctors	[3]—	246
Of which:		
Medical and dental staff[1]	[3]—	28
GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)[2]	[3]—	218
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	[3]—	389
Of which:		
Practice nurses	[3]—	133
Modern matron	[3]—	3
Community matron	[3]—	0
Administrative managers		76
Royal Free Hampstead NHS trust	1,965	2,877
All doctors	462	737
Of which:		
Medical and dental staff[1]	462	737
GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)[2]	[3]—	[3]—
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	1,402	2,035
Of which:		
Practice nurses[4]	[3]—	[3]—
Modern matron	[3]—	10
Community matron	[3]—	0
Administrative managers	101	105

[1] Excludes medical hospital practitioners and medical clinical assistants, most of whom are GPs working part time in hospitals.
[2] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes GP Providers and GP Others.
[3] Data not available. The numbers of modern matrons were not collected until 2005, and community matrons were not collected until 2006.

Note:
1. Due to a high number of organisation mergers in the Barnet area it is impossible to accurately map figures from predecessor to current trust organisation structures to provide data for 1997. The Royal Free Hampstead NHS trust has remained consistent, so figures are included.
[4] The exception is GPs and their staff recorded in the former Barnet health authority in 1997 which is consistent with the current Barnet PCT. In 1997 there were 195 GPs (excluding retainers and registrars) and 135 Practice Nurses in Barnet Health Authority.
2. GP Census does not display nurse practitioners as a separate work area.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census. The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census. The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

Health Services: Thames Gateway

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what administrative arrangements have been put in place at departmental level to co-ordinate the delivery of new health care facilities and resources in the Thames Gateway growth area to meet the demands of new house building within the region. [174219]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Thames Gateway Cross Government Board, comprising several officials from a number of Government Departments, including the Department, is responsible for the co-ordination of central Government investment in the Thames Gateway growth area, including the provision of health services.

Incontinence

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he intends to make it his policy to consult further before making any final decision upon the details and impact of any revised option for the proposed changes to Part IX of the Drug Tariff when he considers the responses to the consultation Arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances—and related services—to Primary Care. [181987]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The latest consultation closed on 28 December 2008. Ministers have agreed that the Department can meet with industry and other relevant parties to discuss the best way to conclude this review.

No further decisions have been made.

Meat Products: Origin Marking

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 710-11W, on pork, what minimum level of substantial change is required in order to permit the country in which a pork product was processed to be described as the country of origin on its labelling. [181992]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There is no definition of place of 'last substantial transformation/change' in European Union law. However, the Food Standards Agency suggests in its "Guidance on Country of Origin Labelling" that, for example, the transformation of pork into bacon, ham or pies should be regarded as a treatment or process resulting in a substantial change, while simply slicing, cutting and/or packing meat does not amount to such a change.

Mental Health Services: Greater London

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget was for each mental health primary care trust within Greater London in each year since 1997. [178457]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 14 January 2008]*: The information is not available in the format requested. There are no mental health primary care trusts (PCTs). Furthermore, the Department does not hold information on the budgets of PCTs. However, the following tables shows the net operating costs, which relates to the size of the PCT, of all London PCTs and the spend on secondary mental illness from 2000-01 to 2006-07.

£000

London PCT	2000-01 Net Operating costs	2000-01 Spend on secondary mental illness	2001-02 Net Operating costs	2001-02 Spend on secondary mental illness	2002-03 Net Operating costs	2002-03 Spend on secondary mental illness	2003-04 Net Operating costs	2003-04 Spend on secondary mental illness
Barking and Dagenham PCT	—	—	110,618	14,862	146,269	15,408	170,823	23,158
Barnet PCT	—	—	249,700	25,809	327,960	28,788	358,235	33,562
Bexley PCT/Care Trust	62,248	4,476	141,028	13,748	190,708	23,122	209,679	20,636
Brent Teaching PCT	—	—	—	—	297,936	35,832	337,737	39,823
Bromley PCT	—	—	214,671	22,692	283,730	28,016	317,805	28,502
Camden PCT	—	—	—	—	325,834	52,007	314,241	59,411
Chingford, Wanstead and Woodford PCT	—	—	91,622	12,275	108,227	13,753	—	—
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	—	—	188,409	38,125	256,962	43,875	295,976	44,907
Croydon PCT	—	—	—	—	310,484	31,874	330,656	33,316
Ealing PCT	—	—	—	—	322,152	89,702	357,416	40,438
Enfield PCT	—	—	192,252	21,117	245,943	32,280	281,614	34,892
Greenwich Teaching PCT	—	—	195,183	29,125	261,854	48,841	281,191	35,983
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	—	—	—	—	208,876	31,172	222,992	28,066
Haringey Teaching PCT	—	—	192,093	31,657	255,480	32,656	280,934	76,146
Harrow PCT	—	—	—	—	184,884	17,592	202,870	22,112
Havering PCT	—	—	162,056	19,792	213,658	21,160	251,412	24,534
Hillingdon PCT	173,211	0	189,563	16,073	220,908	20,118	243,802	23,758
Hounslow PCT	—	—	—	—	222,958	21,514	254,520	22,789
Islington PCT	—	—	—	—	258,769	51,429	261,761	53,522
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	—	—	—	—	217,367	31,435	245,191	30,175
Kingston PCT	—	—	103,160	11,073	148,481	18,273	160,794	18,459
Lambeth PCT	—	—	—	—	351,925	72,408	403,207	73,061
Lewisham PCT	—	—	—	—	284,012	50,618	307,559	53,722
Nelson and West Merton PCT	93,633	0	103,387	11,264	—	—	—	—
Newham PCT	—	—	215,444	22,500	281,592	36,012	312,981	37,503
Redbridge PCT	—	—	134,036	20,228	159,537	18,385	227,233	30,083
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	—	—	—	—	161,896	19,683	184,296	18,459
Southwark PCT	—	—	—	—	295,368	50,784	315,022	51,359
Sutton and Merton PCT	—	—	—	—	343,166	37,367	384,936	38,249
Teddington, Twickenham and Hamptons PCT	—	—	57,637	7,622	—	—	—	—
Tower Hamlets PCT	—	—	177,331	21,136	246,660	28,864	276,118	28,243
Waltham Forest PCT	—	—	—	—	—	—	257,849	29,153
Walthamstow, Leyton and Leytonstone PCT	—	—	138,664	19,100	172,676	20,644	—	—
Wandsworth PCT	—	—	—	—	301,074	37,545	331,813	39,685
Westminster PCT	—	—	—	—	315,490	91,507	315,363	44,862

£000

London PCT	2004-05 Net Operating costs	2004-05 Spend on secondary mental illness	2005-06 Net Operating costs	2005-06 Spend on secondary mental illness	2006-07 Net Operating costs	2006-07 Spend on secondary mental illness
Barking and Dagenham PCT	201,098	27,082	218,854	25,622	227,117	24,222
Barnet PCT	400,164	34,169	425,382	35,379	417,143	36,064
Bexley PCT/Care Trust	235,681	24,203	247,400	26,650	259,522	23,395
Brent Teaching PCT	376,277	51,065	381,484	54,604	429,853	46,782
Bromley PCT	343,334	33,485	372,593	38,206	371,239	39,638
Camden PCT	362,678	57,973	394,966	48,095	372,848	47,091

£000

London PCT	2004-05 Net Operating costs	2004-05 Spend on secondary mental illness	2005-06 Net Operating costs	2005-06 Spend on secondary mental illness	2006-07 Net Operating costs	2006-07 Spend on secondary mental illness
Chingford, Wanstead and Woodford PCT	—	—	—	—	—	—
City And Hackney Teaching PCT	336,596	51,103	366,008	56,530	366,985	60,109
Croydon PCT	380,122	36,590	405,093	37,166	417,424	50,874
Ealing PCT	408,317	44,454	440,525	58,787	441,886	60,253
Enfield PCT	307,941	41,605	331,714	39,848	358,550	42,333
Greenwich Teaching PCT	307,506	38,131	328,526	47,718	341,711	51,981
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	232,758	32,546	242,090	34,765	265,818	37,184
Haringey Teaching PCT	318,050	89,057	340,680	55,213	345,851	57,540
Harrow PCT	228,638	27,217	245,102	28,925	246,058	31,856
Havering PCT	279,653	25,652	302,778	27,854	321,874	31,035
Hillingdon PCT	282,354	24,690	322,254	26,529	305,227	24,563
Hounslow PCT	295,683	23,620	283,884	27,767	301,200	29,540
Islington PCT	313,248	57,478	333,447	66,493	341,988	77,725
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	290,956	34,812	305,377	39,082	277,048	40,048
Kingston PCT	187,224	21,693	205,562	22,007	205,200	22,988
Lambeth PCT	467,200	83,655	499,124	94,337	480,619	94,306
Lewisham PCT	352,106	57,968	373,037	65,826	403,457	69,871
Nelson and West Merton PCT	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newham PCT	356,015	41,118	394,628	46,642	417,865	48,789
Redbridge PCT	251,948	33,068	273,348	36,652	280,864	36,705
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	213,348	23,149	225,637	25,206	216,911	25,729
Southwark PCT	366,301	59,770	403,334	62,489	397,637	64,896
Sutton and Merton PCT	420,047	40,157	455,205	43,322	455,702	45,074
Teddington, Twickenham and Hamptons PCT	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tower Hamlets PCT	318,881	36,838	372,777	40,342	347,070	42,610
Waltham Forest PCT	284,825	32,225	305,436	38,599	314,622	40,561
Walthamstow, Leyton and Leytonstone PCT	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wandsworth PCT	366,191	45,736	373,973	48,748	387,068	55,194
Westminster PCT	347,333	48,330	364,076	59,232	355,717	62,855

Notes:
1. Health authorities were responsible for commissioning health care up to 2002-03 therefore figures by PCT are not comparable in these earlier years.
2. Where indicated by '—', the PCT was not in existence in that year.

Source:
Audited summarisation schedules of London PCTs for 2000-01 to 2006-07.

NHS Direct: Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 611W, on NHS Direct, what the date was of each quarterly performance review meeting in the past two years; and if he will place copies of the *(a)* agenda and *(b)* minutes of such meetings in the Library. [169866]

Mr. Bradshaw: Performance review meetings were held on:

23 March 2006
18 May 2006
20 June 2006
26 July 2006
31 August 2006
21 September 2006
25 October 2006
29 January 2007
26 April 2007
9 August 2007
1 November 2007.

Making available minutes of performance review meetings could prejudice the Department's ability to performance manage NHS Direct effectively, but copies of agendas for these meetings have been placed in the Library. In future, we will publish agendas and a summary of the minutes on the Department's website.

NHS: Reorganisation

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the work commissioned by his Department that *(a)* has been finished and *(b)* is ongoing on the implications of merging the Healthcare Commission, the Commission for Social Care Inspection and the Mental Health Act Commission. [182073]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department of Health is working closely with the Healthcare Commission, the Commission for Social Care Inspection and the Mental Health Act

Commission to prepare for the establishment of the Care Quality Commission. As part of this, two pieces of work have been commissioned by the Department:

a scoping study to more clearly understand what information technology work is needed to support the establishment of the Care Quality Commission. This work is finished; and

a study to identify options for the location(s) of headquarter functions of the Care Quality Commission. This work is ongoing.

NHS: Telephone Services

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is on the use of non-geographic telephone numbers for lines used by members of the public; which of the primary care trusts in England advertise such telephone numbers to the public; and what estimate he has made of the number of calls to these numbers in the last 12 months. [179558]

Mr. Bradshaw: The provision of telephone services for patients and the public is a matter for the local national health service. The Department did however issue guidance in December 2006 clearly setting out that patients should not be charged more than the equivalent of a local call.

Information on which of the primary care trusts in England advertise non-geographical telephone numbers and how many calls were made to these numbers in the last 12 months is not collected centrally.

Peterborough Primary Care Trust

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to ask the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation to review the weighted-capitation formula in respect of the allocation to Peterborough primary care trust with reference to the provision of general practitioners; and if he will make a statement. [180416]

Mr. Bradshaw: The weighted-capitation formula is used to determine primary care trusts' (PCTs') target shares of available resources, to enable them to commission similar levels of health services for populations in similar need.

The Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA) continually oversees the development of the formula. ACRA's objective is to ensure equity in resource allocation to all PCTs.

ACRA's current work programme includes a review of the market forces factor, the need element of the formula and the population base for revenue allocations. ACRA's current review of the formula will be used to inform revenue allocations post 2008-09.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

International Assistance

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many country governance assessments have been carried out in the last 18 months; and what account has been taken of these assessments in his Department's *(a)* development decisions, including budget support decisions and *(b)* formulation of country and regional development assistance plans. [181742]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: DFID Country Offices were provided with guidance about how to undertake Country Governance Analysis (CGAs) in February 2007. Since then, 16 CGAs have been completed. These have been used, alongside other tools such as Drivers of Change Analysis, to inform programming decisions and Country Assistance Plans (CAPs). They are now a mandatory component of all CAPs. We are currently reviewing experience over the past nine months, and plan to update our guidance in April once that review is completed.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 23 November 2007, on funding to support the new AIDS strategy. [182183]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: A reply to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire's letter of 23 November 2007 has been issued.

Natural Resources: Armed Conflict

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff in his Department are working on policy on conflict resources. [181746]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development's work on conflict resources is managed by advisory and administrative staff in both the UK and in our offices overseas where conflict is a significant barrier to development. We also contribute indirectly to conflict policy development managed by the large multi-lateral donor organisations and non governmental organisations.

As an indicator of the numbers involved, we have 110 staff working centrally on conflict and security issues, including specialist advisory staff, plus 165 staff overseas in countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

There will also be a number of other not readily identifiable staff working indirectly in support of those mentioned above.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Carbon Sequestration

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether carbon capture and storage technology will be made exempt from the Climate Change Levy. [175433]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The climate change levy is a tax on non-domestic use of energy aimed at promoting energy efficiency. There are currently no commercial-scale power generation

plants in the UK which deploy carbon capture and storage, so the issue of liability to pay the levy does not arise.

HMT consulted on the barriers to carbon capture and storage (CCS) deployment in 2006 and the Government announced in the Energy Review that the next logical step would be a full-scale demonstration project. A competition to design and build one of the first ever-commercial CCS demonstration projects was launched by the Prime Minister on 19 November. This demonstration will provide the evidence, which will enable us to take informed policy decisions, including on taxation issues.

All taxes and reliefs are kept under review and any changes are announced by the Chancellor as part of the Budget process.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Europe for Citizens

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what elements of the Europe for Citizens programme are operating in the UK. [181085]

Margaret Hodge: I have been asked to reply.

The elements of the Europe for Citizens programme currently operating in the UK include town twinning co-operation projects and structural support for public research and civil society organisations.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Labour Party: Marketing

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what permission the *(a)* Cabinet Office and *(b)* Office of Public Sector Information have given to the Labour Party to reproduce Crown copyright photographs of the Prime Minister on the Labour Party website; and what payments have been made by the Labour Party to the Exchequer in relation to such photographs in the last 12 months. [171386]

Mr. Wills: I have been asked to reply.

The majority of Crown copyright material can be re-used without charge under the terms of the online Click-Use Licence. The Labour party has a licence. Charges may be made for re-use of multiple Crown copyright photographs. No payments have been made by the Labour Party in this period.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Climate Change

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he *(a)* last met and *(b)* next plans to meet the Chairman of the Environment and Energy Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce, United Kingdom to discuss the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. [181138]

Mr. Woolas: The Secretary of State has not met, and has no immediate plans to meet, the Chairman of the Environment and Energy Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce UK, to discuss the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

However, there is a regular formal dialogue between UK Government officials and International Chamber of Commerce members on a range of energy and climate related issues.

Floods: Crosby

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the risk of flooding in Crosby constituency from *(a)* climate change and *(b)* river overflow; and what proposals he has considered to tackle such (i) flooding and (ii) flood risk. [181148]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency (North West Central Area) is currently undertaking a study into tidal flood risk in the Crosby constituency as part of their "Tidal Areas Benefiting from Defences" study.

This study is due for completion at the end of March 2008, and will produce a tidal flood outline which takes into account sea level rise due to climate change by the year 2115.

The Environment Agency completed a study of the River Alt taking into consideration fluvial flood risk in 2000. The results of this study are already included in the Environment Agency's Flood Map.

The River Alt and Crossens Catchment Flood Management Plan, which incorporates the Crosby constituency, is currently under development and at the consultation stage.

The Environment Agency is investing approximately £8 million over the next three years in the Crosby constituency, which includes the refurbishment of the Altmouth pumping station, a major and key asset vital to flood protection is this area.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will allocate funding to strengthen the sea defences in Crosby against the increasing number of storm force gales and related flooding. [181175]

Mr. Woolas: A strategic management plan for the coast between Crosby and Formby Point is being developed by Sefton metropolitan borough council with support from the Environment Agency. This plan is considering the most sustainable means of managing the risk posed by coastal erosion and tidal flooding over the next 100 years, incorporating the effects of climate change.

Consultation took place with local communities and interest groups between September and December 2007 and the comments are currently being collated and

assessed. The plan will be finalised during the coming year. Any proposals to refurbish, replace or upgrade defences at Crosby will be evaluated further and incorporated into the national prioritised capital works programme based on their relative merits.

Fuel Poverty: Targets

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress his Department has made towards its public service agreement target to eliminate fuel poverty in vulnerable households in England by 2010 in line with the Government's Fuel Poverty Strategy objective; and if he will make a statement. [181503]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 24 January 2008]:* We have been successful in reducing fuel poverty between 1996 and 2005 by 3 million vulnerable households across the UK. However, as indicated in our most recent UK Fuel Poverty Strategy fifth annual progress report, available on the website of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, rising energy prices since 2003 have had an impact on households and we estimate that there may still be 1.2 million vulnerable households in fuel poverty in England by 2010.

Game Birds

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 859W, on game birds, what steps are taken by his Department to assess the *(a)* qualifications and *(b)* objectivity of those who peer review reports referred to by him in answers to parliamentary questions; what steps were taken to assess the objectivity of Professor Emeritus David Coleman; and if he will make a statement. [181098]

Joan Ruddock: In my answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 859W, on game birds, I confirmed that, in general, scientific data referenced in parliamentary questions are drawn from peer reviewed publications or are reviewed by staff within the Department or statutory advisers. As is usual practice, the peer review was organised by the organisation which funded the report.

New Forest Verderers

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will re-appoint the current Official Verderer; and if he will make a statement. [180918]

Joan Ruddock: The current Official Verderer was appointed in May 2002 and was re-appointed in 2005 for a second term of office, with the expectation that he would serve until 2008.

The Official Verderer wrote to the Office of the Prime Minister in October 2007 placing his office at the disposal of the Crown, and this offer was accepted. The appointment process for a new Official Verderer, which is being administered by the Forestry Commission and which will follow the Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies, is now under way.

Rural Areas: Community Development

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what arrangements are being made to ensure the continuity of funding hitherto provided through the Rural Social and Community Programme. [181345]

Jonathan Shaw: I was pleased to announce, on 14 December, a new investment of £3.45 million to support the network of rural community councils (RCCs) in England for each of the next three years. This funding will be channelled through Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE), the lead body for the RCC network. The Government has no plans to continue with other elements of the Rural Social and Community Programme, which was designed to be a two-year investment in building rural community capacity.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Rural Communities Action Network budget details for Humber and the Wolds Community Council will be announced. [181348]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer given on 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1493W.

Rural Areas: Energy

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps his Department is taking to provide energy efficiency measures suitable for rural consumers in hard to heat homes that do not respond to traditional energy efficiency measures; [180867]

(2) what *(a)* measures his Department is taking and *(b)* advice and support is available to encourage rural consumers in hard to heat homes to become more energy efficient. [180897]

Mr. Woolas: Details of grants and offers for energy efficiency measures are available, by postcode, on the website of the Energy Saving Trust, which is funded by DEFRA to promote and support energy efficiency in the household sector. The trust's Innovation Programme has included four projects relating to the use of energy efficiency measures in hard to treat homes.

Rural Areas: Housing

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when details of the Rural Housing Challenge Fund will be announced. [181347]

Jonathan Shaw: As part of its preparations for the comprehensive spending review (CSR) during the summer of 2007, DEFRA asked the Housing Corporation to provide advice on the feasibility of a potential funding

programme to improve the delivery of affordable rural housing at local level. That advice will be carefully considered in decisions about departmental spending priorities over the CSR period. No decisions about the fund have yet been made. We are currently finalising the Department's overall funding package and an announcement will be made shortly.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Arms Trade: Treaties

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps are being taken by the Government to secure agreement to an international legally-binding arms trade treaty. [181727]

Dr. Howells: The UK is a strong supporter of the UN process towards securing a legally binding Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made this clear in his recent speech at the Delhi Chamber of Commerce.

In 2006, the UK co-sponsored the original UN Resolution that called for work towards an ATT and which 153 countries voted to adopt. Since then the UK has worked closely with the defence industry and with non-governmental organisations, and has lobbied internationally to attract support for an ATT. Nearly 100 countries, including the UK, have submitted their views on an ATT for publication on the UN website:

http://disarmament.un.org/cab/att/Views_Member_States.html

The UK maintains a dialogue with its international partners to work towards a legally binding global ATT, and will participate in the UN organised Group of Government Experts' meetings, which start in February to take this process forward.

British Council: Film

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will prevent the closure of the British Council's dedicated film office until a public consultation has taken place. [180949]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2196W.

Chad: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what shortages of equipment and manpower have been identified for the European Union force for Chad; and if he will make a statement. [180803]

David Miliband: We understand that the minimum requirements for deployment of this force have now been met. The EU General Affairs and External Relations Council is therefore expected to confirm the launch of the force on 28 January, and deployment will be initiated in February. We expect that the force should reach full operating capacity by May.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in securing the deployment of the European Union force for Chad; and if he will make a statement. [180804]

David Miliband: The requirements for deployment of the EU force to Chad and the Central African Republic were discussed at a force generation conference on 11 January 2008. The operation commander for the mission, Lieutenant General Nash, confirmed that he now has enough forces and assets available to recommend launching the mission.

The EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on 28 January is therefore expected to confirm the launch of the force, and deployment will be initiated in February. We expect that the force should reach full operating capacity by May.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what items of his Department's *(a)* revenue and *(b)* expenditure are uprated using (i) the consumer price index, (ii) the retail price index and (iii) other measures of inflation. [180037]

Meg Munn: We do not link any changes in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's revenue or expenditure directly to the consumer price index or the retail price index.

We adjust the cost of living allowances, which we pay to staff serving overseas, every six months. We base changes in these allowances (up or down) on indices and data collected by Employment Conditions Abroad.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on consultants in each financial year since 2000, broken down by consultancy. [180818]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Hemsworth (Jon Trickett) on 6 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1427W. I also refer the hon. Member to the reply the Minister for Europe gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 542-43W.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of Freedom of Information requests received by his Department have given rise to responses that have been published by his Department. [180222]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has published 5 per cent. (165) of responses to 3,125 Freedom of Information Act requests received

between January 2005, when the Act came into force, and the end of September 2007. The FCO has adopted a selective disclosure log whereby only the most interesting and high profile pieces of information are published.

Developing Countries: International Assistance

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in his Department are working to promote the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. [181732]

Meg Munn: The UK's National Contact Point for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Guidelines is currently managed by officials from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, the Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform dedicates one full time official to work on the National Contact Point and is in the process of recruiting a second, while the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development each currently contribute 20 per cent. of one official's time.

Embassies: Manpower

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many posts at each embassy have been *(a)* created and *(b)* abolished in each year since 1997. [180806]

David Miliband: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) currently has 261 posts overseas. 43 are staffed exclusively by locally-recruited staff. 218 are staffed by UK-based civil servants and locally-recruited staff. The latest FCO departmental report (2006-07) sets out the total number of FCO UK-based staff worldwide as 6,364. The 1997-98 FCO departmental report stated that there were then 5,971 UK-based staff.

We keep the number of FCO staff at each post under constant review in the light of changing world circumstances, operational requirements and financial constraints. We are not able to compile data for changes in staffing at each post for each of the last 10 years as this would incur disproportionate cost.

European Commission: Manpower

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of staff in each Directorate-General of the European Commission is of British nationality *(a)* overall and *(b)* at senior grades. [181029]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We do not hold this information centrally. However, information on the proportion of staff holding British nationality in each directorate-general is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/civil_service/about/figures/index_en.htm

Horn of Africa: Terrorism

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment has been made of the potential threat to the UK from terrorist activity in the Horn of Africa; and if he will make a statement. [180739]

Meg Munn: Al-Qaida and its local affiliates have a long history of terrorist activity in East Africa, from the Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam bombings of 1998 through to more recent activity in Somalia. Al-Qaida has exploited the absence of an effective Government in Somalia to use the country as a base for both terrorist training and planning. This is mainly focused on the region, but some has been directed against the UK. The UK is home to a small number of extremists of East African origin, as the failed 21 July 2005 attacks in London demonstrated.

The Government's policy are to promote peace, stability and good governance in the horn of Africa. We are working, with our international partners, through the UN, EU and other international fora, to support programmes in the region that will assist development in these areas. We also support programmes to reduce the instability and lack of governance in Somalia. These mechanisms will help counter the terrorist threat to the UK from the horn of Africa.

International Contact Group for Somalia

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the next meeting of the International Contact Group for Somalia will take place. [180726]

Meg Munn: The next meeting of the International Contact Group for Somalia is due to be hosted by the African Union in Addis Ababa. A date for the meeting has not yet been set.

Kenya: Christianity

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the safety of Christians in Kenya; and what steps he is taking to promote their safety. [180629]

Meg Munn: We have had no reports of religious conflict or of targeting of Christians during the post-election violence. The Government are appalled by and condemn the incidents of violence that have broken out across Kenya, including horrific killings in several Kenyan cities and towns. We call for calm and for any grievances to be dealt with through the appropriate legal channels.

Kenya: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to encourage other African countries not to intervene in the internal affairs of Kenya. [180777]

Meg Munn: The Government are deeply concerned about the post-election crisis in Kenya. We are supportive of the African Union initiative to facilitate talks between the political parties and the mission, led by Kofi Annan, to assist them in doing so. We have been in touch with regional, and other African, leaders to underline our support for this African led process aimed at restoring peace, stability and prosperity to Kenya.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken at *(a)* bilateral, *(b)* Commonwealth, *(c)* EU and *(d)* United Nations levels to assist in restoring peace and stability in Kenya. [180778]

Meg Munn: The Government are working tirelessly with all our international partners to support the African Union's leadership in trying to find a way forward. We believe Kofi Annan's mission is the best way to assist the parties to agree a solution, which will restore peace and stability to Kenya.

The Commonwealth Secretariat has undertaken a visit to Kenya since the elections to find out what more can be done to help. The EU presidency statement of 11 January set out the EU's key concerns. The EU is a key element to the broad international support for the African Union's lead and for Kofi Annan's mission. The UN is focused on the humanitarian situation in Kenya and is working to ensure a swift and effective response to the humanitarian needs.

Kenya: Uganda

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of reports of Ugandan soldiers entering Kenya during the current political unrest; and if he will make a statement. [180805]

David Miliband: We have no evidence to support reports of Ugandan soldiers entering Kenya during the current unrest. The Kenyan and Ugandan authorities have assured us that this has not happened.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 18 December 2007, on Iraqi interpreters. [182184]

Dr. Howells: I replied to the hon. Member on 21 January.

Middle East: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK diplomats are serving in each post in *(a)* the Middle East and *(b)* South Asia. [179170]

David Miliband: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) employs staff at its posts under a variety of terms and conditions, for example as casual staff and contractors. In addition, staff from other Government Departments, such as the Department for International Development, also work at our posts. The number of UK diplomats employed by the FCO at our posts in the Middle East and South Asia are listed in the following table.

	Number
Middle East	
Abu Dhabi	13
Alexandria	1
Algiers	13
Amman	27
Bahrain	9
Baghdad	33
Basra	11
Beirut	16
Cairo	33
Casablanca	1
Damascus	12
Doha	14
Dubai	26
Jedda	5
Jerusalem	12
Kuwait	20
Muscat	11
Rabat	12
Riyadh	29
Sana'a	14
Tehran	27
Tel Aviv	15
Tripoli	19
Tunis	8
South Asia	
Chennai	21
Colombo	19
Dhaka	34
Islamabad	118
Kabul (includes Lashkar)	70
Karachi	6
Kathmandu	10
Kolkata	4
Mumbai	31
New Delhi	69

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff are expected to require additional language training as a result of the decision to increase the number of UK diplomats in the Middle East and South Asia by 30 per cent.; and if he will make a statement. [179171]

David Miliband: I refer the right hon. Member to my written ministerial statement of 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 52-53WS.

We will provide training for staff going to the Middle East and South Asia in languages such as Arabic, Farsi, Dari, Pashto and Urdu wherever there is an operational requirement. We do not yet know precisely how many staff will require this. It will depend on a range of factors, including the location, role and existing language skills of each officer.

British Nationals: Overseas Detention

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK nationals *(a)* are serving life sentences and *(b)* have been sentenced to death and are imprisoned in prisons overseas. [181709]

Meg Munn: As at 31 December 2007, British consular officials were aware of 2,419 British nationals detained overseas. We do not compile separate statistics on those detainees serving life sentences. We provide the same consular assistance regardless of sentence.

We are currently aware of 10 British nationals abroad who have been sentenced to death. A further eight British nationals have been charged with offences that may carry the death penalty.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK nationals are currently in prison overseas; and what estimated proportion of these cases relate to *(a)* violent crime and *(b)* drugs offences. [181710]

Meg Munn: As at 31 December 2007, British consular officials were aware of 2,419 British nationals detained overseas. We do not keep statistics on the numbers of British nationals detained for violent crime.

We do, however, keep statistics for those detained on drug offences. Of the total number of British nationals currently detained abroad, 40 per cent. are for drugs related offences.

Pakistan: Nuclear Power

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of nuclear safety and security in Pakistan; and whether he has raised the matter with his Pakistani counterpart. [180802]

David Miliband: We continue to monitor closely issues of nuclear safety and security within Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan has recently given the UK assurances about the security around its nuclear installations.

Somalia: Armed Conflict

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the security situation in Somalia on peace and stability in the Horn of Africa. [180740]

Meg Munn: The Government are very concerned about the continuing potential for the security situation in Somalia to affect peace and stability in the horn of Africa.

The UK is working with the international community and the UN to encourage the development of government institutions in Somalia that will enable the authorities to develop the capacity to tackle insecurity in Somalia and reduce the risk to neighbouring countries.

Somalia: Human Rights

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government is taking with its international partners to improve the monitoring of the human rights situation in Somalia. [180724]

Meg Munn: The Government attach great importance to the protection of human rights. In Somalia, the security situation means that monitoring the human rights situation and gathering reliable information is very difficult. The UK is working with EU and UN agencies to find practicable solutions to increasing monitoring without endangering the individuals tasked with investigating allegations of abuse.

We urge the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia to embrace its responsibility to protect the human rights of its citizens. We believe the improvement of governance and rule of law in Somalia is the best way to improve human rights situation in the country. We are therefore working closely with international partners and the Transitional Federal Government to support improvement in governance institutions in Somalia.

Somalia: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* financial and *(b)* logistical support the Government are providing to the AU Mission in Somalia. [180741]

Meg Munn: During the financial year (FY) 2007-08, the Government have committed the following expenditure for support to the African Union for their mission to Somalia:

£4.5 million for Ugandan and Burundian troop sustainment (fuel, food, rotation costs, airlift);

£2.3 million for Burundian troop allowances (per diems for 2 battalions up to end of FY);

£1.3 million for supplies to the Ugandan battalions (trucks, vehicle spares, paint etc.);

£120,000 (maximum) for subsistence payments and accommodation for military planners;

£20,000 for a Burundian military reconnaissance visit to Mogadishu;

£20,000 for a Burundian liaison officer in Kampala (subsistence and accommodation); and

£40,000 (maximum) committed for a potential Nigerian reconnaissance visit to Mogadishu.

The current total UK commitment for supporting the African Union mission to Somalia during FY 2007-08 is £8,300,000.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which five key posts the UK is filling in the Darfur-Darfur dialogue and consultation. [180798]

Meg Munn: The Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation (DDDC) is the main mechanism for engaging Darfurian civil society in the Political Process, and will be the main mechanism for engaging Darfurian civil society in longer-term reconciliation and rehabilitation.

The five key posts being filled by the UK for an initial six-month period are: Chief of Operations, Communication Officer and three Field Co-ordinators. This support over the next six months will help the DDDC to increase its financial management, planning and implementation capacity.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the UK is taking to secure a ceasefire in Darfur; and what progress has been made in achieving that objective. [180800]

David Miliband: The UK welcomed the Government of Sudan's announcement on 27 October 2007 of a unilateral cessation of hostilities. We have urged others to make the same commitment and all parties to honour their commitments. We are working with the UN, the African Union (AU), key allies and troop contributing countries to ensure that the AU/UN hybrid operation in Darfur is an effective peacekeeping force; and with the UN, the AU and other international partners to ensure that any new agreement on a cessation of hostilities can be effectively monitored.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 97W, on Sudan: peacekeeping operations, what *(a)* issues have been discussed and *(b)* conclusions have been reached in discussions with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations on the UN-EU mission in Chad/Central African Republic and the UN-AU hybrid mission in Darfur. [180835]

Meg Munn: We have repeatedly discussed with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the appropriate EU authorities the issue of co-ordination between the African Union/UN hybrid peacekeeping mission in Darfur (UNAMID), which assumed authority on 31 December 2007, and the UN/EU mission in Chad/Central African Republic (EUFOR) which is scheduled to start deploying in February. UNAMID has a number of liaison officers deployed in Abeche in Eastern Chad and we understand EUFOR may also deploy liaison officers in Darfur.

We have also extended the Joint Action of the EU Special Representative to Sudan to cover the EUFOR deployment in Chad, and to encourage co-ordination between the two missions. We are monitoring incursions across the Chad-Sudan border and, in bilateral contacts, we have urged both the Government of Sudan and the Government of Chad to exercise restraint.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 98W, on Sudan: peacekeeping operations, what action is planned at the UN Security Council in light of the lack of full co-operation by the Government of Sudan over the UNAMID deployment; and if he will make a statement. [180857]

David Miliband: The UN Security Council will continue to take a close interest in the African Union/UN hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID) deployment throughout 2008. In response to the attack on a UNAMID convoy on 7 January, the UN Security Council issued a presidential statement on 11 January that called on the Government of Sudan to conclude

> "all the necessary arrangements for the expeditious deployment of an effective UNAMID force".

We will continue to press the Government of Sudan to resolve outstanding issues, including force composition, the Status of Forces Agreement and night flying rights. We will also continue to discuss this issue with EU partners and to reiterate with them our readiness to consider further measures in the UN framework against any party that obstructs the prompt deployment of an effective force.

Terrorism: Detainees

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the US administration on the destruction of videotapes of interrogations with suspected al-Qaeda operatives by the CIA in 2005. [181472]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed this subject with the US administration.

USA: Detainees

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any information has been passed to the UK from detainees held by the US administration since 2001, obtained through the use of interrogation techniques which may constitute torture, or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment under British law, including the technique known as waterboarding. [182070]

Dr. Howells: It is the long-standing policy of the Government not to comment on matters relating to intelligence issues.

The UK unreservedly condemns the use of torture as a matter of fundamental principle. The Government, including its intelligence and security agencies, never uses torture for any purpose, including obtaining information. Nor would we instigate action by others to do so.

TRANSPORT

A2: Gravesham

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost is of replacing the underpass connecting Down's Road and Hog Lane under the A2 in Gravesham. [180186]

Mr. Tom Harris: No estimate was made of the cost of replacing the underpass connecting Down's Road and Hog Lane under the A2 in Gravesham.

However, the estimated cost of the road and road bridge due to replace the underpass is £1.1 million.

A27: Selmeston

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps are being taken to improve safety on the A27 in the Selmeston area; and what the timetable is in each case. [181978]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency undertook investigations into accident types in the Selmeston area in 2006-07. As a result, a programme of schemes has been developed to address safety concerns.

In December 2007 the Highways Agency extended the double white lines and the existing 40 mph speed limit by approximately 400 metres west of Selmeston village where accidents have occurred due to vehicle movements at a bend and lay-by.

During the next three years the Agency is planning, subject to funding, to improve safety on the A27 in the Selmeston area in two other locations:

Between Selmeston and Middle Farm localised widening, introduction of a central hatched area and physical islands to discourage inappropriate overtaking.

Improvements to the junctions between the A27 with Common Lane, Bopeep Lane and The Street.

A303

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she plans to upgrade the *(a)* A303 and *(b)* A358; and if she will make a statement. [181799]

Mr. Tom Harris: Further work on plans to upgrade the A303 and the A358 has been put on hold while the implications of the A303 Stonehenge decision for the wider strategy of improving the A303/A358 corridor are resolved between the Department of Transport and the South West region.

A303: Stonehenge

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport who will fund *(a)* proposed road junction improvements on the A303 at Long Barrow Roundabout and Countess Roundabout near Stonehenge and *(b)* a proposed new roundabout at the junction of the A344 and A360 at Airman's Corner as a result of the Government's decision to build a new visitor centre at Stonehenge by 2012. [180946]

Mr. Tom Harris: No decisions have yet been taken on whether or not junction improvements are to be pursued on the A303 at Countess and Longbarrow roundabouts or on the A344/A360 at Airman's Corner. Such measures will be considered as part of the development of proposals for improving the visitor facilities at Stonehenge. Decisions about funding will be made when decisions are made in due course about what, if any, improvement measures are to be pursued.

A38: Plymouth

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will assess the causes of road traffic accidents on the A38 between Marsh Mills and Ivybridge in Devon over the past 12 months. [182123]

Mr. Tom Harris: Any investigation by the Highways Agency would have to await the outcome of police investigations. The agency obtains details of accidents from the police, who provide this data once their own investigations and those of any coroner's inquest, if appropriate, have finished. This process can take up to a year to complete.

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will order an inquiry to be carried out into the number of road traffic accidents on the A38 between Plymouth and Ivybridge in Devon. [182124]

Mr. Tom Harris: It is not possible to justify an inquiry into the number of road traffic accidents on this section of the A38, as the collision rate for the last five years is more than 10 per cent. lower than the national average for this type of trunk road. The Highways Agency continually monitors safety on its roads with a view to implementing improvements as priority allows.

A5

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when a copy of the full progress report on the A5-M1 link will be sent to the hon. Member for South West Bedfordshire. [180649]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* Following the meeting of officials with the hon. Gentleman and representatives of regional groups in December 2007, opportunities to advance the scheme have been reviewed.

I have asked that all these opportunities should be considered before the report is finalised. The Government Office for the East of England is working with the Department for Transport and other partners to finalise the report. I expect to receive the report during February 2008 and will send a copy of it to the hon. Member for South West Bedfordshire as soon as possible.

Aviation: Radioactive Materials

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many aeroplane flights occurred in which spent nuclear fuel was carried within UK airspace in each of the last 10 years; what the origin and destination was of each case; and what volume of fuel was carried in each case. [180659]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 21 January 2008]:* This Department holds information on one shipment of spent nuclear fuel by air within UK airspace in the last 10 years. This was a shipment in 1998 from Tbilisi, Georgia to Dounrey, Caithness containing approximately 4 kg of uranium.

Aviation: Security

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many flights to the US operating out of *(a)* Heathrow and *(b)* Gatwick were accompanied by armed air marshals in 2006-07; what the nationality of such marshals was; and to whom they are accountable. [178153]

Jim Fitzpatrick: For security reasons, it would be inappropriate to comment on the specific security arrangements which have been put in place at UK airports.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many individuals living in *(a)* Formby (L37), *(b)* Crosby (L23), *(c)* Hightown (L38) and *(d)* Seaforth and Waterloo (L22 and L21) have been awarded a free bus travel pass in 2007-08; what proportion of bus travellers this represents in each area; and how much this benefit has cost the public purse in each year since 1997. [181152]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not hold information about the number of passes issued at the level requested. Merseyside Passenger Transport Executive (Merseytravel) administers the Concessionary Travel Scheme that covers *(a)* Formby, *(b)* Crosby, *(c)* Hightown and *(d)* Seaforth and Waterloo. In October 2007 Merseytravel reported to the Department that they had a total of 286,794 concessionary travel passes currently in circulation.

The Department does not have information about the number of bus trips taken by concessionaires at the level requested. Merseytravel is responsible for administering the scheme and may hold this data.

Funding for concessionary travel is within Revenue Support Grant (RSG), so it is not possible to disaggregate information for the cost of this to the public purse since 1997. When the statutory minimum concession was raised from half fare to free off-peak local bus travel from 1 April 2006 an additional £350 million was added to RSG in 2006-07, with a further £367.5 million in 2007-08. From April 2008 an additional £212 million will be paid directly to local authorities by special grant to fund the new national concession, rising to £217 million in 2009-10 and £223 million in 2010-11. In the provisional distribution of the grant in 2008-09 Merseytravel would receive £6.519 million through special grant in addition to the existing RSG funding.

Cars: Exhaust Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of new cars sold in 2006 emitted less than 100g of carbon dioxide per kilometre; and what projection she has made of the percentage emissions that will be allowed in each year up to 2040. [178137]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In 2006, cars with less than 100 g/km CO_2 tailpipe emissions accounted for no UK sales and 0.002 per cent. of the total EU market.

Neither we nor the European Commission have any plans to set a limit per car. The Commission intends that new cars emit an average of 130 g/km from 2012, but has not yet proposed any figures for the longer term. We do not yet have a view for 2040; but we believe that 100 g/km as an average should be achievable by 2020 (or 2025 at the latest). We are urging the Commission, Parliament and Council to seek consensus on this as soon as possible.

The dossier containing the Commission's proposal will be debated in Europe during 2008.

Crossrail Line

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding will be raised from the new Statutory Planning Charge for Crossrail; for how long the charge will be collected; on what developments it will be levied; and which local authorities it will affect. [176367]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Planning Bill introduced to Parliament on 28 November 2007 provides for a Community Infrastructure Levy. As part of the funding agreement between Transport for London and the Department for Transport, it is envisaged that the levy will be used to secure contributions from developers to provide funding for Crossrail. I refer the hon. Member to the written statement made by the Secretary of State on 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 133-34WS.

The timing of the charge, the type of developments and local authorities affected, and other details will depend on the final form of the legislation, the regulations laid under the proposed powers in the Planning Bill, and on the Mayor of London's policies established in line with the legislation and the regulations.

Gatwick Airport

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons passengers travelling through Gatwick Airport continue to be restricted to one item of hand luggage. [179478]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Secretary of State announced last year that the one bag restriction would be lifted from 7 January 2008, subject to airports demonstrating that they would be able to handle the additional bags without adversely affecting security. 23 airports have been approved to fully lift the restriction. Gatwick Airport's South Terminal Flight Connections Centre has also been approved. We expect the other parts of Gatwick Airport to achieve this aim later in the year.

Heathrow Airport: Noise

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the proportion of planes landing at Heathrow Airport using the continuous descent approach; what assumptions have been made regarding the proportion of planes landing at Heathrow Airport using the continuous descent approach in the noise modelling findings contained in the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport public consultation document; and if she will make a statement. [181715]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 24 January 2008]*: The current daytime levels of continuous decent approach (CDA) are around 80 to 85 per cent.

Noise modelling for future Heathrow scenarios is based on the airspace arrangements described in the supporting technical reports by NATS. This assumes full CDA capability on all approaches to a three runway airport; but reduced CDA capability under the

mixed mode ('maximum capacity, baseline') option, at around 35-40 per cent., as explained in paragraphs 3.102 to 3.105 of the consultation document. As the document states, the main noise benefits from CDA are felt further from the airport, outside the area of the 57 dBA noise contour.

Heathrow Airport: Public Participation

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria are to be used to assess the appropriateness of the need for a public consultation on flightpaths for a third runway at Heathrow airport once detailed design and simulation work has been carried out, as noted on paragraph 1.24, page 24 of the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport public consultation document; and if she will make a statement. [181717]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 24 January 2008]:* It is not for the Secretary of State for Transport to determine consultation criteria for airspace changes.

Changes to airspace arrangements are subject to the independent Airspace Change Process, governed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). CAA Guidance on the Application of the Airspace Change Process (CAP725) provides detailed advice on the application of the process, including consultation requirements. It makes clear that all airspace changes will require some form of consultation but that the level of consultation will be determined by the impact that the change will have on others and not the size of the change itself.

Specific consultation requirements on airspace changes in support of a third runway at Heathrow would be a matter for the sponsor of the airspace change, in this case the airport operator, BAA, with the support of NATS, the air traffic service provider, to discuss with the regulator, the CAA, as and when a detailed proposal is developed.

M25: Contracts

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which companies have been invited to tender for the widening of the M25. [181644]

Mr. Tom Harris: There are three organisations that have been invited to tender for the M25 Design, Build, Finance and Operate (DBFO) contract. These are:

A consortium of Amey, Laing O'Rourke and Ferrovial

Connect Plus—Balfour Beatty, Skanska, Atkins and Egis Projects

Flow—Costain, Carillion, Vinci and Laing Roads.

Network Rail: Bridges

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons Network Rail are required to replace their bridges that bear a load of 24 tonnes. [181385]

Mr. Tom Harris: Network Rail-owned bridges over railways most commonly carry local authority roads. EC directives 85/3/ECC and 89/460 ECC require member states' "principal roads" to be made accessible to 40 tonne vehicles with 11.5 tonne axle weights. Network Rail-owned bridges are statutorily required to be able to carry 24 imperial tons. They are covered by a national programme of assessment and works (Bridgeguard 3), and a national cost sharing agreement with local authorities relating to the costs of assessment and strengthening.

There is no obligation on Network Rail to strengthen its bridges carrying roads to accommodate 40 tonne lorries. If such carrying capacity were required, it would be for the local highway authority to provide the funding.

Public Transport: Rural Areas

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps are being taken to ensure adequate spending on public transport in rural and remote areas of the country. [181158]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Local and central Government are currently spending £2.5 billion a year on buses—including those operating in rural and isolated areas. This includes bus service operators grant (BSOG), the costs of mandatory concessionary fares, local authority subsidy of non-commercial services and capital expenditure on bus-related infrastructure schemes. It is for local authorities to decide what resources to devote to the support of rural bus services within their area.

However, recognising the particular needs of rural areas, we have provided funding to local authorities in the form of rural bus subsidy grant. This grant is currently supporting over 2,000 new and enhanced services on which over 33 million passenger journeys are made annually. This year's allocations total £55.6 million, bringing the grant's total to nearly £450 million since its introduction in 1998.

Demand responsive, flexibly routed and community transport services provide essential links in rural areas. To assist these types of services, we changed the regulations that govern the operation of bus services to enable more flexibly routed services to be registered with the traffic commissioner. We have also provided support for many community transport services by making them eligible for the first time to receive BSOG.

The Local Transport Bill will benefit rural areas as well as towns and cities by modernising the regulatory framework for buses, giving local authorities a bigger role where this is necessary and providing strengthened arrangements for partnerships between local authorities and bus operators.

The Bill also contains measures to expand the role of community transport and enable private hire vehicle operators to provide local bus services, extending the existing taxibus provisions to this sector for the first time. Both these measures are of particular relevance to meeting rural transport needs.

Railway Stations: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when a decision will be taken on whether to build a new railway station in the North Chelmsford-Springfield area; and if she will make a statement. [181333]

Mr. Tom Harris: The proposed new station in north Chelmsford is being privately promoted in connection with a major development in the Beaulieu Park area. The promoter is in active discussion with Network Rail, the train operator ('One Railway'), the Department for Transport, local authorities, and the Highways Agency.

Railway Stations: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when work will begin on the construction of the new railway station at Buckshaw Village, Chorley. [181704]

Mr. Tom Harris: This is a project that is being led by Lancashire county council with Network Rail. It is being funded largely by developer contributions. There is an active dialogue between the local authority and Network Rail, who will be responsible for project managing and delivering the station, provided the funding is fully in place. They are planning for the station to be operational by 2009 subject to funding.

Railway Stations: Easington

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to re-open rail stations at Horden, Easington and Blackhall in Easington constituency; and if she will make a statement. [182376]

Mr. Tom Harris: We have no plans to re-open rail stations at Horden, Easington and Blackhall. It would be for the local authorities to propose and fund any new stations provided that they have a business case and if they consider that new stations are the best way of meeting local transport needs.

Railways: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many trains stopped at *(a)* Chorley and *(b)* Adlington on weekdays in the most recent period for which figures are available. [181454]

Mr. Tom Harris: 97 passenger trains stop at Chorley and 42 passenger trains stop at Adlington (Lancashire) on weekdays.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans there are to increase the *(a)* number and *(b)* capacity of trains calling at (i) Chorley and (ii) Adlington. [181796]

Mr. Tom Harris: The rail White Paper was published in July 2007. It sets out the resources we intend to make available to the rail industry and the increases in capacity, as well as safety and performance that we expect the industry to deliver in return.

The Department for Transport is currently reviewing the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities' bid for funding from the Transport Innovation Fund (TIF). The proposal seeks to address congestion issues within the Greater Manchester area through introducing a road congestion charge bid while also investing in providing additional public transport opportunities, as part of the TIF bid.

Railways: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of train *(a)* punctuality and *(b)* overcrowding on the line between Colchester and London. [180368]

Mr. Tom Harris: Improving rail performance is a key objective for the Department for Transport. Joint action plans are in place between Network Rail and 'one' to address performance issues. These are monitored monthly.

The most recent published PPM figures are those shown on Network Rail's website for the rail industry as a whole. This shows confirmed PPM figures up to period 9 (ending 8 December 2007). The website shows that 'one's PPM for period 9 was 84.7 per cent. and the moving annual average ('MAA') was 89.7 per cent., compared to whole industry figures of 86 per cent. and 89.2 per cent. respectively.

Railways: North West Region

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions her Department has had with Blackburn and Darwen borough council on a funding bid to upgrade the rail track and service between Blackburn, Darwen and Manchester Victoria. [180503]

Mr. Tom Harris: Officials from the Department, along with Network Rail, met officers from Blackburn and Darwen borough council in November 2007 to discuss improvements to the railway line between Blackburn and Bolton that would be necessary to deliver the council's aspiration for half hourly off-peak services between Blackburn, Darwen and Manchester Victoria. A funding bid has not been received from the council for this scheme.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many trains operate between Preston and Manchester via Chorley on a daily basis. [181795]

Mr. Tom Harris: 97 passenger trains operate between Preston and Manchester via (and calling at) Chorley, Monday to Friday.

Railways: Overcrowding

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the levels of overcrowding on trains running between Preston and Manchester at peak times; and if she will make a statement. [181453]

Mr. Tom Harris: There are no specific requirements regarding levels of crowding on this route. The Department's general requirements for crowding are that passengers should not be expected to stand for more than 20 minutes.

The rail White Paper was published in July 2007. It sets out the resources we intend to make available to the rail industry and the increases in capacity, as well as safety and performance, that we expect the industry to deliver in return.

Railways: Prices

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2008, what measure of inflation is used by her Department in determining rail price increases under the terms of the South Eastern Franchise Agreement for 2008. [181858]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 24 January 2008]:* The measure of inflation used for Southeastern's January 2008 regulated fares was the July 2007 retail prices index figure—3.8 per cent.

Southeastern may price unregulated fares at its discretion.

Road Traffic

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average delay was on England's motorways and trunk roads, expressed in minutes per 10 miles, in respect of *(a)* all journeys and *(b)* the slowest 10 per cent. of journeys in each year since 1997. [180959]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 22 January 2008]:* The average delay on England's motorways and trunk roads, expressed in minutes per 10 miles in respect of all journeys and the worst 10 per cent. of journeys in each year since 2004-05 is shown in the following table. The earliest available data are for the period August 2004 to July 2005 and the latest for November 2006 to October 2007. Data before 2004-05 are not held centrally on this basis.

Average delay on England's motorways and trunk roads for all journeys and worst 10 per cent. respectively, for each year since 2004-05 (minutes per 10 miles)

	Average delay (minutes per 10 miles)	
	All journeys	*Worst 10 per cent.*
August 2004 to July 2005	1.16	3.78
August 2005 to July 2006	1.24	3.78
August 2006 to July 2007	1.32	4.18
November 2006 to October2007	1.29	4.08

Source:
Information derived from the Highways Agency Traffic Information Systems database

These figures represent average daytime delays (6 am to 8 pm) on the 91 routes currently used for monitoring performance on the strategic road network.

Delay is the difference between observed journey time and a reference journey time (the time that could theoretically be achieved when the traffic is free flowing).

Road Traffic Offences

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the appeal process is in the event of a disagreement in the application of a traffic regulation order. [180765]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Where traffic regulation orders are subject to civil enforcement by local authorities, a motorist wishing to dispute a penalty charge notice may make formal representations to the relevant local authority. If these are rejected, the motorist may appeal to the independent parking adjudicator. The grounds on which a formal representation and any subsequent appeal can be made include that the "alleged contravention did not occur". This might be the case if there was a dispute as to whether the traffic regulation order applied to the conduct complained of (for example if there was a question as to when parking restrictions applied under the order).

Where civil enforcement has not been introduced, issues as to the application of a traffic regulation order would need to be raised in the first instance before the magistrates court.

Roads: Accidents

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents on roads in England involved drivers who were aged 17 in 2007. [180663]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not available. Statistics on reported personal injury road accidents in 2007 are due to be published in June 2008.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what percentage of *(a)* drivers and *(b)* vehicle passengers who were (i) killed and (ii) seriously injured on roads were not wearing seat belts in 2007. [180665]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not available. Research reported in the published "Second Review of the Government's Road Safety Strategy" and "Road Safety Research Report No. 76: Trends in Fatal Car-occupant Accidents" both published on 26 February 2007, estimates that about a third of fatally injured car occupants were not wearing their seatbelts. For 2005 figures, it represents about 565 people, and it is estimated that about 370 people might have survived if they had been properly restrained. These reports are available at the following links and have also been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/strategytargetsperformance/2ndreview/

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research/rsrr/theme5/76?version=2

A research report giving further details on seat belt wearing has also been published by TRL limited.

http://www.trl.co.uk/store/report_detail.asp?srid=6160&pid=220

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* road traffic accidents, *(b)* road traffic fatalities, *(c)* accidents involving motorcyclists, *(d)* fatalities involving motorcyclists, *(e)* accidents involving bicyclists and *(f)* fatalities involving bicyclists there were in each county in the UK for each year since 1997. [180961]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 22 January 2008]:* Tables showing the number of *(a)* reported personal injury road accidents, *(b)* fatalities, *(c)* reported personal

injury road accidents involving at least one motorcycle, *(d)* motorcycle fatalities, *(e)* reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one pedal cycle and *(f)* pedal cycle fatalities in each county in GB for 1997 to 2006 have been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what procedures her Department uses to collect statistics on the number of road traffic accidents, with particular reference to accidents in Devon. [182118]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The national collision statistical reporting form (commonly known as STATS19) is used to collect standard information, when a personal injury road accident is reported to the police. The information is collected by the police at the scene of the accident or, in a minority of cases, it is reported by a member of the public at a police station. Some 50 data items are collected for each accident, including the time, location and circumstances of the accident, the vehicles involved and some information on each casualty. After processing this information is forwarded by each police force (via local processing authorities in the case of some forces) to the Department electronically and entered into a database. The data are checked, analysed and detailed results published annually in "Road Casualties Great Britain".

Personal injury road accident data in Devon are collected on behalf of the Department by Devon and Cornwall constabulary. Accident and casualty totals for the year are agreed with Devon county council at the year end.

Roads: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects work to commence on the junction from the A12 Colchester Northern by-pass to the Northern Approach Road near the Colchester Community Stadium. [180903]

Mr. Tom Harris: Delivery of the junction is tied to planning consent and is a matter for developers to take forward in line with plans for delivery of proposed housing, employment and leisure facilities in North Colchester. Both English Partnerships and the Highways Agency are working to help bring forward time scales for delivery. In view of this, start date is not currently available, although it is anticipated that work could start during 2009, subject to the completion of statutory procedures.

Roads: Tolls

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* the Prime Minister and *(b)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the national roll-out of road pricing. [181975]

Ms Rosie Winterton: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State speaks regularly to both the Prime Minister and the Chancellor about transport issues across the range of her responsibilities.

We continue to take forward work on road pricing, notably supporting local authorities in the development of local pricing schemes, and working with industry to explore how more advanced technologies might support schemes on a wider scale in due course. No decisions have been taken on national road pricing.

South West Trains

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what factors underlay her decision to allow South West Trains to close their existing travel centres and not require them to be retained for railway purposes; and if she will make a statement. [181093]

Mr. Tom Harris: The South West Trains franchise agreement does not require the provision of Travel Centres at its stations, nor does the Ticketing and Settlement Agreement (TSA) which governs station ticket offices.

However, the change of use of part of a station or facility at that station, such as a Travel Centre, to another use which is non rail related is governed by the Network Modifications (Closures) regime contained in the Railways Act 2005 ("the Act"). Should South West Trains propose to change the use of Travel Centres with a non rail facility, their proposals will be dealt with under the provisions of the Act.

Virgin Rail: Rolling Stock

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress is being made in discussions between her Department and Virgin Trains on the elongation of Pendolino trains from nine to 11 cars. [181442]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department received in 2007 an unsolicited proposal from Virgin Trains to extend their franchise for two years (2012-14), which included a plan to lengthen Pendolino trains, which was analysed in considerable detail. The Department concluded that this proposal provided significantly less value for money compared with the likely outcome of the refranchising exercise scheduled for completion in 2012. The Department is preparing its own proposals to introduce extra capacity on the west coast main line.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allotments: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of whether Chorley borough council makes adequate provision for allotments. [181705]

Mr. Iain Wright: The provision of allotments is the responsibility of local authorities. The Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 places a duty on local authorities to provide allotments where they perceive demand for them in their area.

Written representations may be made to the local authority on the need for allotments by any six resident registered electors or persons liable to pay council tax, and the local authority must take those representations into account (section 23(2) of the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908). The council must assess whether there is a demand for allotments in their area. If the council then decides that there is a demand for them, they have a statutory duty to provide a sufficient number of plots. In terms of the duty to provide under section 23 of the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 there is no time limit for provision once it has been established that there is a demand.

The local government White Paper provides new opportunities for citizens to hold their local providers to account for quality of services and facilities.

Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation) requires local authorities to assess the needs of their communities for a range of open spaces, and to address any identified deficiencies in provision. This is consistent with our wider policy to give local authorities flexibilities and freedoms to determine what is most appropriate for their local area.

To further support local authorities, we are currently revising the good practice guide for the management of allotments in conjunction with the Local Government Association.

Community Development: Finance

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's planned expenditure on business support, promotion of enterprise and economic development is from 2007-08 to 2010-11; and which elements of this expenditure are planned to be funded through the regional development agencies' single pot. [179275]

John Healey: Communities and Local Government will provide £1,586 million in 2007-08, £1,548 million in 2008-09, £1,510 million in 2009-10 and £1,474 million in 2010-11 to the regional development agencies' single budget. The RDA single budget is intended to deliver a range of statutory objectives including regeneration, business support, employment, skills and sustainable development. The RDAs' detailed proposals for business support covering the next three years will be set out in their corporate plans which will be published in the spring.

Communities and Local Government does not hold separate expenditure data for the range of the Department's planned spending on business support or promotion of enterprise and economic development, although the Department's funding is expected to contribute significantly to these areas, including through the RDAs.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions since her appointment as Secretary of State she has travelled outside the United Kingdom on official business; for what purposes; and at what cost. [182565]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to my reply to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 844W.

Green Belt

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 131W-9W, on the green belt, how many hectares of green belt there were in *(a)* Durham and *(b)* Easington in 1997. [182887]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2046W.

Housing: Planning

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been issued to planning authorities on the density of housing development. [173541]

Mr. Iain Wright: Using land efficiently is a key consideration in planning for housing. Guidance to local planning authorities on developing appropriate housing density policies is set out in Planning Policy Statement 3 (PPS3), published last November. While PPS3 advises a national indicative minimum density figure of 30 dwellings per hectare, it also grants more flexibility to local planning authorities to take account of local circumstances and set their own local standards for density by setting out a range of densities across their plan area, rather than one broad density range.

Housing: South West Region

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will estimate for each of the unitary authority and district council areas covered by the draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West the percentage increase proposed in the independent panel report over the 2006 base in the number of new houses. [182182]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Secretary of State is currently considering all the recommendations made by the Panel and she is planning to publish her Proposed Changes to the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy in the spring. I would like to stress to the hon. Member that no conclusions have yet been reached on any of the Panel's recommendations.

The following table has been prepared using information at Appendix (ii) of the Panel's report.

	Overall net increase in dwellings (number) for period 2006-26		Percentage increase
	Draft Regional Spatial Strategy as submitted to Government in April 2006 by South West Regional Assembly	Recommendations of Independent Panel in their report December 2006	Between Panel report and Draft Regional Spatial Strategy
West of England Housing Market area	110,200	126,950	15.20
Bristol City	28,000	30,000	7.14
South Gloucestershire	23,000	30,800	33.91
North Somerset	26,000	26,750	2.88
Bath and North East Somerset	15,500	18,800	21.29
West Wiltshire	10,500	12,300	17.14
Mendip	7,200	8,300	15.28
Swindon Housing Market area	49,000	53,900	10.00
Swindon	34,000	34,200	0.59
North Wiltshire	10,000	13,700	37.00
Kennet	5,000	6,000	20.00
Gloucester and Cheltenham Housing Market area	48,600	56,400	16.05
Gloucester	11,500	11,500	0.00
Cheltenham	8,500	8,100	-4.71
Tewkesbury	10,500	14,600	39.05
Stroud	6,700	9,100	35.82
Cotswold	6,000	6,900	15.00
Forest of Dean	5,400	6,200	14.81
Exeter Housing Market area	38,400	46,900	22.14
Exeter City	10,500	12,000	14.29
East Devon	11,400	17,100	50.00
Elsewhere in Exeter JSA (Exeter City/East Devon/ Teignbridge) [4]	1,500	—	-100.00
Mid Devon [3]	6,400	7,400	15.63
Teignbridge [3]	8,600	10,400	20.93
Torbay Unitary Authority Housing Market area	10,000	20,000	100.00
Taunton Housing Market area	27,900	34,500	23.66
Taunton Deane	17,300	21,800	26.01
Sedgemoor	8,400	10,200	21.43
West Somerset[2]	2,200	2,500	13.64
Bournemouth and Poole Housing Market area	40,150	48^00	19.80
Bournemouth	14,600	16,100	10.27
Poole	9,500	10,000	5.26
Christchurch	3,450	3,450	0.00
East Dorset in JSA	5,200	6,400	23.08
Elsewhere in East Dorset District [4]	200	—	-100.00
Purbeck	2,100	5,150	145.24
North Dorset	5,100	7,000	37.25
Plymouth Housing Market area	45,100	47400	4.66
Plymouth City	24,500	24,500	0.00
South Hams [3]	11,000	11,800	7.27
Caradon	5,800	6,500	12.07
West Devon[3]	3,800	4,400	15.79
West Cornwall Housing Market area	31,600	48,800	54.43
Penwith	4,800	7,800	62.50
Kerrier	8,200	14,400	75.61
Carrick	10,000	10,900	9.00
Restormel	8,600	15,700	82.56
Polycentric Devon and Cornwall Housing Market area	20,500	35,000	70.73
North Cornwall	7,600	13,400	76.32
Torridge	4,800	10,700	122.92
North Devon [2]	8,100	10,900	34.57
Salisbury District Housing Market area	9,200	12,400	34.78
Weymouth and Dorchester Housing Market area	13,800	18,100	31.16
West Dorset	8,200	12,500	52.44
Weymouth and Portland	5,600	5,600	0.00
South Somerset District Housing Market area	13,600	19,700	44.85

	Overall net increase in dwellings (number) for period 2006-26		Percentage increase
	Draft Regional Spatial Strategy as submitted to Government in April 2006 by South West Regional Assembly	Recommendations of Independent Panel in their report December 2006	Between Panel report and Draft Regional Spatial Strategy
Dartmoor National Park[1]	1,000	1,000	0.00
Exmoor National Park[1]	400	400	0.00
Isles of Scilly[1]	100	100	0.00
Total	459,550	569,450	23.91
Dwellings pa	22,978	28,473	23.91

[1] Estimated strictly local needs provision only.
[2] Excludes part in Exmoor National Park.
[3] Excludes part in Dartmoor National Park.
[4] The draft RSS distinguishes between allocations for complete districts and allocations for "elsewhere" within the HMA.

Housing: Waiting Lists

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households were on waiting lists for housing in each London borough in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [180906]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my right hon. Friend the Member for Oldham, West and Royton (Mr. Meacher) on 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 116W.

Local Authorities: Grants

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-68W, on local authorities: grants, what the grant per capita to each local authority was in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; and what the average grant per capita to (i) district councils, (ii) unitary councils, (iii) county councils, (iv) metropolitan councils and (v) London boroughs was in (A) 2006-07 and (B) 2007-08. [180197]

John Healey: I have placed in the Library of the House a table showing the information on central Government grant per capita for each local authority in 2006-07 and budget estimates for 2007-08.

The average central Government grant per capita by class of authority in 2006-07 and budget estimates for 2007-08 is in the following table.

Class of authority	2006-07	£ per head 2007-08
District councils	91	90
Unitary councils	1,085	1,109
County councils	800	833
Metropolitan councils	1,288	1,316
London boroughs (including City of London)	1,359	1,402

Source:
Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) 2006-07 returns and Revenue Account (RA) 2007-08 budget estimates returns.

Central Government grant is defined here as the sum of formula grant (revenue support grant, police grant, general GLA grant and redistributed non-domestic rates) and specific grants inside Aggregate External Finance (AEF), i.e. revenue grants paid for councils' core services.

Figures exclude grants outside AEF (i.e. where funding is not for authorities' core services, but is passed to a third party; for example, rent allowances and rebates), capital grants, funding for the local authorities' housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

Per capita figures for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are based on Office for National Statistics' (ONS) 2006 Mid-Year Population estimates. 2007 Mid-Year Population estimates are not published yet.

Comparisons across years may not be valid due to changing local authority responsibilities.

Local Government Finance: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 148W, on local government finance: disabled, when she expects to make an announcement on funding for the disabled facilities grant. [177236]

Mr. Iain Wright: Further to the announcement on 6 December of the national funding for Disabled Facilities Grant programme of £146 million for 2008-09, individual local authority allocations are currently being calculated. Government offices are due to submit their recommendations for ministerial approval shortly. Additionally the Government announced an extra £11.5 million for the Disabled Facilities Grant programme for 2007-08 on 14 January, individual local authority allocations for 2007-08 can be viewed on the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/doc/646786

Minister for the South East

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the work undertaken by the Regional Minister for the South East since his appointment; and what towns he has visited since appointment. [182071]

Mr. Dhanda: My hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw), in his role as Regional Minister for the South East, has acted as a champion for the region, with particular focus on housing and skills issues and on taking forward the sub-national review of economic development and regeneration in the best way for the region. My hon. Friend has held meetings with and visited key stakeholders to encourage coordination between different areas of government policy and discuss the unique requirements of the South East region. During the recent floods and animal health crises, my hon. Friend visited farms in affected areas across the region.

My hon. Friend has visited the following towns in the South East in his capacity as Regional Minister: Newhaven, Hastings, Reading, Newbury, Thatcham, Cranbrook, Winslow, Guildford, Portsmouth, Aylesbury, East Mailing, Lymington, Winchester, Leatherhead, Folkestone, Ramsgate, Dover, Elstead, Icklesham and Hungerford.

Out of Town Shopping Centres: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her review of Policy Planning Statement 6 on planning for town centres will include an assessment of *(a)* the effect on levels of carbon emissions and *(b)* the effect on small shops of permitting out-of-town retail development. [182219]

Mr. Iain Wright: We will shortly conduct a 12-week consultation on our proposals to review Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for Town Centres (PPS6). As explained in the Planning White Paper, "Planning for a Sustainable Future", our objectives for this review include the continued support for the Government's environmental goals, and the promotion of competition and improvement of consumer choice. The consultation will invite views on our proposals, including these two issues.

The Planning White Paper also made clear that planning has an important role to play in meeting the challenges of climate change. That is why, at the end of 2007, we published a new Planning Policy Statement (PPS): Planning and Climate Change, which makes cutting carbon emissions a key Government priority for the planning system in England. The PPS sets out how planning can help secure enduring progress against the UK's emissions targets, by direct influence on energy use and emissions, and in bringing together and encouraging action by others. As part of this contribution, planning authorities are expected to prepare and manage the delivery of spatial strategies that help secure the fullest possible use of sustainable transport and make the most of existing and planned opportunities for decentralised and renewable or low-carbon energy. This document should be read alongside our forthcoming consultation on revisions to PPS6.

Planning Permission

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Minister in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister authorised the choice of pilot planning delivery agreement projects to be undertaken by the Planning Advisory Service and the advisory team on large applications. [182578]

Mr. Iain Wright: Ministers were not involved in the selection of Pilots for Planning Delivery Agreements (PDAs, which have since been renamed to Planning Performance Agreements). The Pilot programme was managed by the Planning Advisory Service and all nominations put forward by local authorities and developers were accepted on to the programme. The Planning Advisory Service is part of the Improvement and Development Agency.

Planning Permission: Appeals

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many appeals to the planning inspectorate led to the local planning authority paying costs in each region in England in each of the last five years; and what costs were paid in each case. [181862]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 24 January 2008]:* Over the last 5 years 1,663 appeals led to local planning authorities being liable to pay costs, following awards made against them by inspectors and the Secretary of State.

The breakdown by financial year is:

	Number
2002-03	307
2003-04	352
2004-05	338
2005-06	304
2006-07	362

No further detail of authorities by regions is readily available.

The actual amount to be paid is not determined by a costs award. This is for the parties to settle by negotiation initially in accordance with longstanding Government guidance contained in DOE Circular 8/93. Accordingly, no records are available of costs paid in each case.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning inspectorate site visits had not taken place 12 months after the date an appeal was lodged in each of the last five years. [181863]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 24 January 2008]:* The following table shows the numbers of planning appeals lodged (received) in England and determined by the Planning Inspectorate for the five-year period 2002 to 2006, where a site visit was carried out, together with the number of appeals where a site visit had not taken place 12 months after the appeal was lodged.

	Appeals lodged where a site visit was carried out	*Number of site visits not taken place 12 months after appeal lodged*
2002	12,150	10
2003	14,192	18
2004	17,786	66
2005	15,329	77

	Appeals lodged where a site visit was carried out	*Number of site visits not taken place 12 months after appeal lodged*
2006	17,200	26

Note:
Data for 2007 has not been included as a proportion of the appeals lodged in that year are still to be allocated site visits and the period of a year from receipt has only been reached for those appeals lodged in January 2007

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many appeals were *(a)* lodged with the planning inspectorate and *(b)* successful in each region of England in each of the last five years. [181864]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 24 January 2008]:* The following table provides the information requested.

	Received	*Decided*	*Allowed*
2003			
East Midlands	1,252	1,080	339
East of England	2,653	2,309	740
London	3,912	3,407	1,199
North East	516	478	178
North West	1,672	1,473	566
South East	4,995	4,419	1,435
South West	2,805	2,392	775
West Midlands	1,509	1,347	460
Yorkshire and Humberside	1,279	1,164	359
Total	20,593	18,069	6,051
2004			
East Midlands	1,700	1,112	354
East of England	3,128	2,048	625
London	4,365	2,874	1,007
North East	741	465	167
North West	2,282	1,481	554
South East	5,988	3,868	1,320
South West	3,301	2,295	745
West Midlands	1,981	1,331	456
Yorkshire and Humberside	1,650	1,034	355
Total	25,136	16,508	5,583
2005			
East Midlands	1,399	1,500	461
East of England	2,560	2,783	850
London	3,634	3,872	1,415
North East	525	692	239
North West	1,630	1,897	660
South East	4,993	5,336	1,784
South West	2,957	3,054	971
West Midlands	1,697	1,759	614
Yorkshire and Humberside	1,372	1,476	440
Total	20,767	22,369	7,434
2006			
East Midlands	1,438	1,270	425
East of England	3,007	2,596	851
London	4,148	3,510	1,319
North East	587	466	185
North West	1,618	1,463	542
South East	5,473	4,712	1,525
South West	3,088	2,735	849
West Midlands	1,846	1,609	588
Yorkshire and Humberside	1,850	1,493	468
Total	23,055	19,854	6,752
2007			
East Midlands	1,357	1,278	472
East of England	2,790	2,712	922
London	3,878	3,724	1,410
North East	577	590	220
North West	1,514	1,446	549
South East	5,294	4,854	1,714
South West	2,907	2,685	867
West Midlands	1,544	1,545	575
Yorkshire and Humberside	1,769	1,702	602
Total	21,630	20,536	7,331

Rough Sleepers

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many rough sleepers there were in England in each of the last 10 years; and what proportion of these were estimated to be military veterans. [182265]

Mr. Iain Wright: A national estimate of the number of rough sleepers in England is published every September. The estimate is based on the results of local authority street counts in those areas where a known, or suspected, rough sleeping problem has been identified. The following table sets out the national rough sleeping estimate over each of the last 10 years.

	Number
1998	1,850
1999	1,633
2000	1,180
2001	703
2002	596
2003	504
2004	508
2005	459
2006	502
2007	498

We do not hold national data on the proportion of rough sleepers who are military veterans. However, there is specific data for London provided under the Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN) recording system. In 2006-07, for those rough sleepers in London contacted by services, CHAIN records show around 5 per cent. of rough sleepers had spent time in the armed forces in the past.

Standards Board for England

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints were *(a)* made to, *(b)* investigated by, *(c)* dismissed by and *(d)* upheld by the Standards Board

for England in each of the last five years; and what sanctions were imposed in each case upheld by the Board. [182186]

John Healey: The information requested, which has been provided by the Standards Board, is set out in the following table. The power to impose sanctions rests with either a local authority standards committee or the Adjudication Panel for England, following their consideration of the results of the investigations by either a local authority monitoring officer or one of the Standards Board's ethical standards officers.

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-present*
Total complaints received	3,566	3,861	3,836	3,549	2,550
Complaints referred for investigation	1,105	949	857	634	389
Complaints not referred for investigation	2,144	2,756	2,842	2,591	2,224
Other (for example, outside the SBE's remit)	317	273	244	164	139
Complaints referred for investigation					
Complaints referred to the Standards Board's ethical standards officers (ESO) for investigation	1,105	1,009	465	241	127
Complaints referred by the ESO for local investigation by the local authority monitoring officer	n/a	96	385	347	203
Directions issued by ESO to the local authority monitoring officer[1]	n/a	n/a	7	46	58
Completed cases by final findings (investigated by ESO)					
No evidence of breach of the code of conduct	154	310	119	128	65
No further action	462	947	459	182	93
Referred for local determination by monitoring officer	58	78	66	12	10
Referred to Adjudication Panel for England	89	111	94	9	7
Standards Committee decisions and sanctions					
No breach of the code of conduct	2	4	3	1	0
No further action	3	8	5	1	0
Censured	18	26	18	7	1
Suspended for up to 2 months	14	19	12	6	5
Suspended for up to 3 months	2	15	19	2	3
Adjudication Panel decisions and sanctions					
No breach of the code of conduct	3	8	12	5	1
Breach but no sanction imposed	3	7	24	5	0
Suspended 0-6 months	13	13	5	3	2
Suspended 6 months-1 year	0	6	13	0	0
Disqualified for up to 6 months	3	1	5	0	3
Disqualified for 6 months-1 year	19	11	15	5	1
Disqualified for 18 months	4	4	1	1	1
Disqualified for 2 years	12	3	7	0	0
Disqualified for 3 years	10	2	1	0	0
Disqualified for 4 years	2	3	2	0	0
Disqualified for 4.5 years	0	0	1	0	0
Disqualified for 5 years	1	1	0	0	1

[1] Direction issued by an ESO to a local authority monitoring officer for action falling short of full investigation, for example conciliation or training to be undertaken by the member.

TREASURY

Capital Gains Tax: Second Homes

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the impact his proposals for changes in the capital gains tax regime applied to second homes will have on the housing market in rural areas. [182305]

Jane Kennedy: The 2007 pre-Budget report announced a reform of the capital gains tax regime for individuals. The impact on investors will depend on their personal circumstances and economic conditions more generally. The Government continue to monitor such issues.

Child Tax Credit: Poland

Andrew Selous: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Polish children living in Poland are in receipt of *(a)* child tax credits and *(b)* child benefit; and how much was spent on those payments in the last year for which figures are available. [174673]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 17 January 2008]:* Further to the answer given on 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1018W, to the hon. Member

for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond), at the end of September 2007, out of the 16,286 ongoing awards to Polish nationals, child benefit was being paid for around 26,000 children. The other information requested is not available.

Migrants from the new EU member states continue to come to the UK to work and contribute to the success of the UK economy.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been spent by his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by his Department for this purpose. [173817]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury is fully committed to the equality and diversity agenda. In the last three years the Treasury has promoted equality of opportunity for all, supported internal employee-diversity networks, funded diversity and equality events in the Department and funded diversity awareness raising seminars.

The Treasury has spent the following amounts on reasonable adjustments for staff with disabilities, on promoting equality and diversity by awareness raising events and on subscriptions (for example membership of the Employers Forum on Disability):

	Amount (£)
2004-05	46,000
2005-06	61,679
2006-07	96,196

The Treasury introduced a Child-Care Voucher Scheme in 2004 as part of its work to promote equality and diversity. The costs for child-care vouchers are:

	Amount (£)
2004-05	120,000
2005-06	172,531
2006-07	139,370

In 2004-05 the staff costs for the Treasury's diversity team (three members of staff) were £91,000.

Following a restructuring, in 2005, the staff costs for one member of staff were:

	Amount (£)
2005-06	26,500
2006-07	27,000

Another 80 to 100 employees are involved in promoting diversity in the Department i.e. members of diversity support groups, diversity champions and senior staff sponsors. Staff costs for this work are not available.

Employment

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK were in full-time employment in each year since 1997; [181287]

(2) how many people in *(a)* the Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK were employed in each year since 1997; [181288]

(3) how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK were unemployed in each year since 1997; [181289]

(4) how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK were in part-time employment in each year since 1997; [181372]

(5) how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK were in temporary employment in each year since 1997. [181373]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions concerning employment and unemployment in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) the UK. (181287, 181288, 181289, 181372, 181373)

Questions 181288 and 181289 ask for the same information on total employment and unemployment as questions received in July and October of last year, and I refer you to the answer given in official report volume 463 of 26 July, column 1460, copies of which are available in the House of Commons Library, and volume 464 of 8 October, column 577.

The above answers were compiled using the most up to date datasets available. Annual estimates are compiled from the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows the number of people, who were (i) aged 16 and over, (ii) working age (Males 16-64, Females 16-59) resident in the Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside metropolitan borough, the North East and United Kingdom who were in full time, part time and temporary employment for the 12 months ending February 1997 to 2003, from the LFS and for the 12 months ending March 2004 to 2007, from the APS.

Some estimates in Table 1 are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas; they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

In this case, the sample sizes for the Jarrow constituency and South Tyneside metropolitan borough are not sufficient to give an accurate estimate of even the direction of the change over time. The information on the number of people in temporary employment is unavailable for 1997.

Table 1: Number of people employed between 1997 and 2006

Thousand

	UK			*North East*		
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Temporary*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Temporary*
1997[1]						
Age 16+	19,752	6,594	—	774	279	—

Table 1: Number of people employed between 1997 and 2006

	UK			North East		Thousand
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Temporary*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Temporary*
Working Age	19,534	6,026	—	769	266	—
1998[1]						
Age 16+	19,997	6,654	1,678	775	272	78
Working Age	19,784	6,096	1,611	772	254	76
1999[1]						
Age 16+	20,142	6,756	1,622	755	285	75
Working Age	19,918	6,162	1,551	749	267	72
2000[1]						
Age 16+	20,283	6,885	1,616	787	277	78
Working Age	20,052	6,282	1,545	782	259	75
2001[1]						
Age 16+	20,687	6,930	1,585	796	279	78
Working Age	20,448	6,321	1,509	791	262	75
2002[1]						
Age 16+	20,696	7,086	1,534	801	280	71
Working Age	20,448	6,449	1,448	795	266	69
2003[1]						
Age 16+	20,765	7,134	1,325	807	282	63
Working Age	20,491	6,456	1,253	800	265	61
2004[2]						
Age 16+	20,835	7,182	1,116	813	285	56
Working Age	20,535	6,463	1,058	805	265	53
2005[2]						
Age 16+	20,930	7,229	1,265	820	286	61
Working Age	20,603	6,464	1,192	812	264	58
2006[2]						
Age 16+	21,025	7,276	1,415	828	287	66
Working Age	20,671	6,466	1,326	819	264	63

	South Tyneside			*Jarrow*		Thousand
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Temporary*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Temporary*
1997[1]						
Age 16+	39	18	—	16	9	—
Working Age	39	17	—	16	9	—
1998[1]						
Age 16+	44	15	5	21	8	2
Working Age	43	14	4	21	8	2
1999[1]						
Age 16+	43	15	5	23	8	2
Working Age	42	14	5	23	8	2
2000[1]						
Age 16+	43	15	4	23	8	2

Thousand

	South Tyneside			Jarrow		
	Full-time	Part-time	Temporary	Full-time	Part-time	Temporary
Working Age	43	14	4	22	7	2
2001[1]						
Age 16+	46	18	5	24	9	2
Working Age	46	17	5	24	9	2
2002[1]						
Age 16+	46	17	5	23	8	2
Working Age	45	16	5	23	7	2
2003[1]						
Age 16+	47	16	5	23	8	2
Working Age	46	16	5	23	7	2
2004[2]						
Age 16+	48	14	4	23	8	2
Working Age	47	13	4	23	7	2
2005[2]						
Age 16+	46	15	4	23	8	2
Working Age	45	14	4	23	7	2
2006[2]						
Age 16+	45	16	4	22	8	2
Working Age	44	15	4	21	8	2

Sources:
[1] Source LFS.
[2] Source APS.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK were employed by agencies in each year since 1997. [181295]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on how many people in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) the UK have been employed by agencies in each year since 1997. (181295)

The answer was compiled using the most up to date datasets available. Annual estimates are compiled from the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS).

The attached table gives figures of those (i) aged 16+ (ii) of working age (males 16-64, females 16-59) employed by agencies, resident in the UK, North East, South Tyneside and Jarrow constituency for the 12 months ending February 1998 to 2003, from the LFS and for the 12 months ending March 2004 to 2007, from the APS. Comparable estimates are not available before 1998.

The LFS estimates at this detailed level are only consistent with the UK population estimates published in February and March 2003 and they do not incorporate the more recent population estimates that are used in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

People employed by agencies[1], 1998-2006[2] UK, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

	UK	North East	South Tyneside	Jarrow
1998[4]				
Age 16+	238	7	[3]	[3]
Working age	233	7	[3]	[3]
1999[4]				
Age 16+	263	11	[3]	[3]
Working age	259	11	[3]	[3]

People employed by agencies[1], 1998-2006[2] UK, not seasonally adjusted

	UK	North East	South Tyneside	Thousand Jarrow
2000[4]				
Age 16+	266	11	[3]	[3]
Working age	260	11	[3]	[3]
2001[4]				
Age 16+	268	9	[3]	[3]
Working age	260	9	[3]	[3]
2002[4]				
Age 16+	254	9	1	[3]
Working age	245	8	1	[3]
2003[4]				
Age 16+	248	8	1	1
Working age	240	8	1	1
2004[5]				
Age 16+	217	9	1	[3]
Working age	209	9	1	[3]
2005[5]				
Age 16+	221	10	1	[3]
Working age	215	10	1	[3]
2006[5]				
Age 16+	249	11	1	[3]
Working age	242	11	1	[3]

[1] In the LFS these are people who are employed as an agency temp in a non-permanent job.
[2] For 1998-2003 the period covered is the 12 months ending in February the following year. For 2004-07 the period covered is the 12 months ending in March the following year.
[3] Sample sizes too small to provide reliable estimates.
Sources:
[4] LFS
[5] APS

Internet Access: Lone Parents

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of lone parents with internet access, broken down by income decile. [181258]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 January 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the number of lone parents with internet access, broken down by income decile (181258).

Estimates are not available for income deciles due to incomplete responses from those surveyed and an insufficient sample size. The small sample size also means that the estimate provided below has a wide margin of statistical error associated with it and should be used with caution.

With this caveat in mind, the estimated proportion of lone parents in the UK in 2007 with Internet access is 44 per cent.

More detailed information on Internet access is available in the published tables from the 2007 e-Society module of the Integrated Household Survey. The relevant estimates can be found on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/inta0807.pdf

The e-Society module is used to collect data in the first quarter of the year using the Integrated Household Survey and is the most comprehensive source of household and individual Internet activity in the UK.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter of 23 November 2007 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mr. A. Ali. [179333]

Jane Kennedy: The Chancellor has today written to the right hon. Gentleman.

Northern Rock

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government's estimate is of the impact on the measurement of national debt of the latest package of guarantees for Northern Rock plc;

and how it will be accounted for in the published accounts of the national finances. [181989]

Jane Kennedy: Guarantees are contingent liabilities, and will be recorded as such in the Treasury's accounts. Contingent liabilities only impact on public sector net debt if they become actual liabilities.

Office for National Statistics: Relocation

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has conducted a sustainability appraisal in respect of the relocation of the Office for National Statistics. [181300]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 January 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking if a sustainability appraisal has been made in respect of the relocation of the Office for National Statistics. (181300)

The decision to relocate some posts to South Wales was driven by the need to respond positively to the Lyons Report and move posts out of London and the SE. In taking this decision we considered the impact of the additional posts on the infrastructure at our existing Newport site. In London we are vacating a large building and moving the remaining posts to an existing smaller site.

ONS is consistently ranked among the top performing departments in the Sustainable Development Commission's annual report on progress against government environmental targets. Our policies and efforts are directed towards maintaining, if not improving our position. While there has not been a formal sustainability appraisal in respect of our relocation, we are confident that the decision has no negative environmental impact.

Energy Efficiency

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether his Department is on course to meet the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate targets to *(a)* source at least 10 per cent. of its electricity from renewables by 31 March 2008 and *(b)* increase recycling figures to 40 per cent. of waste by 2010; [181296]

(2) whether his Department has adopted the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme; [181297]

(3) whether his Department met the target in the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate to reverse the then upward trend in carbon emissions by April 2007; [181298]

(4) whether his Department is working towards an accredited certified environmental management system for *(a)* its whole estate and *(b)* some of its buildings. [181299]

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has taken to reduce his Department's carbon dioxide emissions in 2008-09. [181821]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury sources 100 per cent. of its electricity from renewable sources. The department recycled 49.8 per cent. of the waste it produced as at December 2007. As part of its strategy to reduce carbon emissions, the department has adopted the Carbon Trust Management Programme. The Treasury has reduced carbon emissions progressively since 1999-2000, achieving a total reduction of 19 per cent. and has achieved certification for its environmental management system which covers the Treasury's main building, 1 Horse Guards Road. Work is under way to extend this coverage to offices the Treasury occupies in Norwich. The Treasury is currently reviewing with the Carbon Trust the progress we have made in reducing carbon emissions and are looking to identify ways in which further reductions can be made in 2008-09 and beyond.

Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of total deliveries of computer discs made on behalf of his Department and its agencies were carried out by mail carriers employed by HM Revenue and Customs in the last 12 months. [169889]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 3 December 2008]:* This information is not gathered by HM Treasury.

Stamp Duties

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many homes have claimed the zero rate of stamp duty on zero carbon homes in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008 to date; and if he will make a statement; [182306]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of zero carbon houses that will qualify for stamp duty land tax relief which are currently under construction; and if he will make a statement. [182433]

Jane Kennedy: Since the relief has been available in October 2007, the stamp duty land tax relief for new zero carbon homes has been claimed for six transactions. Figures are not yet available for 2008.

The tax relief will help stimulate the market for new highly efficient technologies in homes, both for the fabric of the building and in the use of microgeneration, and sets a gold standard for green homes.

No estimate has been made of the number of houses that will qualify for the stamp duty land tax relief which are currently under construction. But we expect the numbers of qualifying transactions to rise as more properties eligible to claim the relief go on the market.

The Government are committed to conducting an interim review of the relief in 2010 which will examine the effectiveness of the relief in stimulating the innovation necessary to ensure that all new homes are built to a zero-carbon standard from 2016.

Tax Allowances

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many individuals *(a)* have and *(b)* have had in the last 20 years, tax immunity or privileges in the UK as a result of involvement in an international activity. [181911]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available.

Taxation: Domicil

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many individuals indicated non-domicile status on a P86 form in the last five years; and how many of those did not submit a self-assessment tax return in the 2005-06 tax year; [181543]

(2) how many individuals filed a DOM1 form with HM Revenue and Customs in the last five years; and how many of those did not submit a self-assessment tax return in the 2005-06 tax year. [181544]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available.

VAT: Bingo

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether there are plans to zero-rate VAT for bingo establishments. [181981]

Angela Eagle: The Chancellor keeps all taxes under review and decisions about gambling taxation are made at Budget alongside all other tax decisions.

Ministerial Corrections

Monday 7 January 2008

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

The Akhtar Family

Dr. Howells: We have not issued new passports because Mrs. Akhtar has started court proceedings in Pakistan under the protocol, seeking the return of the children to the United Kingdom. Under the terms of the protocol, we must await the outcome of the proceedings before issuing passports.

[Official Report, 13 December 2007, Vol. 469, c. 573.]

Letter of correction from Dr. Howells:

An error has been identified in the response given by myself to the hon. Member for Rochdale (Paul Rowen) on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 573. The correct answer should have been:

Dr. Howells: We have not issued new passports because Mrs. Akhtar has started court proceedings in Pakistan under the protocol, seeking the return of the children to the United Kingdom. It is our policy to await the outcome of the proceedings before issuing passports.

JUSTICE

Prison Officers: Dismissal

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the reasons were for the dismissals of each of the *(a)* prison officers, *(b)* senior officers and *(c)* principal officers from each of the Welsh prisons in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006 and (iii) 2007. [166183]

[Official Report, 21 November 2007, Vol. 467, c. 975-76W.]

Letter from Mr. Hanson to Mrs. Gillan:

I am writing to apologise for the errors in the written answer I gave in response to your parliamentary question of 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 975-76W, asking about the reasons for dismissal of officers from Welsh prisons in 2005, 2006 and 2007. Your subsequent question of 27 November 2007 alerted me to the discrepancies between this answer and another previous question which also included information on dismissals of officers from Welsh prisons.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Hanson: Information on the reasons for dismissal of each of the officers dismissed from Welsh Prisons in 2005, 2006 and 2007 is shown in the list. Due to the different grading structure in public sector and contracted prisons it is not possible to break down the information by grade.

2005

Ill health (x2)

Failure to comply with operational procedures

Gross misconduct

Unacceptable attendance (x2)

Continued unacceptable attendance

Failure to disclose information

Failed probation period

2006

Committing criminal offence during employment

Expiry of retention period

Gross misconduct (sexual harassment claim)

Failure to notify company of his arrest and subsequent charges

Assault on a prisoner

Gross Misconduct (drinking whilst on duty)

Conduct Case

2007

Failure to carry out roll count

Making untrue statements with intent on deceiving or defrauding the company

Failure to comply with operational procedures (x3)

Inappropriate and unprofessional conduct

Inappropriate and unprofessional behaviour towards a prisoner

Failed probation period

Ministerial Correction

Tuesday 8 January 2008

TRANSPORT

Departmental Pay

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people in her Department and its predecessors were paid over £100,000 in each year since 1997. [167201]

[Official Report, 13 December 2007, Vol. 469, c. 788.]

Letter of correction from Jim Fitzpatrick:

An error has been identified in the table that appeared in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Brent, East (Sarah Teather) on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 788W.

The correct answer should have been:

	Number of staff
2003	8
2004	21
2005	25
2006	44
2007	48

Ministerial Corrections

Monday 14 January 2008

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Funding of Political Parties

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy): ...The Government support the proposal in the draft regulation to enable European political parties to carry over funding. Political parties will be allowed to carry over 20 per cent. of annual total income from one year to the first quarter of the following year.—*[European Standing Committee, 11 December 2007; c. 3]*

Letter of correction from Mr. Murphy:

I should like to correct what I said in my opening speech in the European Standing Committee debate on "Funding of Political Parties". In fact, European political parties will be allowed to carry over 25 per cent. of annual total income.

I am copying this letter to John Cummings, Chairman of the Standing Committee.

TREASURY

Cancer

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the incidence of cancer was in each *(a)* constituency, *(b)* primary care trust area, *(c)* hospital trust area, *(d)* region and *(e)* social demographic group in the most recent period for which figures are available. [171907]

[Official Report, 11 December 2007, Vol. 469, c. 358W.]

Letter of correction from Angela Eagle:

Errors have unfortunately been identified in Table 1 and 2 of the written answer given on 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 358W by Mr. Colin Mowl on behalf of the National Statistician. The tables should have read as follows:

Table 1: Incidence rates[1] of all cancers[2] per 100,000 population, by primary care trust[3] and sex: England, 2004

Primary care trusts	*Male*	*Female*
England	401	342
South Gloucestershire	423	400
Havering	418	317
Kingston	389	328
Bromley	332	306
Greenwich Teaching	390	334
Barnet	338	296
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	374	323
Hillingdon	355	292
Enfield	360	299
Barking and Dagenham	402	269
City and Hackney Teaching	399	277
Tower Hamlets	374	318
Newham	383	320
Haringey Teaching	438	318

Table 1: Incidence rates[1] of all cancers[2] per 100,000 population, by primary care trust[3] and sex: England, 2004

Primary care trusts	*Male*	*Female*
Blackburn with Darwen	408	354
Herefordshire	331	355
Milton Keynes	487	391
Newcastle	472	371
North Tyneside	460	363
Hartlepool	455	323
North Tees	415	386
North Lincolnshire	367	330
Nottingham City	468	422
Bassetlaw	329	414
Plymouth Teaching	466	359
Salford	484	404
Stockport	451	348
Portsmouth City Teaching	417	398
Bath and North East Somerset	458	404
Luton	371	328
Hammersmith and Fulham	387	258
Rotherham	414	402
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan	466	351
Blackpool	511	404
Bolton	437	365
Ealing	330	280
Hounslow	343	276
Warrington	399	320
Knowsley	541	418
Oldham	498	372
Calderdale	384	372
Darlington	405	319
Barnsley	456	384
Bury	455	366
Swindon	382	378
Brent Teaching	338	279
Harrow	303	281
Camden	391	366
Islington	435	309
Croydon	382	318
Gateshead	442	397
South Tyneside	434	401
Sunderland Teaching	419	381
Middlesbrough	471	350
Southampton City	441	373
Medway	413	355
Kensington and Chelsea	317	234
Westminster	356	277
Lambeth	432	353
Southwark	404	344
Lewisham	474	343
Wandsworth	429	373
Tameside and Glossop	462	379
Brighton and Hove City	359	300
South Birmingham	436	361
Shropshire County	402	323
Walsall Teaching	442	401
Richmond and Twickenham	374	319
Sutton and Merton	410	306
North Somerset	444	397
Coventry Teaching	410	348

Table 1: Incidence rates[1] of all cancers[2] per 100,000 population, by primary care trust[3] and sex: England, 2004

Primary care trusts	*Male*	*Female*
Telford and Wrekin	398	321
Wolverhampton City	368	341
Heart of Birmingham Teaching	443	296
Leeds	433	367
Kirklees	388	318
Wakefield District	419	388
Sheffield	424	373
Doncaster	453	365
Derbyshire County	401	360
Derby City	421	363
Nottinghamshire County	414	380
Lincolnshire	417	356
Redbridge	313	274
Waltham Forest	317	258
County Durham	393	362
Cumbria	368	368
North Lancashire	449	376
Central Lancashire	454	345
East Lancashire	429	367
Sefton	475	360
Wirral	390	311
Liverpool	531	426
Halton and St Helens	444	355
Western Cheshire	409	368
Central and Eastern Cheshire	405	341
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale	473	344
Trafford	497	383
Manchester	518	407
North Yorkshire and York	410	329
East Riding of Yorkshire	391	351
Hull	484	378
Bradford and Airedale	404	339
South East Essex	374	337
Bedfordshire	343	349
East and North Hertfordshire	384	306
West Hertfordshire	266	243
Surrey	337	321
West Sussex	371	318
East Sussex Downs and Weald	368	322
Hastings and Rother	297	301
West Kent	364	328
Leicestershire County and Rutland	370	350
Leicester City	373	344
Northamptonshire	404	366
Dudley	357	334
Sandwell	376	295
Birmingham East and North	469	340
North Staffordshire	364	301
Stoke on Trent	416	396
South Staffordshire	406	330
Worcestershire	400	360
Warwickshire	392	330

Table 1: Incidence rates[1] of all cancers[2] per 100,000 population, by primary care trust[3] and sex: England, 2004

Primary care trusts	*Male*	*Female*
Peterborough	390	323
Cambridgeshire	380	336
Norfolk	366	336
Great Yarmouth and Waveney	372	316
Suffolk	396	313
West Essex	376	272
North East Essex	348	313
Mid Essex	291	253
South West Essex	374	291
Eastern and Coastal Kent	389	319
Hampshire	360	306
Buckinghamshire	407	372
Oxfordshire	414	361
Berkshire West	429	349
Berkshire East	427	350
Gloucestershire	368	335
Bristol	456	381
Wiltshire	431	367
Somerset	396	384
Dorset	444	334
Bournemouth and Poole	468	341
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	374	359
Devon	430	354
Redcar and Cleveland	447	394
Isle of Wight NHS	364	352
Care Trusts		
Northumberland	409	360
Bexley	358	336
Torbay	396	367
Solihull	427	376

[1] Directly age standardised to the European Standard Population
[2] All cancers excluding non-melanoma skin cancer is defined as codes C00-C97 excluding C44 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)
[3] Based on NHS boundaries as of October 2006.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Table 2: Incidence rates[1] of all cancers[2] per 100,000 population, by Government Office Region and sex: England, 2004

	Male	*Female*
England	401	342
North East	428	370
North West	449	365
Yorkshire and the Humber	416	356
East Midlands	402	365
West Midlands	402	342
East	359	309
London	373	306
South East	379	332
South West	418	362

[1] Directly age standardised to the European Standard Population.
[2] All cancers excluding non-melanoma skin cancer is defined as codes C00-C97 excluding C44 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Ministerial Corrections

Tuesday 15 January 2008

HEALTH

Consent to Medical Treatment

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps *(a)* he has taken and *(b)* he is planning to take to ensure that healthcare professionals comply with a patient's advance decision to refuse treatment in certain circumstances; and if he will make a statement. [165447]

[Official Report, 20 November 2007; Vol. 467, c. 820W.]

Letter from Mr. Ivan Lewis:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to Mike Hancock, MP (Portsmouth, South), on 20 November 2007. The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Mental Capacity Act (MCA), which applies in England and Wales, came fully into force in October 2007 and puts advance decisions to refuse treatment onto a statutory footing. The MCA Code of Practice, issued in April 2007, gives details of the Act's provisions on advance decisions and sets out health professionals' responsibilities. The Code and the trajning materials we have issued make clear that healthcare professionals must follow an advance decision to refuse treatment if it is valid and applies to particular circumstances. If they do not, they could face civil liability or criminal prosecution.

It is for individual trusts to put in place procedures for implementing the MCA locally. The Act requires the Public Guardian to produce an annual report, which we expect will include information on the implementation of the MCA.

TREASURY

VAT

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many and what proportion of VAT registration applications were processed within the target time in each of the last three calendar months; [162849]

(2) how many and what proportion of VAT registration applications received in 2007 were not processed within *(a)* 40, *(b)* 50 and *(c)* 60 days; [162850]

(3) what the average processing time for VAT registration applications has been for each VAT registration unit since 31 July. [162834]

[Official Report, 12 November 2007; Vol. 467, c. 23W.]

Letter from Jane Kennedy:

An error has been identified in the table in the written answer given to the hon. Member for South-West Hertfordshire (Mr. Gauke), on 12 November 2007, col. 23W. The correct figures should have been:

Month	*Number processed within target time*	*Percentage processed within target time*
August	3,985	14.4
September	5,687	19.75
October	17,075	45.45

Ministerial Corrections

Wednesday 16 January 2008

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Regional Government: South East Region

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* date and *(b)* purpose has been of each visit made by the Minister for the South East to (i) Kent, (ii) Sussex, (iii) Surrey, (iv) Hampshire, (v) the Isle of Wight, (vi) Oxfordshire, (vii) Buckinghamshire and (viii) Berkshire. [174656]

[Official Report, 18 December 2007: Vol. 469, c. 1345-46W.]

Letter of correction from Hazel Blears:

An error has been identified in the table provided in the written answer given to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 18 December 2007. The entry: "UNISON Regional Policy Weekend" relates to Hampshire, not Sussex. The revised table is as follows:

(iii) Sussex	30 July 2007	Fisheries visit
(iii) Sussex	3 December 2007	Visit arranged by SEEDA on skills theme
(iv) Hants	15 October 2007	Visit to meet Partnership for Urban Hampshire
(iv) Hants	12 November 2007	Visit to New Forest National Park
(iv) Hants	14 November 2007	Regional Assembly Plenary Meeting
(iv) Hants	25 November 2007	UNISON Regional Policy Weekend

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries: EC External Trade

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when his Department's website will be updated in relation to the conclusion of economic partnership agreements by the 31 December 2007 deadline. [177798]

[Official Report, 14 January 2008, Vol. 470, c. 1072W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Thomas:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Cotswold (Mr. Clifton-Brown) on 14 January 2007. The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development's website pages on Economic Partnership Agreements were updated on 10 December 2007 and will be again on 15 January 2008.

Ministerial Corrections

Monday 21 January 2008

HOME DEPARTMENT

Illegal Immigrants

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants were found at each of the main ports of entry to the United Kingdom in 2007. [171193]

[Official Report, 10 December 2007; Vol. 469, c. 84W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Byrne:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Dundee, East (Stewart Hosie) on 10 December 2007.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Byrne: Illegal entry action is initiated against those people who are detected having entered or attempted to enter the country clandestinely or by means of deception, either verbal or documentary. The figures in the table represent illegal entrants detected from 1 January 2007 to 30 November 2007. These figures relate predominantly to clandestine entrants but may also include other categories of illegal entry. Figures may include in-country enforcement cases located in the specific areas.

Initiating port	*Total*
Ashford	9
Birmingham International Airport	2
Brussels Control	2
Calais Ferryport	3,199
Calais Hoverport	1
Cheriton	10
Coquelles	721
Dorset Ports Office	219
Dover East Ports Office	4
Dunkerque Ports Office	700
Felixstowe	86
Heathrow TN3	5
Holyhead	1
Humber Ports	47
Newcastle	1
Newhaven	25
North Shields	2
Plymouth Ports Office	91
Portsmouth Ports Office	21
Ramsgate	2
Tees Ports Office	5
Tilbury Ports Office	14
Grand total	5,167

Note:
The data provided are based on locally collated management information, which may be subject to change and does not represent published national statistics. Some of the statistical data may include illegal entrants picked up in-country.

Police: Pay

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* total and *(b)* average overtime payments were for police officers in each police force area in England and Wales for each year since 1997. [176062]

[Official Report, 9 January 2008; Vol. 470, c. 538W.]

Letter from Mr. McNulty:

An error has been identified in the second table in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Bury St. Edmunds (Mr. Ruffley) on 9 January 2008. The average overtime per officer for the North Yorkshire, Northamptonshire and Northumbria police forces should read as follows:

North Yorkshire	1,578	1,729	2,280	2,913	2,746	2,494	2,215	2,413	3,169	2,660
Northamptonshire	1,585	1,866	1,897	1,967	—	2,214	1,083	2,414	1,773	633
Northumbria	1,370	1,328	1,034	1,167	1,238	1,582	1,636	1,830	1,911	2,042

Ministerial Corrections

Wednesday 23 January 2008

TRANSPORT

Network Rail

Ruth Kelly:...and in which Government investment, far from increasing—as it is, by £10 billion over the next five-year period—returns to a level of chronic under-investment.

[Official Report, 8 January 2008; Vol. 470, c. 172.]

Letter of correction from Ruth Kelly:

An error has been identified in an answer given by the Secretary of State to the right hon. Member for Wokingham (Mr. Redwood) in the course of the Opposition day debate on Network Rail on 8 January 2008. The correct answer should have been:

Ruth Kelly:...and in which Government investment in capacity, far from increasing—as it is, to £10 billion over the next five-year period—returns to a level of chronic under-investment.

Network Rail

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris):...Network Rail came to the rescue of Railtrack. When Railtrack was drowning in its own inefficiencies, and costs for the updating of the west coast main line had gone to above £20 billion with no prospect of the project finishing...

[Official Report, 8 January 2008; Vol. 470, c. 211.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Tom Harris:

An error has been identified in the comments made by Mr. Harris in the course of his response to the Opposition day debate on Network Rail on 8 January. The correct wording should have been:

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris): ...Network Rail came to the rescue of Railtrack. When Railtrack was drowning in its own inefficiencies, and costs for the upgrading of the west coast main line had gone to above £14 billion with no prospect of the project finishing...

Ministerial Correction

Friday 25 January 2008

HEALTH

Tobacco

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department has provided towards national tobacco strategies in each of the last five years. [166697]

[Official Report, 26 November 2007; Vol. 468, c. 262W.]

Letter from Dawn Primarolo:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to Sandra Gidley MP (Romsey) on 26 November. The figure given as £300,000 should have read £3,000,000. The correct reference should read:

....A further grant of £3,000,000 was made in 2006-07 for CRUK's media campaign on the harmful constituents of secondhand smoke.